

**Public Comments and Staff Responses Concerning
Proposed Minimum Flows for the
Chassahowitzka and Homosassa River Systems**

Documents Received, Sent or Developed Following
Release of the July 15, 2012 Draft Reports on
Recommended Minimum Flows for the River Systems



October 18, 2012

From: [Brad Rimbey](#)
To: [Brad - CRRC Rimbey](#)
Cc: mwright@chronicleonline.com; Charlene.Stroehlen@amec.com; [Doug Leeper](#); [Mike Heyl](#); [Veronica Crow](#); [Philip Rhinesmith](#)
Subject: Chaz Headspring Restoration Project
Date: Monday, July 16, 2012 8:06:19 PM
Attachments: [Rejection Letter.pdf](#)

All,

As expected, the long awaited (and long ago legislatively funded) Chassahowitzka Headspring Restoration Project has once again failed to launch this year.

In short, the SWFWMD has wasted so much money studying the "no brainer" problem that they have no money remaining to implement the obvious solution. Your tax dollars at work?! Really pathetic!

How was the Weeki Wachee main spring restoration completed? How was the Homosassa main spring restoration completed? Why is the Chassahowitzka main spring restoration project too complex and expensive to complete?! This is not rocket science folks!! Suck out the mud, haul it away, and dump it in an approved landfill!!

The SWFWMD's rejection letter for all bids is attached. The attached and other relevant documents to the "Chassahowitzka Headspring Restoration Project" can be found at <http://www.swfwmd.state.fl.us/business/contproc/solicitations.php> .

Brad W. Rimbey, P.E. for the
Chassahowitzka River Restoration Committee

From: [Whitey Markle](#)
To: [Brad Rimbey](#)
Cc: [Brad - CRRC Rimbey](#); mwright@chronicleonline.com; Charlene.Stroehlen@amec.com; [Doug Leeper](#); [Mike Heyl](#); [Veronica Crow](#); [Phillip Rhinesmith](#)
Subject: Re: Chaz Headspring Restoration Project
Date: Monday, July 16, 2012 9:18:32 PM

Brad:
How pathetic. How typical!
Whitey

On Mon, Jul 16, 2012 at 8:06 PM, Brad Rimbey <brimbey3@tampabay.rr.com> wrote:

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Brad W. Rimbey, P.E. for the
Chassahowitzka River Restoration Committee

From: [hope](#)
To: [Doug Leeper](#); [Mike Heyl](#); [Veronica Crow](#); [Philip Rhinesmith](#)
Subject: Thank You for Rejecting the Chassahowitzka Headspring Project as proposed. Re: Chaz Headspring Restoration Project
Date: Tuesday, July 17, 2012 1:15:00 AM

Hello All,

I am delighted that the Chassahowitzka Headspring Restoration Project is off the docket this year.

There is an active Manatee Mom and calf presently utilizing the main spring as refugia (and the poor little baby ALREADY has prop scars). Geeze....what's it going to take to give Chassahowitzka Manatees some legal protection and meaningful sanctuary here in Chassahowitzka?

I digress.

The more I researched the proposed Chassahowitzka Headspring Restoration process, the more flawed and environmentally unsustainable it seemed.

Virtually ALL of the other water body restoration projects in the District have been successfully completed without the use of chemical additives like the "superfloc" polymer binding agent proposed for our environmentally sensitive Chassahowitzka headspring restoration.

While I have thus far been unable to find non-vendor reviews or environmental impact studies regarding Superfloc or similar coagulants, the concern expressed by potential landowners who had originally been willing to accept Chassahowitzka sediments/sludge, but were reticent upon reviewing potential heavy metals and contaminants that could potentially leach into their land and underlying aquifer, makes me wonder if it is largely the Superfloc or the sediments which pose the hazard. Either way, it seems that our fragile Chassahowitzka spring and its aquatic wildlife may be put at risk during the dredging and sediment reduction process. Someone else's land, aquifer, and wildlife may additionally be contaminated in the sludge's disposal.

Further, in discussing the larger proposed "3 Phase Plan" to restore the Chassahowitzka Springs and River, the three proposed steps seem "out of order" in the present proposed order which I understand to be:

1. Dredge Headspring;
2. Create settling ponds or natural habitat treatment areas to reduce toxic pollution and sediment before it reaches the main spring and river;
3. Stormwater Management Plan and re-engineering (to mitigate all of the existing drainage canals that basically take runoff from Hwy. 19 and surrounding roads and direct them, with virtually NO treatment, out to Chassahowitzka's main spring complex).

Would it not be more prudent to mitigate the polluting and sedimenting contributors FIRST? Wouldn't lasting restoration of the main spring be more viable and cost-effective *after* the majority of road pollutants, chemical contaminants and sediment contributors have been mitigated in an environmentally sustainable way?

Dredging the main spring without ending or mitigating many of the polluting and sedimenting contributors seems wasteful and unsustainable.

- While nutrient loading continues, and County & State aquatic plant management continues to pump toxic herbicides onto the resulting submerged aquatic plants, and said hazardous chemicals and decaying plant matter continues to flow untreated, daily, into the main spring;
-
- While untreated Stormwater runoff full of petrochemicals and heavy metals continues to flow from Hwy. 19 and area roadways into the Chassahowitzka springs complex;
-
- While water extraction permits continue to be granted in our spring-shed aquifer to placate greedy developers to our East and South;
-
- While golf-course and deed restricted communities (like Sugarmill Woods) are allowed to continue to use excessive amounts of fertilizer, herbicides, and WATER to keep their unsustainable, un-natural landscapes green;
-
- While the price of fresh water via Citrus County Utilities system is so unfairly distributed (with the poorest residents, in Chassahowitzka, paying 2.5 times the rate that water-guzzling wealthy communities, like Sugarmill Woods, are charged for water coming out of the SAME aquifer)

Until ALL of the above contributors to the pollution, sediment, nutrient-loading, and fresh water restricting elements are addressed, REAL restoration to the Chassahowitzka Headspring and surrounding natural system seems unlikely.

THANK YOU, Anita Hoover, Philip Rhinesmith, and all of the conscientious Environmental Scientists and fiscal watchdogs at SWFWMD who reigned in a potentially wasteful and environmentally unsustainable project before it got underway.

Please also consider rejecting the proposed destruction of natural habitat to provide additional parking for the Chassahowitzka Campground and Boat Ramp. WE do NOT need more parking or impermeable surface in this extremely environmentally fragile and archeologically rich site. The increase in cost to park vehicles and trailers has already substantially reduced parking demand at the boat ramp. My husband and I recently launched our little skiff on the weekend with NO waiting, and there were AMPLE parking spaces available.

If ONE really wanted to procure more parking area for the Chassahowitzka Campground or Boat Ramp, there is an existing commercial property virtually right across the street from the Chassahowitzka campground, that already has more than sufficient paved area (and appropriate zoning) for parking. Why not preserve the environmentally rich SWFWMD parcel with its Grandfather Oaks and mature canopy, and simply purchase or lease parking space from the existing commercial property (the Betty Long site) virtually "across the street" from the Chassahowitzka Campground and Chassahowitzka Hotel? The Betty Long site also has tons of

waterfrontage, block cottages, and its own boat ramp which may offer additional opportunities for fully accessible camping, recreation, and natural habitat restoration.

The Chassahowitzka Spring-fed River, the Coastal Swamp, and the surrounding greater Chassahowitzka ecosystem remains one of Florida's and the Nature Coast's last, and perhaps most pristine (least developed) examples of an intact Florida Natural Habitat.

I appreciate the District's research and care in approaching all proposed restoration efforts in this rare, environmentally sensitive Chassahowitzka system.

It is only when State and municipal environmental agencies, regulatory bodies, and citizen-taxpayers work together that lasting and environmentally sustainable habitat restoration can be successful.

Thank you again for rejecting the Chassahowitzka Headspring Restoration Plan as it was originally put out to bid. A more sustainable, least toxic approach is clearly the more logical and fiscally responsible way to go.

Concerned resident,
Hope Corona
hopecorona@tampabay.rr.com

----- Original Message -----

From: [Brad Rimbey](mailto:Brad.Rimbey)

To: Brad - CRRC Rimbey

Cc: mwright@chronicleonline.com ; Charlene.Stroehlen@amec.com ;

Doug.Leeper@swfwmd.state.fl.us ; Mike.Heyl@swfwmd.state.fl.us ;

Veronica.Craw@swfwmd.state.fl.us ; Philip.Rhinesmith@swfwmd.state.fl.us

Sent: Monday, July 16, 2012 8:06 PM

Subject: Chaz Headspring Restoration Project

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Brad W. Rimbey, P.E. for the
Chassahowitzka River Restoration Committee

From: [Brad Rimbey](#)
To: [Veronica Crow](#)
Cc: [2buntings@comcast.net](#); [phubbell@wraconsultants.com](#); [brentwhitley@sierra-properties.com](#); [rebecca.bays@bocc.citrus.fl.us](#); [rasjudy@tampabay.rr.com](#); [Philip Rhinesmith](#); [Mike Heyl](#); [Doug Leeper](#); [Charlene.Stroehlen@amec.com](#); [mwright@chronicleonline.com](#)
Subject: Re: Chaz Headspring Restoration Project
Date: Wednesday, July 18, 2012 6:53:13 PM

Ms. Crow,

Thank you for your response. At this point, I am in the "believe it when I see it" mode. SWFWMD has put this project on the back burner for so many years that it has become something of a standing (bad) local joke. By any chance, would you happen to know when this project was funded by the legislature? Anecdotally, I am told it was at least ten years ago.

Also, I would be interested in knowing how much money was paid to MACTEC (Project # 60631001050) and BCI (Project # 03-13653.7) to produce a set of restoration procedures which were ultimately unaffordable.

Add to this SWFWMD's proposed further degradation of the Chassahowitzka River via the MFL program. To say the least, we are not impressed with SWFWMD's efforts to protect and restore this Outstanding Florida Water (designated on January 5, 1993).

If you have any thoughts regarding Citrus County's continuing practice of spraying toxic herbicides (with FWC's blessing) into the canals which are tributary to this OFW, I would like to hear them. No doubt these cheap-and-dirty invasive aquatic plant management practices have contributed greatly to the muck which must now be removed at considerable expense to the tax payer.

Brad W. Rimbey, P.E. for the
Chassahowitzka River Restoration Committee

----- Original Message -----

From: [Veronica Crow](#)
To: [Brad Rimbey](#) ; [Brad - CRRC Rimbey](#)
Cc: [mwright@chronicleonline.com](#) ; [Charlene.Stroehlen@amec.com](#) ; [Doug Leeper](#) ; [Mike Heyl](#) ; [Philip Rhinesmith](#) ; [rasjudy@tampabay.rr.com](#) ; [rebecca.bays@bocc.citrus.fl.us](#) ; [brentwhitley@sierra-properties.com](#) ; [phubbell@wraconsultants.com](#) ; [2buntings@comcast.net](#)
Sent: Wednesday, July 18, 2012 3:40 PM
Subject: RE: Chaz Headspring Restoration Project

Mr. Rimbey,

The District is committed to completing the Chassahowitzka Headspring Restoration Project and to using taxpayer dollars wisely. The District advertised a Request for Bids (RFB) and received two qualified responses. However, these bids exceeded the District's budget for the project and, in addition, the bidders could not complete the project within the permitted construction window this year due to manatee restrictions mandated by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service as specified in the United States Army Corps of Engineers permit for the project.

In response to Florida Department of Environmental Protection permit conditions, the District also conducted extensive sediment quality tests that determined that the material that will be removed during the restoration can be beneficially used in agricultural operations rather than

needing to be disposed of in a Class I landfill. This new information will likely reduce the cost of the project significantly and save taxpayer dollars. We anticipate reissuing another RFB this fall that will allow for greater disposal options and are confident the project will be conducted next spring/summer. If you have additional questions, please feel free to contact me.

Veronica Crow
Environmental Section Manager
Southwest Florida Water Management District
2379 Broad Street
Brooksville, FL 34604
352-796-7211 ext. 4267
veronica.crow@swfwmd.state.fl.us

From: Brad Rimbey [mailto:brimbey3@tampabay.rr.com]
Sent: Monday, July 16, 2012 8:06 PM
To: Brad - CRRC Rimbey
Cc: mwright@chronicleonline.com; Charlene.Stroehlen@amec.com; Doug Leeper; Mike Heyl; Veronica Crow; Philip Rhinesmith
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Version: 2012.0.2195 / Virus Database: 2437/5133 - Release Date: 07/15/12

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From: [Brad Rimbey](#)
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Subject: Re: Chaz Headspring Restoration Project
Date: Thursday, July 19, 2012 4:46:31 PM

Ms. Crow,

Thanks for taking the time to answer my questions. Just a few more and I will quit bothering you about this.

Last year Mike Wright published an article in the Citrus County Chronicle about this project. That article can be found here.
<http://www.chronicleonline.com/content/chassahowitzka-challenge-water-management-district-restoring-river-thing-beauty>

Mr. Wright indicated the total cost of this project was to be \$1.3 million. Can you confirm that figure? Also, are you able to release the dollar amounts of the two qualified but over-budget bids you received?

One last thought and question. I have to wonder if this project would be necessary if the Chaz Main Spring was flowing anywhere near its historic first magnitude levels. It seems the spring would clear its own throat (and the spring pool) of muck if it was flowing as it did in years past. I doubt we will see those flow rates ever again. The currently proposed MFL flow reduction of 11% will certainly not help in this regard. Does the SWFWMD believe that cleaning the muck out of the main spring pool will increase the spring flow or is this project strictly about enhancing the aesthetics of the spring pool by temporarily restoring it to a white sandy bottom?

Brad W. Rimbey, P.E. for the
Chassahowitzka River Restoration Committee

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To: [Brad Rimbey](#)
Cc: 2buntings@comcast.net ; phubbell@wraconsultants.com ; brentwhitley@sierra-properties.com ; rebecca.bays@bocc.citrus.fl.us ; rasjudy@tampabay.rr.com ; [Philip Rhinesmith](#) ; [Mike Heyl](#) ; [Doug Leeper](#) ; Charlene.Stroehlen@amec.com ; mwright@chronicleonline.com
Sent: Thursday, July 19, 2012 2:50 PM
Subject: RE: Chaz Headspring Restoration Project

Mr. Rimbey,

This project never received funding from the Legislature.

The project was initiated through a cooperative funding agreement between the District and Citrus County. Citrus County was the lead and hired BCI Engineers & Scientists to perform a feasibility study. The work performed included conceptual design plans and sediment surveys for which they were paid \$49,643.44 (the Coastal Rivers Basin Board funded \$24,821.72 and the County contributed an equal amount).

The next phase of the project was led by the District and included final design and permitting activities. The District selected Mactec Engineering and Consulting, Inc. and paid \$75,000. These funds were budgeted by the Coastal Rivers Basin Board and were fully reimbursed through the Water Management Lands Trust Fund.

A sediment characterization study was performed as part of the feasibility study that determined the physical and chemical characteristics of the sediment. Organic matter in various forms represents about 20% of the total sediment mass, and includes wood chips, leaves, and other vegetative matter. However, the exact source of the material was not determined.

I appreciate your concern and share your desire to see the spring system restored. The District is committed to the completion of this project.

Veronica Craw
Environmental Section Manager
Southwest Florida Water Management District
2379 Broad Street
Brooksville, FL 34604
352-796-7211 ext. 4267
veronica.craw@swfwmd.state.fl.us

From: Brad Rimbey [mailto:BWR.CRRC@tampabay.rr.com]
Sent: Wednesday, July 18, 2012 6:53 PM
To: Veronica Craw
Cc: 2buntings@comcast.net; phubbell@wraconsultants.com; brentwhitley@sierra-properties.com; rebecca.bays@bocc.citrus.fl.us; rasjudy@tampabay.rr.com; Philip Rhinesmith; Mike Heyl; Doug Leeper; Charlene.Stroehlen@amec.com; mwright@chronicleonline.com
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Sent: Monday, July 16, 2012 8:06 PM

To: Brad - CRRC Rimbey

Cc: mwright@chronicleonline.com ; Charlene.Stroehlen@amec.com ; Doug Leeper; Mike Heyl; Veronica Crow; Philip Rhinesmith

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From: [Alan Martyn Johnson](#)
To: [Doug Leeper](#); [Kevin J. Grimsley](#)
Subject: Unusually High Specific Conductance SE Fork
Date: Tuesday, June 26, 2012 8:21:44 AM
Attachments: [June 23 24 SE Fork High Spec C. data.xls](#)

Doug and Kevin,

Certainly pleased there is some rainfall, but would have hoped for better control of the faucet by Mother Nature!

But, quickly to my point as I am sure you have many other things to deal with...and I do not expect an immediate answer to this.

In reviewing the data for the Homosassa Gage Sites yesterday I noticed something rather unusual...Specific Conductance readings at the SE Fork site have some high readings, so high it is difficult to attribute these to waters reaching the gage site by reverse flow from the Blue Water. As you will see in the attached spreadsheet the water from the main springs has lower readings. Although readings in the first highlighted timeframe are higher at the Halls River Site; for the second highlighted interval the readings at Halls River are also lower. It is a real stretch to believe flow from the springs is so low that waters from this section of the river *'not specifically Halls River but the main body getting reverse flow from MacRaes'* are reaching all the way to the SE Fork.

This same phenomena can also be seen in the readings from last night to now.

Any thoughts about how this is possible?

I am speculation that one of the vents in the SE Fork is discharging some high Specific Conductance water and further speculate it is the vent only some 20 feet upstream of the Fishbowl Bridge on the right bank. Flow from the various other springs in the SE Fork must be almost zero under these high stage conditions. I have previously commented/observed this referenced vent opening at high stage and the water discharge being similar to the main springs, but this is unusual.. Is this subterranean seawater ingress big time? I am further puzzled as to why run off waters are not reducing the figures; you can see where rainwater run off dropped the readings to the 400's.

Another point that I have been watching is the frequency of higher specific conductance readings at Halls River Gage. When this site first came on-line in March, the readings indicated water from the main springs and SE Fork were most likely the water passing the site under reverse flow. As time progressed there has been more water which appears to be from the reverse flow at MacRaes. The recent increases of water level in the aquifer (at Weeki Wachee) does not appear to have increased spring flow to a point that was in March. The graphs on sheet 3 of the attachment help illustrate.

Velocity data from the SE Fork meter may help understand this.

When you get a chance would appreciate your thoughts on these points/unusual situations. Great coffee break conversation!

I trust that you have personally weathered Debby without too many problems.

Martyn

From: [Kevin J. Grimsley](#)
To: [Alan Martyn Johnson](#)
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Re: Unusually High Specific Conductance SE Fork
Date: Sunday, July 01, 2012 11:50:16 AM

Hi Martyn,

There's no way to say conclusively if the higher conductance water came from a spring vent without having a meter directly at the vent. However, it's much more likely that the higher conductance water came from the surface-water since that's obviously the "path of least resistance". It makes sense that this would be different at the main spring because there's much more flow from the spring and the conductance meter is closer to the vents.

Kevin Grimsley, P.E.
Hydrologic Data Chief, Tampa
USGS, Florida Water Science Center
10500 University Center Drive, Suite 215
Tampa, FL 33612
kjgrims@usgs.gov
813-498-5064

On Jun 26, 2012, at 8:21 AM, "Alan Martyn Johnson" <martynellijay@hotmail.com> wrote:

Doug and Kevin,
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From:
To:

Doug Leeper

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Subject: Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Minimum Flows Update

Date: Friday, July 27, 2012 4:46:00 PM

Greetings:

I am writing to inform you that the Southwest Florida Water Management District has developed revised minimum flow recommendations for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa River systems. Minimum flows identify "...the the limit at which further withdrawals would be significantly harmful to the water resources or ecology of the area" (Section 373.042, Florida Statutes), are adopted by the District Governing Board into Chapter 40D-8, Florida Administrative Code, and are used for regulatory purposes, including the review and issuance of water use permits.

The revised, recommended minimum flows for the Chassahowitzka River System are 91% of its natural flow and the revised, recommended minimum flows for the Homosassa River System are 97% of its natural flow. Natural flow is defined as the flow that would exist in the absence of water withdrawals. There are currently no surface-water withdrawals from either system permitted by the District and flow reductions in each that can be attributed to groundwater withdrawals are approximately 1% of the natural flows. When expressed from a water-use perspective, the revised minimum flow recommendations correspond with allowable flow reductions of up to 9% for the Chassahowitzka system and 3% for the Homosassa system. What this means is that compared to the existing conditions, the proposed minimum flows would allow additional reductions of 8% for the Chassahowitzka system and 2% for the Homosassa system.

The currently recommended minimum flows differ from those previously proposed for the river systems and outlined in draft technical reports that were developed in 2010. The previously recommended minimum flows required that 89% of the natural flow in the Chassahowitzka system and 95% of the natural flow in the Homosassa system must be maintained, i.e., not removed as a result of water withdrawals.

Differences between the previously recommended and currently recommended minimum flows for the river systems can be attributed to analyses that were completed based on scientific peer review and stakeholder review of the previously recommended minimum flows. The analyses are summarized in updated technical reports that are posted on the *River Systems and Springs* tab on the *Minimum Flows and Levels (Environmental Flows) Documents and Reports* page of the District web site. Updated appendices for the reports will soon be posted to the same web page. Report titles and a link to the web page are provided below. Major report revisions, including those associated with development of the revised recommended minimum flows are also summarized below.

[Report Titles and Link to the Minimum Flows and Levels \(Environmental Flows\) Documents and Report Page](#)

Recommended Minimum Flows for the Chassahowitzka River System, July 15, 2012

Recommended Minimum Flows for the Homosassa River System, July 15, 2012

http://www.swfwmd.state.fl.us/projects/mfl/mfl_reports.php

Major Report Updates Addressing Changes to Minimum Flow Recommendations for the Chassahowitzka River System

- Recommended changing allowable reductions in natural flow from 11% to 9%.
- Included discussion of independent scientific peer review findings and stakeholder input received through July 15, 2012 (Chapters 9 and Section 11.18).
- Used an adjusted flow record for modeling purposes to account for existing withdrawal impacts (Sections 2.3.1.1.1 and 8.2).
- Evaluated impacts of future sea level change on salinity-based habitats (Sections 3.2 and 8.3).
- Added discussion regarding confidence and use of modeled flow impacts on fish/invertebrate abundance (Section 7.1).
- Added discussion regarding confidence and use of modeled impacts on habitats associated with salinities of 2 or less (Section 7.3).
- Evaluated effects of potential flow reductions on primary productivity (Sections 5.5 and 7.5).
- Added discussion regarding blue crab response to flow (Sections 7.1 and 11.16).
- Revised discussion of water quality issues and expanded discussion of minimum flow impact on water quality (Sections 4.3, 8.4 and 11.17).
- Updated long-term hydrologic statistics that may be used to support minimum flow compliance evaluations (Section 8.2).
- Incorporated and updated additional supporting documents in report appendices (Sections 11.14 through 11.18).
- Added an additional model for predicting submerged aquatic vegetation density as a function of salinity (Section 7.2).

Major Report Updates Addressing Changes to Minimum Flow Recommendations for the Homosassa River System

- Recommended changing allowable reduction in natural flow from 5% to 3%.
- Included discussion of independent scientific peer review findings and stakeholder input received through July 15, 2012 (Chapter 6 and Appendices S, T, U, V, and W).
- Used an adjusted flow record for modeling purposes to account for existing withdrawal impacts (Section 7.3).
- Evaluated impacts of future sea level change on salinity-based habitats (Section 7.3).
- Enhanced discussion regarding confidence and use of modeled flow impacts on fish/invertebrate abundance (Section 5.5).
- Added discussion regarding confidence and use of modeled impacts on habitats associated with salinities of 2 or less (Sections 5.3.3, 5.5 and 7.3.1).
- Evaluated effects of potential flow reductions on primary productivity (Section 7.2).
- Added discussion regarding blue crab response to flow (Section 6.3).
- Revised discussion of water quality issues and expanded discussion of minimum flow impact on water quality (Sections 2.8.1, 2.8.3, 2.8.10 and 7.4).
- Developed long-term hydrologic statistics that may be used to support minimum flow compliance evaluations (Section 7.4).

- Incorporated and updated additional supporting documents in report appendices (Appendices A, D through Z, AA, and AB)
- Evaluated effects of flow reductions ranging from 1 to 4% on salinity-based habitats; previous lowest evaluated flow reduction was 5% (Section 7.3).

Staff plans to present rule amendments associated with the revised minimum flow recommendations to the District Governing at the Board meeting scheduled to be held on August 28, 2012 at the District Headquarters in Brooksville. Board meetings are open to the public and individuals or group representatives may address the Board concerning any meeting agenda item or other water management issue.

The District has established a web site for accepting comments on the proposed minimum flows at:

WaterMatters.org/SpringsCoastMFL

The District is accepting comments via this web page through **Wednesday, August 15, 2012**, on the revised recommended minimum flows for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa river systems. Comments submitted after this date should be submitted in writing via e-mail or letter, using the following contact information.

Email: executive@watermatters.org

Address: 2379 Broad Street, Brooksville, FL 34604, ATTN: Governing Board

Thanks for your interest and continued support for the development of minimum flows for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa River systems.

Douglas A. Leeper
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1-800-423-1476, ext. 4272 (FL only)
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From: [Brad Rimbey](mailto:Brad.Rimbey)
To: [Doug Leeper](mailto:Doug.Leeper)
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Subject: Re: Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Minimum Flows Update
Date: Saturday, July 28, 2012 10:58:06 AM

Doug,

Please post the Appendices for these reports on SWFWMD's website. The posted reports are not complete without the Appendices.

Since it has taken over two years for SWFWMD's staff to produce the revised MFL reports for these rivers, it is grossly unfair to stipulate that the public has only two weeks to digest and comment on these revised reports. Many of us have jobs which prevent us from devoting 100% of our time to reviewing and commenting on SWFWMD's MFL proposals in the arbitrarily established time period which you suggest. In any event, the fact that SWFWMD's staff intends to present the revised MFL proposals to SWFWMD's GB one month after the public was notified of their completion makes it abundantly clear that SWFWMD's staff has no serious interest in considering further public input.

By copy of this email, I am inviting SWFWMD's GB members to come to Chassahowitzka and Homosassa to see the Rivers which they will be voting to protect or degrade in next month's GB meeting. I hope the GB members will take this offer seriously. I realize there are Sunshine Laws which prohibit group "meetings" of more than two GB members unless the meeting is publicly noticed. If necessary we can show you these Outstanding Florida Waters individually. It is important that all of SWFWMD's GB members know what is at stake before they vote. If any of SWFWMD's GB members are interested in seeing these rivers before you vote, please contact me ASAP. SWFWMD's staff has set the timeframe and time is short.

I am particularly interested in showing these rivers to the GB members who have seen them in the past. If you have not seen these rivers in recent years, you need to see them now. Anyone who claims that these Outstanding Florida Water have not already been "Significantly Harmed" needs a reality check.

Brad W. Rimbey, PE for the
Chassahowitzka River Restoration Committee

cell 813-417-9453

----- Original Message -----

From: [Doug Leeper](mailto:Doug.Leeper)
To: [Al Grubman \(grubman1@gmail.com\)](mailto:Al.Grubman) ; [Bill Geiger \(bgeiger@cityofbrooksville.us\)](mailto:Bill.Geiger) ; [Bill Pouder \(bill.pouder@myfwc.com\)](mailto:Bill.Pouder) ; [Boyd Blihovde \(Boyd_Blihovde@fws.gov\)](mailto:Boyd.Blihovde) ; [Brad Rimbey \(BWR.CRRC@tampabay.rr.com\)](mailto:Brad.Rimbey) ; [Brent Whitley \(brentwhitley@sierra-properties.com\)](mailto:Brent.Whitley) ; [Brockway Alys \(abrockway@co.hernando.fl.us\)](mailto:Brockway.Alys) ; [Dennis D. Dutcher \(Dennis3ds@aol.com\)](mailto:Dennis.D.Dutcher) ; [Frank DiGiovanni \(administration@inverness-fl.gov\)](mailto:Frank.DiGiovanni) ; [Greenwood, Kathleen](mailto:Greenwood.Kathleen) ; [Helen Spive](mailto:Helen.Spive) ; [Hilliard, Dan \(2buntings@comcast.net\)](mailto:Hilliard.Dan) ; [Hoehn, Ted](mailto:Hoehn.Ted) ; [Hope Corona \(hopecorona@tampabay.rr.com\)](mailto:Hope.Corona) ; [Jim Farley \(jfarley682@aol.com\)](mailto:Jim.Farley) ; [Katie Tripp \(ktripp@savethemanatee.org\)](mailto:Katie.Tripp) ; [Norman Hopkins \(norman@amyhrf.org\)](mailto:Norman.Hopkins) ; [Rebecca Bays \(rebecca.bays@bocc.citrus.fl.us\)](mailto:Rebecca.Bays) ; [Richard Kane \(rkane@usgs.gov\)](mailto:Richard.Kane) ; [Richard Radacky \(rradacky@cityofbrooksville.us\)](mailto:Richard.Radacky) ; [Ron Miller \(rmille76@tampabay.rr.com\)](mailto:Ron.Miller) ; [Sarah Tenison \(cityofweekiwachee@yahoo.com\)](mailto:Sarah.Tenison) ; [Sullivan, Jack \(jsullivan@carltonfields.com\)](mailto:Sullivan.Jack) ; [Voyles, Carolyn \(Carolyn.Voyles@dep.state.fl.us\)](mailto:Voyles.Carolyn) ; [Whitey Markle](mailto:Whitey.Markle)

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Sent: Friday, July 27, 2012 4:46 PM

Subject: Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Minimum Flows Update

Greetings:

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Differences between the previously recommended and currently recommended minimum flows for the river systems can be attributed to analyses that were completed based on scientific peer review and stakeholder review of the previously recommended minimum flows. The analyses

are summarized in updated technical reports that are posted on the *River Systems and Springs* tab on the *Minimum Flows and Levels (Environmental Flows) Documents and Reports* page of the District web site. Updated appendices for the reports will soon be posted to the same web page. Report titles and a link to the web page are provided below. Major report revisions, including those associated with development of the revised recommended minimum flows are also summarized below.

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- Added discussion regarding confidence and use of modeled impacts on habitats associated with salinities of 2 or less (Section 7.3).
- Evaluated effects of potential flow reductions on primary productivity (Sections 5.5 and 7.5).
- Added discussion regarding blue crab response to flow (Sections 7.1 and 11.16).
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- Used an adjusted flow record for modeling purposes to account for existing withdrawal impacts (Section 7.3).
- Evaluated impacts of future sea level change on salinity-based habitats (Section 7.3).
- Enhanced discussion regarding confidence and use of modeled flow impacts on

- fish/invertebrate abundance (Section 5.5).
- Added discussion regarding confidence and use of modeled impacts on habitats associated with salinities of 2 or less (Sections 5.3.3, 5.5 and 7.3.1).
- Evaluated effects of potential flow reductions on primary productivity (Section 7.2).
- Added discussion regarding blue crab response to flow (Section 6.3).
- Revised discussion of water quality issues and expanded discussion of minimum flow impact on water quality (Sections 2.8.1, 2.8.3, 2.8.10 and 7.4).
- Developed long-term hydrologic statistics that may be used to support minimum flow compliance evaluations (Section 7.4).
- Incorporated and updated additional supporting documents in report appendices (Appendices A, D through Z, AA, and AB)
- Evaluated effects of flow reductions ranging from 1 to 4% on salinity-based habitats; previous lowest evaluated flow reduction was 5% (Section 7.3).

Staff plans to present rule amendments associated with the revised minimum flow recommendations to the District Governing at the Board meeting scheduled to be held on August 28, 2012 at the District Headquarters in Brooksville. Board meetings are open to the public and individuals or group representatives may address the Board concerning any meeting agenda item or other water management issue.

The District has established a web site for accepting comments on the proposed minimum flows at:

WaterMatters.org/SpringsCoastMFL

The District is accepting comments via this web page through **Wednesday, August 15, 2012**, on the revised recommended minimum flows for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa river systems. Comments submitted after this date should be submitted in writing via e-mail or letter, using the following contact information.

Email: executive@watermatters.org

Address: 2379 Broad Street, Brooksville, FL 34604, ATTN: Governing Board

Thanks for your interest and continued support for the development of minimum flows for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa River systems.

Douglas A. Leeper
Chief Environmental Scientist
Water Resources Bureau
Southwest Florida Water Management District
2379 Broad Street
Brooksville, Florida 34604-6899
1-800-423-1476, ext. 4272 (FL only)
352-796-7211, ext. 4272

352-754-6885 (Fax)

doug.leeper@watermatters.org

Douglas A. Leeper

Chief Environmental Scientist

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doug.leeper@watermatters.org

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From: [Brad Rimbey](#)
To: [Veronica Craw](#)
Cc: [Dan Hilliard](#); phubbell@wraconsultants.com; [Brent Whitley](#); rebecca.bays@bocc.citrus.fl.us; rasjudy@tampabay.rr.com; Charlene.Stroehlen@amec.com; mwright@chronicleonline.com; [Philip Rhinesmith](#); [Mike Heyl](#); [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Fw: Chaz Headspring Restoration Project
Date: Saturday, July 28, 2012 11:35:26 AM

Ms. Craw,

Perhaps you did not receive this email. In any event, I have received no response. Please answer my questions.

Brad W. Rimbey, P.E. for the
Chassahowitzka River Restoration Committee

----- Original Message -----

From: [Brad Rimbey](#)
To: [Veronica Craw](#)
Cc: mwright@chronicleonline.com; Charlene.Stroehlen@amec.com; [Doug Leeper](#); [Mike Heyl](#); [Philip Rhinesmith](#); rasjudy@tampabay.rr.com; rebecca.bays@bocc.citrus.fl.us; brentwhitley@sierra-properties.com; phubbell@wraconsultants.com; 2buntings@comcast.net
Sent: Thursday, July 19, 2012 4:46 PM
Subject: Re: Chaz Headspring Restoration Project

Ms. Craw,

Thanks for taking the time to answer my questions. Just a few more and I will quit bothering you about this.

Last year Mike Wright published an article in the Citrus County Chronicle about this project. That article can be found here.
<http://www.chronicleonline.com/content/chassahowitzka-challenge-water-management-district-restoring-river-thing-beauty>

Mr. Wright indicated the total cost of this project was to be \$1.3 million. Can you confirm that figure? Also, are you able to release the dollar amounts of the two qualified but over-budget bids you received?

One last thought and question. I have to wonder if this project would be necessary if the Chaz Main Spring was flowing anywhere near its historic first magnitude levels. It seems the spring would clear its own throat (and the spring pool) of muck if it was flowing as it did in years past. I doubt we will see those flow rates ever again. The currently proposed MFL flow reduction of 11% will certainly not help in this regard. Does the SWFWMD believe that cleaning the muck out of the main spring pool will increase the spring flow or is this project strictly about enhancing the aesthetics of the spring pool by temporarily restoring it to a white sandy bottom?

Brad W. Rimbey, P.E. for the
Chassahowitzka River Restoration Committee

----- Original Message -----

From: [Veronica Craw](#)
To: [Brad Rimbey](#)
Cc: 2buntings@comcast.net; phubbell@wraconsultants.com; brentwhitley@sierra-properties.com;

rebecca.bays@bocc.citrus.fl.us ; rasjudy@tampabay.rr.com ; [Philip Rhinesmith](#) ; [Mike Heyl](#) ; [Doug Leeper](#) ; Charlene.Stroehlen@amec.com ; mwright@chronicleonline.com

Sent: Thursday, July 19, 2012 2:50 PM

Subject: RE: Chaz Headspring Restoration Project

Mr. Rimbey,

This project never received funding from the Legislature.

The project was initiated through a cooperative funding agreement between the District and Citrus County. Citrus County was the lead and hired BCI Engineers & Scientists to perform a feasibility study. The work performed included conceptual design plans and sediment surveys for which they were paid \$49,643.44 (the Coastal Rivers Basin Board funded \$24,821.72 and the County contributed an equal amount).

The next phase of the project was led by the District and included final design and permitting activities. The District selected Mactec Engineering and Consulting, Inc. and paid \$75,000. These funds were budgeted by the Coastal Rivers Basin Board and were fully reimbursed through the Water Management Lands Trust Fund.

A sediment characterization study was performed as part of the feasibility study that determined the physical and chemical characteristics of the sediment. Organic matter in various forms represents about 20% of the total sediment mass, and includes wood chips, leaves, and other vegetative matter. However, the exact source of the material was not determined.

I appreciate your concern and share your desire to see the spring system restored. The District is committed to the completion of this project.

Veronica Craw
Environmental Section Manager
Southwest Florida Water Management District
2379 Broad Street
Brooksville, FL 34604
352-796-7211 ext. 4267
veronica.craw@swfwmd.state.fl.us

From: Brad Rimbey [<mailto:BWR.CRRC@tampabay.rr.com>]

Sent: Wednesday, July 18, 2012 6:53 PM

To: Veronica Craw

Cc: 2buntings@comcast.net; phubbell@wraconsultants.com; brentwhitley@sierra-properties.com; rebecca.bays@bocc.citrus.fl.us; rasjudy@tampabay.rr.com; [Philip Rhinesmith](#); [Mike Heyl](#); [Doug Leeper](#); Charlene.Stroehlen@amec.com; mwright@chronicleonline.com

Subject: Re: Chaz Headspring Restoration Project

Ms. Craw,

Thank you for your response. At this point, I am in the "believe it when I see it" mode.

SWFWMD has put this project on the back burner for so many years that it has become something of a standing (bad) local joke. By any chance, would you happen to know when this project was funded by the legislature? Anecdotally, I am told it was at least ten years ago.

Also, I would be interested in knowing how much money was paid to MACTEC (Project # 60631001050) and BCI (Project # 03-13653.7) to produce a set of restoration procedures which were ultimately unaffordable.

Add to this SWFWMD's proposed further degradation of the Chassahowitzka River via the MFL program. To say the least, we are not impressed with SWFWMD's efforts to protect and restore this Outstanding Florida Water (designated on January 5, 1993).

If you have any thoughts regarding Citrus County's continuing practice of spraying toxic herbicides (with FWC's blessing) into the canals which are tributary to this OFW, I would like to hear them. No doubt these cheap-and-dirty invasive aquatic plant management practices have contributed greatly to the muck which must now be removed at considerable expense to the tax payer.

Brad W. Rimbey, P.E. for the
Chassahowitzka River Restoration Committee

----- Original Message -----

From: [Veronica Crow](#)

To: [Brad Rimbey](#) ; [Brad - CRRRC Rimbey](#)

Cc: mwright@chronicleonline.com ; Charlene.Stroehlen@amec.com ; [Doug Leeper](#) ; [Mike Heyl](#) ; [Philip Rhinesmith](mailto:Philip.Rhinesmith) ; rasjudy@tampabay.rr.com ; rebecca.bays@bcc.citrus.fl.us ; brentwhitley@sierra-properties.com ; phubbell@wraconsultants.com ; 2buntings@comcast.net

Sent: Wednesday, July 18, 2012 3:40 PM

Subject: RE: Chaz Headspring Restoration Project

Mr. Rimbey,

The District is committed to completing the Chassahowitzka Headspring Restoration Project and to using taxpayer dollars wisely. The District advertised a Request for Bids (RFB) and received two qualified responses. However, these bids exceeded the District's budget for the project and, in addition, the bidders could not complete the project within the permitted construction window this year due to manatee restrictions mandated by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service as specified in the United States Army Corps of Engineers permit for the project.

In response to Florida Department of Environmental Protection permit conditions, the District also conducted extensive sediment quality tests that determined that the material that will be removed during the restoration can be beneficially used in agricultural operations rather than needing to be disposed of in a Class I landfill. This new information will likely reduce the cost of the project significantly and save taxpayer dollars. We anticipate reissuing another RFB this fall that will allow for greater disposal options and are confident the project will be conducted next spring/summer. If you have additional questions, please feel free to contact me.

Veronica Crow

Environmental Section Manager
Southwest Florida Water Management District
2379 Broad Street
Brooksville, FL 34604
352-796-7211 ext. 4267
veronica.craw@swfwmd.state.fl.us

From: Brad Rimbey [<mailto:brimbey3@tampabay.rr.com>]
Sent: Monday, July 16, 2012 8:06 PM
To: Brad - CRRC Rimbey
Cc: mwright@chronicleonline.com; Charlene.Stroehlen@amec.com; Doug Leeper; Mike Heyl; Veronica Crow; Philip Rhinesmith
Subject: Chaz Headspring Restoration Project

All,

As expected, the long awaited (and long ago legislatively funded) Chassahowitzka Headspring Restoration Project has once again failed to launch this year.

In short, the SWFWMD has wasted so much money studying the "no brainer" problem that they have no money remaining to implement the obvious solution. Your tax dollars at work?! Really pathetic!

How was the Weeki Wachee main spring restoration completed? How was the Homosassa main spring restoration completed? Why is the Chassahowitzka main spring restoration project too complex and expensive to complete?! This is not rocket science folks!! Suck out the mud, haul it away, and dump it in an approved landfill!!!

The SWFWMD's rejection letter for all bids is attached. The attached and other relevant documents to the "Chassahowitzka Headspring Restoration Project" can be found at <http://www.swfwmd.state.fl.us/business/contproc/solicitations.php>.

Brad W. Rimbey, P.E. for the
Chassahowitzka River Restoration Committee

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From: [hope](#)
To: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Re: Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Minimum Flows Update
Date: Monday, July 30, 2012 1:44:14 AM

Hi Doug,

Could you send me 3 poster-size (large font) Notices (of Governing Board Meeting Date, Time, Location, and phone number / address / email to send comments regarding Chassahowitzka Minimum Flow) to put in the Chassahowitzka Community Bulletin Board for all those citizens in Chassahowitzka who do not have access to internet.

A basic, "what, when, where" type thing that lets the Community know that the District still intends to seriously reduce flow to our already ailing river, by 9%; and the dates/times/places where the meeting will be held, and a phone number for additional questions comments.

Citrus County made me the volunteer "custodian" of the Chassahowitzka community bulletin board at the Fire House, and gave me keys, but no money for ink, paper, printer, etc.....geeze. I don't know your public information officer, but would appreciate it if you ask him/her to please make up some "drive by and read" size notices to send me for the bulletin board.

I think SWFWMD should also post Notices in the Chassahowitzka Boat Ramp and Campground areas (District Owned Parcels where numerous Stakeholders frequent regularly).

My mailing address for the 3 Notices to put in the Chassahowitzka Community Bulletin Board is:

Hope Corona
10024 S. Riviera Pt.
Homosassa, FL 34448

Thank you,
hope

----- Original Message -----

From: [Doug Leeper](#)
To: [Al Grubman \(grubman1@gmail.com\)](#) ; [Bill Geiger \(bgeiger@cityofbrooksville.us\)](#) ; [Bill Pouder \(bill.pouder@myfwc.com\)](#) ; [Boyd Blihovde \(Boyd_Blihovde@fws.gov\)](#) ; [Brad Rimbey \(BWR_CRRC@tampabay.rr.com\)](#) ; [Brent Whitley \(brentwhitley@sierra-properties.com\)](#) ; [Brockway. Alys \(abrockway@co.hernando.fl.us\)](#) ; [Dennis D. Dutcher \(Dennis3ds@aol.com\)](#) ; [Frank DiGiovanni \(administration@inverness-fl.gov\)](#) ; [Greenwood, Kathleen](#) ; [Helen Spive](#) ; [Hilliard, Dan \(2buntings@comcast.net\)](#) ; [Hoehn, Ted](#) ; [Hope Corona \(hopecorona@tampabay.rr.com\)](#) ; [Jim Farley \(jfarley682@aol.com\)](#) ; [Katie Tripp \(ktripp@savethemanatee.org\)](#) ; [Norman Hopkins \(norman@amyhrf.org\)](#) ; [Rebecca Bays \(rebecca.bays@bocc.citrus.fl.us\)](#) ; [Richard Kane \(rkane@usgs.gov\)](#) ; [Richard Radacky \(rradacky@cityofbrooksville.us\)](#) ; [Ron Miller \(rmille76@tampabay.rr.com\)](#) ; [Sarah Tenison \(cityofweekiwachee@yahoo.com\)](#) ; [Sullivan, Jack \(jsullivan@carltonfields.com\)](#) ; [Voyles, Carolyn \(Carolyn.Voyles@dep.state.fl.us\)](#) ; [Whitey Markle \(whmarkle@gmail.com\)](#) ; [\(janicehowie@aol.com\)](#) ; [Abdon Sidibie](#) ; [Alex McPherson \(aamcpherson@msn.com\)](#) ; [Ann - 2 Hodgson \(ahodgson@gmail.com\)](#) ; [Ann Hodgson \(ahodgson@audubon.org\)](#) ; [Bernard Berauer \(bfberauer@aol.com\)](#) ; [Beverly Overa \(boverly@tampabay.rr.com\)](#) ; [Bill Garvin \(wgarvin@tampabay.rr.com\)](#) ; [Bob Caldwell](#)

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Sent: Friday, July 27, 2012 4:46 PM

Subject: Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Minimum Flows Update

Greetings:

I am writing to inform you that the Southwest Florida Water Management District has developed revised minimum flow recommendations for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa River systems. Minimum flows identify "...the the limit at which further withdrawals would be significantly harmful to the water resources or ecology of the area" (Section 373.042, Florida Statutes), are adopted by the District Governing Board into Chapter 40D-8, Florida Administrative Code, and are used for regulatory purposes, including the review and issuance of water use permits.

The revised, recommended minimum flows for the Chassahowitzka River System are 91% of its natural flow and the revised, recommended minimum flows for the Homosassa River System are 97% of its natural flow. Natural flow is defined as the flow that would exist in the absence of water withdrawals. There are currently no surface-water withdrawals from either system permitted by the District and flow reductions in each that can be attributed to groundwater withdrawals are approximately 1% of the natural flows. When expressed from a water-use perspective, the revised minimum flow recommendations correspond with allowable flow reductions of up to 9% for the Chassahowitzka system and 3% for the Homosassa system. What this means is that compared to the existing conditions, the proposed minimum flows would allow additional reductions of 8% for the Chassahowitzka system and 2% for the Homosassa system.

The currently recommended minimum flows differ from those previously proposed for the river systems and outlined in draft technical reports that were developed in 2010. The previously recommended minimum flows required that 89% of the natural flow in the Chassahowitzka system and 95% of the natural flow in the Homosassa system must be maintained, i.e., not removed as a result of water withdrawals.

Differences between the previously recommended and currently recommended minimum flows for the river systems can be attributed to analyses that were completed based on scientific peer review and stakeholder review of the previously recommended minimum flows. The analyses are summarized in updated technical reports that are posted on the *River Systems and Springs* tab on the *Minimum Flows and Levels (Environmental Flows) Documents and Reports* page of the District web site. Updated appendices for the reports will soon be posted to the same web page.

Report titles and a link to the web page are provided below. Major report revisions, including those associated with development of the revised recommended minimum flows are also summarized below.

Report Titles and Link to the Minimum Flows and Levels (Environmental Flows) Documents and Report Page

Recommended Minimum Flows for the Chassahowitzka River System, July 15, 2012

Recommended Minimum Flows for the Homosassa River System, July 15, 2012

http://www.swfwmd.state.fl.us/projects/mfl/mfl_reports.php

Major Report Updates Addressing Changes to Minimum Flow Recommendations for the Chassahowitzka River System

- Recommended changing allowable reductions in natural flow from 11% to 9%.
- Included discussion of independent scientific peer review findings and stakeholder input received through July 15, 2012 (Chapters 9 and Section 11.18).
- Used an adjusted flow record for modeling purposes to account for existing withdrawal impacts (Sections 2.3.1.1.1 and 8.2).
- Evaluated impacts of future sea level change on salinity-based habitats (Sections 3.2 and 8.3).
- Added discussion regarding confidence and use of modeled flow impacts on fish/invertebrate abundance (Section 7.1).
- Added discussion regarding confidence and use of modeled impacts on habitats associated with salinities of 2 or less (Section 7.3).
- Evaluated effects of potential flow reductions on primary productivity (Sections 5.5 and 7.5).
- Added discussion regarding blue crab response to flow (Sections 7.1 and 11.16).
- Revised discussion of water quality issues and expanded discussion of minimum flow impact on water quality (Sections 4.3, 8.4 and 11.17).
- Updated long-term hydrologic statistics that may be used to support minimum flow compliance evaluations (Section 8.2).
- Incorporated and updated additional supporting documents in report appendices (Sections 11.14 through 11.18).
- Added an additional model for predicting submerged aquatic vegetation density as a function of salinity (Section 7.2).

Major Report Updates Addressing Changes to Minimum Flow Recommendations for the Homosassa River System

- Recommended changing allowable reduction in natural flow from 5% to 3%.
- Included discussion of independent scientific peer review findings and stakeholder input received through July 15, 2012 (Chapter 6 and Appendices S, T, U, V, and W).
- Used an adjusted flow record for modeling purposes to account for existing withdrawal impacts (Section 7.3).
- Evaluated impacts of future sea level change on salinity-based habitats (Section 7.3).
- Enhanced discussion regarding confidence and use of modeled flow impacts on fish/invertebrate abundance (Section 5.5).
- Added discussion regarding confidence and use of modeled impacts on habitats associated with salinities of 2 or less (Sections 5.3.3, 5.5 and 7.3.1).

- Evaluated effects of potential flow reductions on primary productivity (Section 7.2).
- Added discussion regarding blue crab response to flow (Section 6.3).
- Revised discussion of water quality issues and expanded discussion of minimum flow impact on water quality (Sections 2.8.1, 2.8.3, 2.8.10 and 7.4).
- Developed long-term hydrologic statistics that may be used to support minimum flow compliance evaluations (Section 7.4).
- Incorporated and updated additional supporting documents in report appendices (Appendices A, D through Z, AA, and AB)
- Evaluated effects of flow reductions ranging from 1 to 4% on salinity-based habitats; previous lowest evaluated flow reduction was 5% (Section 7.3).

Staff plans to present rule amendments associated with the revised minimum flow recommendations to the District Governing at the Board meeting scheduled to be held on August 28, 2012 at the District Headquarters in Brooksville. Board meetings are open to the public and individuals or group representatives may address the Board concerning any meeting agenda item or other water management issue.

The District has established a web site for accepting comments on the proposed minimum flows at:

WaterMatters.org/SpringsCoastMFL

The District is accepting comments via this web page through **Wednesday, August 15, 2012**, on the revised recommended minimum flows for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa river systems. Comments submitted after this date should be submitted in writing via e-mail or letter, using the following contact information.

Email: executive@watermatters.org

Address: 2379 Broad Street, Brooksville, FL 34604, ATTN: Governing Board

Thanks for your interest and continued support for the development of minimum flows for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa River systems.

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From: [Alan Martyn Johnson](#)
To: [Kevin J Grimsley](#)
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Monthly Discharge Data Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Gage Sites
Date: Monday, July 30, 2012 8:28:30 AM

Kevin,
Sorry to trouble you again.

Some months ago I had used Monthly Discharge Data to derive some 5 year moving average discharges. For months where no data had been reported I averaged between the adjacent months; not exactly scientific but it gave me a general picture. I would now like to better understand the blank fields in the monthly data.

The monthly discharge data shown on the Water Information web site are titled as Daily Mean data. I assume the monthly data is a simple arithmetic mean of the daily data. But, when discharge data missing e.g. for 2 hours, is a daily mean still calculated; or how much missing data before a daily mean is not calculated?

Guess that may not be the best way to ask my question as I am interested in the months that show as blank. So to put it another way, when the monthly data field is blank what are the criteria for it to be blank?

Kevin,
This is a general question and not associated with the SE Fork during the time velocity meter data has been collected once each hour; but having raised that, how is the data going to be handled at the end of the water year?

Martyn

From: [Ron Miller](#)
To: [Doug Leeper](#)
Cc: [Priscilla Watkins](#); [Brad Rimbey](#); [Jim Bitter](#); [Al Grubman](#); [Dan Hilliard](#)
Subject: Fw: Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Minimum Flows Update
Date: Monday, July 30, 2012 12:05:15 PM

Hi Doug,

The Homosassa River Alliance agrees with Brad. The Appendices are missing and it is grossly unfair to give us only 2 weeks in August to respond. As you may guess many of our members are out of town in the middle of Summer. And believe it or not some of our folks live without the Internet.

Accordingly I would like to request:

1. Please make the appendices available.
2. Please move the Comment and Governing Board dates back one month... into Sept.
3. Please Provide 5 copies of the modified report to the Homosassa River Alliance and 5 copies to the Chassahowitzka River Restoration Committee. We will pick up these copies as soon as possible at your office.

Thank You,
Ron Miller

From: [Brad Rimbey](#)
Sent: Saturday, July 28, 2012 10:58 AM
To: [Doug Leeper](#)
Cc: judyw1@tampabay.rr.com ; dtharp@embarqmail.com ; senft1hp2u@aol.com ; todd@pressmaninc.com ; rsmaggard@gmail.com ; info@conservationfoundation.com ; hgramling@tbwg.org ; neilcombe@yahoo.com ; bkbeswick@aol.com ; margoh@medallionhome.com ; michael@2riversranch.net ; jadams@abbeyadams.com ; jclosshey@ideas-innovations.com ; Craig@sptimes.com ; mwright@chronicleonline.com ; [Todd Kincaid](#) ; bknight@wetlandsolutionsinc.com
Subject: Re: Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Minimum Flows Update

Doug,

Please post the Appendices for these reports on SWFWMD's website. **The posted reports are not complete without the Appendices.**

Since it has taken over two years for SWFWMD's staff to produce the revised MFL reports for these rivers, **it is grossly unfair to stipulate that the public has only two weeks to digest and comment on these revised reports.** Many of us have jobs which prevent us from devoting 100% of our time to reviewing and commenting on SWFWMD's MFL proposals in the arbitrarily established time period which you suggest. In any event, the fact that SWFWMD's staff intends to present the revised MFL proposals to SWFWMD's GB one month after the public was notified of their completion makes it abundantly clear that SWFWMD's staff has no serious interest in considering further public input.

By copy of this email, I am inviting SWFWMD's GB members to come to Chassahowitzka and Homosassa to see the Rivers which they will be voting to protect or degrade in next month's GB meeting. I hope the GB members will take this offer seriously. I realize there are Sunshine Laws

which prohibit group "meetings" of more than two GB members unless the meeting is publicly noticed. If necessary we can show you these Outstanding Florida Waters individually. It is important that all of SWFWMD's GB members know what is at stake before they vote. If any of SWFWMD's GB members are interested in seeing these rivers before you vote, please contact me ASAP. SWFWMD's staff has set the timeframe and time is short.

I am particularly interested in showing these rivers to the GB members who have seen them in the past. If you have not seen these rivers in recent years, you need to see them now. Anyone who claims that these Outstanding Florida Water have not already been "Significantly Harmed" needs a reality check.

Brad W. Rimbey, PE for the
Chassahowitzka River Restoration Committee

cell 813-417-9453

----- Original Message -----

From: [Doug Leeper](#)

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Sent: Friday, July 27, 2012 4:46 PM

Subject: Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Minimum Flows Update

Greetings:

I am writing to inform you that the Southwest Florida Water Management District has developed revised minimum flow recommendations for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa River systems.

Minimum flows identify "...the the limit at which further withdrawals would be significantly harmful to the water resources or ecology of the area" (Section 373.042, Florida Statutes), are adopted by the District Governing Board into Chapter 40D-8, Florida Administrative Code, and are used for regulatory purposes, including the review and issuance of water use permits.

The revised, recommended minimum flows for the Chassahowitzka River System are 91% of its natural flow and the revised, recommended minimum flows for the Homosassa River System are 97% of its natural flow. Natural flow is defined as the flow that would exist in the absence of water withdrawals. There are currently no surface-water withdrawals from either system permitted by the District and flow reductions in each that can be attributed to groundwater withdrawals are approximately 1% of the natural flows. When expressed from a water-use perspective, the revised minimum flow recommendations correspond with allowable flow reductions of up to 9% for the Chassahowitzka system and 3% for the Homosassa system. What this means is that compared to the existing conditions, the proposed minimum flows would allow additional reductions of 8% for the Chassahowitzka system and 2% for the Homosassa system.

The currently recommended minimum flows differ from those previously proposed for the river systems and outlined in draft technical reports that were developed in 2010. The previously recommended minimum flows required that 89% of the natural flow in the Chassahowitzka system and 95% of the natural flow in the Homosassa system must be maintained, i.e., not removed as a result of water withdrawals.

Differences between the previously recommended and currently recommended minimum flows for the river systems can be attributed to analyses that were completed based on scientific peer review and stakeholder review of the previously recommended minimum flows. The analyses are summarized in updated technical reports that are posted on the *River Systems and Springs* tab on the *Minimum Flows and Levels (Environmental Flows) Documents and Reports* page of the District web site. Updated appendices for the reports will soon be posted to the same web page. Report titles and a link to the web page are provided below. Major report revisions, including those associated with development of the revised recommended minimum flows are also summarized below.

Report Titles and Link to the Minimum Flows and Levels (Environmental Flows) Documents and Report Page

Recommended Minimum Flows for the Chassahowitzka River System, July 15, 2012

Recommended Minimum Flows for the Homosassa River System, July 15, 2012

http://www.swfwmd.state.fl.us/projects/mfl/mfl_reports.php

Major Report Updates Addressing Changes to Minimum Flow Recommendations for the Chassahowitzka River System

- Recommended changing allowable reductions in natural flow from 11% to 9%.
- Included discussion of independent scientific peer review findings and stakeholder input received through July 15, 2012 (Chapters 9 and Section 11.18).
- Used an adjusted flow record for modeling purposes to account for existing withdrawal

- impacts (Sections 2.3.1.1.1 and 8.2).
- Evaluated impacts of future sea level change on salinity-based habitats (Sections 3.2 and 8.3).
- Added discussion regarding confidence and use of modeled flow impacts on fish/invertebrate abundance (Section 7.1).
- Added discussion regarding confidence and use of modeled impacts on habitats associated with salinities of 2 or less (Section 7.3).
- Evaluated effects of potential flow reductions on primary productivity (Sections 5.5 and 7.5).
- Added discussion regarding blue crab response to flow (Sections 7.1 and 11.16).
- Revised discussion of water quality issues and expanded discussion of minimum flow impact on water quality (Sections 4.3, 8.4 and 11.17).
- Updated long-term hydrologic statistics that may be used to support minimum flow compliance evaluations (Section 8.2).
- Incorporated and updated additional supporting documents in report appendices (Sections 11.14 through 11.18).
- Added an additional model for predicting submerged aquatic vegetation density as a function of salinity (Section 7.2).

Major Report Updates Addressing Changes to Minimum Flow Recommendations for the Homosassa River System

- Recommended changing allowable reduction in natural flow from 5% to 3%.
- Included discussion of independent scientific peer review findings and stakeholder input received through July 15, 2012 (Chapter 6 and Appendices S, T, U, V, and W).
- Used an adjusted flow record for modeling purposes to account for existing withdrawal impacts (Section 7.3).
- Evaluated impacts of future sea level change on salinity-based habitats (Section 7.3).
- Enhanced discussion regarding confidence and use of modeled flow impacts on fish/invertebrate abundance (Section 5.5).
- Added discussion regarding confidence and use of modeled impacts on habitats associated with salinities of 2 or less (Sections 5.3.3, 5.5 and 7.3.1).
- Evaluated effects of potential flow reductions on primary productivity (Section 7.2).
- Added discussion regarding blue crab response to flow (Section 6.3).
- Revised discussion of water quality issues and expanded discussion of minimum flow impact on water quality (Sections 2.8.1, 2.8.3, 2.8.10 and 7.4).
- Developed long-term hydrologic statistics that may be used to support minimum flow compliance evaluations (Section 7.4).
- Incorporated and updated additional supporting documents in report appendices (Appendices A, D through Z, AA, and AB)
- Evaluated effects of flow reductions ranging from 1 to 4% on salinity-based habitats; previous lowest evaluated flow reduction was 5% (Section 7.3).

Staff plans to present rule amendments associated with the revised minimum flow recommendations to the District Governing at the Board meeting scheduled to be held on August 28, 2012 at the District Headquarters in Brooksville. Board meetings are open to the public and individuals or group representatives may address the Board concerning any meeting

agenda item or other water management issue.

The District has established a web site for accepting comments on the proposed minimum flows at:

WaterMatters.org/SpringsCoastMFL

The District is accepting comments via this web page through **Wednesday, August 15, 2012**, on the revised recommended minimum flows for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa river systems. Comments submitted after this date should be submitted in writing via e-mail or letter, using the following contact information.

Email: executive@watermatters.org

Address: 2379 Broad Street, Brooksville, FL 34604, ATTN: Governing Board

Thanks for your interest and continued support for the development of minimum flows for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa River systems.

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From: Boyd_Blihovde@fws.gov
To: Doug.Leeper
Subject: Re: Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Minimum Flows Update
Date: Monday, July 30, 2012 12:52:35 PM

Doug,

Just to be clear, can you give me the deadline to get comments back to you? Thanks very much!

Thanks,

boyd blihovde
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07/27/2012 04:47 PM

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cc

Subject: Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Minimum Flows Update

Greetings:

I am writing to inform you that the Southwest Florida Water Management District has developed revised minimum flow recommendations for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa River systems. Minimum flows identify "...the the limit at which further withdrawals would be significantly harmful to the water resources or ecology of the area" (Section 373.042, Florida Statutes), are adopted by the District Governing Board into Chapter 40D-8, Florida Administrative Code, and are used for regulatory purposes, including the review and issuance of water use permits.

The revised, recommended minimum flows for the Chassahowitzka River System are 91% of its natural flow and the revised, recommended minimum flows for the Homosassa River System are 97% of its natural flow. Natural flow is defined as the flow that would exist in the absence of water withdrawals. There are currently

no surface-water withdrawals from either system permitted by the District and flow reductions in each that can be attributed to groundwater withdrawals are approximately 1% of the natural flows. When expressed from a water-use perspective, the revised minimum flow recommendations correspond with allowable flow reductions of up to 9% for the Chassahowitzka system and 3% for the Homosassa system. What this means is that compared to the existing conditions, the proposed minimum flows would allow additional reductions of 8% for the Chassahowitzka system and 2% for the Homosassa system.

The currently recommended minimum flows differ from those previously proposed for the river systems and outlined in draft technical reports that were developed in 2010. The previously recommended minimum flows required that 89% of the natural flow in the Chassahowitzka system and 95% of the natural flow in the Homosassa system must be maintained, i.e., not removed as a result of water withdrawals.

Differences between the previously recommended and currently recommended minimum flows for the river systems can be attributed to analyses that were completed based on scientific peer review and stakeholder review of the previously recommended minimum flows. The analyses are summarized in updated technical reports that are posted on the *River Systems and Springs* tab on the *Minimum Flows and Levels (Environmental Flows) Documents and Reports* page of the District web site. Updated appendices for the reports will soon be posted to the same web page. Report titles and a link to the web page are provided below. Major report revisions, including those associated with development of the revised recommended minimum flows are also summarized below.

Report Titles and Link to the Minimum Flows and Levels (Environmental Flows) Documents and Report Page

Recommended Minimum Flows for the Chassahowitzka River System, July 15, 2012

Recommended Minimum Flows for the Homosassa River System, July 15, 2012

http://www.swfwmd.state.fl.us/projects/mfl/mfl_reports.php

Major Report Updates Addressing Changes to Minimum Flow Recommendations for the Chassahowitzka River System

- Recommended changing allowable reductions in natural flow from 11% to 9%.
- Included discussion of independent scientific peer review findings and stakeholder input received through July 15, 2012 (Chapters 9 and Section 11.18).
- Used an adjusted flow record for modeling purposes to account for existing withdrawal impacts (Sections 2.3.1.1.1 and 8.2).
- Evaluated impacts of future sea level change on salinity-based habitats (Sections 3.2 and 8.3).
- Added discussion regarding confidence and use of modeled flow impacts on fish/invertebrate abundance (Section 7.1).
- Added discussion regarding confidence and use of modeled impacts on habitats associated with salinities of 2 or less (Section 7.3).
- Evaluated effects of potential flow reductions on primary productivity (Sections 5.5 and 7.5).
- Added discussion regarding blue crab response to flow (Sections 7.1 and 11.16).
- Revised discussion of water quality issues and expanded discussion of minimum flow impact on water quality (Sections 4.3, 8.4 and 11.17).
- Updated long-term hydrologic statistics that may be used to support minimum flow compliance evaluations (Section 8.2).
- Incorporated and updated additional supporting documents in report appendices (Sections 11.14 through 11.18).
- Added an additional model for predicting submerged aquatic vegetation density as a function of salinity (Section 7.2).

Major Report Updates Addressing Changes to Minimum Flow Recommendations for the Homosassa River

System

- Recommended changing allowable reduction in natural flow from 5% to 3%.
- Included discussion of independent scientific peer review findings and stakeholder input received through July 15, 2012 (Chapter 6 and Appendices S, T, U, V, and W).
- Used an adjusted flow record for modeling purposes to account for existing withdrawal impacts (Section 7.3).
- Evaluated impacts of future sea level change on salinity-based habitats (Section 7.3).
- Enhanced discussion regarding confidence and use of modeled flow impacts on fish/invertebrate abundance (Section 5.5).
- Added discussion regarding confidence and use of modeled impacts on habitats associated with salinities of 2 or less (Sections 5.3.3, 5.5 and 7.3.1).
- Evaluated effects of potential flow reductions on primary productivity (Section 7.2).
- Added discussion regarding blue crab response to flow (Section 6.3).
- Revised discussion of water quality issues and expanded discussion of minimum flow impact on water quality (Sections 2.8.1, 2.8.3, 2.8.10 and 7.4).
- Developed long-term hydrologic statistics that may be used to support minimum flow compliance evaluations (Section 7.4).
- Incorporated and updated additional supporting documents in report appendices (Appendices A, D through Z, AA, and AB)
- Evaluated effects of flow reductions ranging from 1 to 4% on salinity-based habitats; previous lowest evaluated flow reduction was 5% (Section 7.3).

Staff plans to present rule amendments associated with the revised minimum flow recommendations to the District Governing at the Board meeting scheduled to be held on August 28, 2012 at the District Headquarters in Brooksville. Board meetings are open to the public and individuals or group representatives may address the Board concerning any meeting agenda item or other water management issue.

The District has established a web site for accepting comments on the proposed minimum flows at:

WaterMatters.org/SpringsCoastMFL

The District is accepting comments via this web page through **Wednesday, August 15, 2012**, on the revised recommended minimum flows for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa river systems. Comments submitted after this date should be submitted in writing via e-mail or letter, using the following contact information.

Email: executive@watermatters.org

Address: 2379 Broad Street, Brooksville, FL 34604, ATTN: Governing Board

Thanks for your interest and continued support for the development of minimum flows for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa River systems.

Douglas A. Leeper
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Water Resources Bureau
Southwest Florida Water Management District
2379 Broad Street
Brooksville, Florida 34604-6899
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IMPORTANT NOTICE: All E-mail sent to or from this address are public record and archived. The Southwest Florida Water Management District does not allow use of District equipment and E-mail facilities for non-District business purposes.

From: Doug Leeper
To: "Boyd_Blihovde@fws.gov"
Subject: RE: Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Minimum Flows Update
Date: Monday, July 30, 2012 12:56:00 PM
Attachments: [image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)

Hi Boyd:

You can use the comments button on the web page through August 15, 2012. After that date and up to the Board meeting date, which is August 28, 2012, written comments should be submitted by letter or e-mail.

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From: Boyd_Blihovde@fws.gov [mailto:Boyd_Blihovde@fws.gov]
Sent: Monday, July 30, 2012 12:49 PM
To: Doug Leeper
Subject: Re: Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Minimum Flows Update

Doug,

Just to be clear, can you give me the deadline to get comments back to you? Thanks very much!

Thanks,

boyd blihovde
Deputy Refuge Manager
Chassahowitzka National Wildlife Refuge Complex
1502 SE Kings Bay Drive
Crystal River, FL 34429
(P) 352-563-2088
(F) 352-795-7961

▼ Doug Leeper <Doug.Leeper@swfwmd.state.fl.us>

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07/27/2012 04:47 PM

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cc

Subject: Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Minimum Flows
Update

Greetings:

I am writing to inform you that the Southwest Florida Water Management District has developed revised minimum flow recommendations for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa River systems. Minimum flows identify "...the the limit at which further withdrawals would be significantly harmful to the water resources or ecology of the area" (Section 373.042, Florida Statutes), are adopted by the District Governing Board into Chapter 40D-8, Florida Administrative Code, and are used for regulatory purposes, including the review and issuance of water use permits.

The revised, recommended minimum flows for the Chassahowitzka River System are 91% of its natural flow and the revised, recommended minimum flows for the Homosassa River System are 97% of its natural flow. Natural flow is defined as the flow that would exist in the absence of water withdrawals. There are currently no surface-water withdrawals from either system permitted by the District and flow reductions in each that can be attributed to groundwater withdrawals are approximately 1% of the natural flows. When expressed from a water-use perspective, the revised minimum flow recommendations correspond with allowable flow reductions of up to 9% for the Chassahowitzka system and 3% for the Homosassa system. What this means is that compared to the existing conditions, the proposed minimum flows would allow additional reductions of 8% for the Chassahowitzka system and 2% for the Homosassa system.

The currently recommended minimum flows differ from those previously proposed for the river systems and outlined in draft technical reports that were developed in 2010. The previously recommended minimum flows required that 89% of the natural flow in the Chassahowitzka system and 95% of the natural flow in the Homosassa system must be maintained, i.e., not removed as a result of water withdrawals.

Differences between the previously recommended and currently recommended minimum flows for the river systems can be attributed to analyses that were completed based on scientific peer review and stakeholder review of the previously recommended minimum flows. The analyses are summarized in updated technical reports that are posted on the *River Systems and Springs* tab on the *Minimum Flows and Levels (Environmental Flows) Documents and Reports* page of the District web site. Updated appendices for the reports will soon be posted to the same web page. Report titles and a link to the web page are provided below. Major report revisions, including those associated with development of the revised recommended minimum flows are also summarized below.

Report Titles and Link to the Minimum Flows and Levels (Environmental Flows) Documents and Report Page

Recommended Minimum Flows for the Chassahowitzka River System, July 15, 2012

Recommended Minimum Flows for the Homosassa River System, July 15, 2012

http://www.swfwmd.state.fl.us/projects/mfl/mfl_reports.php

Major Report Updates Addressing Changes to Minimum Flow Recommendations for the Chassahowitzka River System

- Recommended changing allowable reductions in natural flow from 11% to 9%.
- Included discussion of independent scientific peer review findings and stakeholder input received through July 15, 2012 (Chapters 9 and Section 11.18).
- Used an adjusted flow record for modeling purposes to account for existing withdrawal impacts (Sections 2.3.1.1.1 and 8.2).
- Evaluated impacts of future sea level change on salinity-based habitats (Sections 3.2 and 8.3).
- Added discussion regarding confidence and use of modeled flow impacts on fish/invertebrate abundance (Section 7.1).
- Added discussion regarding confidence and use of modeled impacts on habitats associated with salinities of 2 or less (Section 7.3).
- Evaluated effects of potential flow reductions on primary productivity (Sections 5.5 and 7.5).
- Added discussion regarding blue crab response to flow (Sections 7.1 and 11.16).
- Revised discussion of water quality issues and expanded discussion of minimum flow impact on water quality (Sections 4.3, 8.4 and 11.17).
- Updated long-term hydrologic statistics that may be used to support minimum flow compliance evaluations (Section 8.2).
- Incorporated and updated additional supporting documents in report appendices (Sections 11.14

through 11.18).

- Added an additional model for predicting submerged aquatic vegetation density as a function of salinity (Section 7.2).

Major Report Updates Addressing Changes to Minimum Flow Recommendations for the Homosassa River System

- Recommended changing allowable reduction in natural flow from 5% to 3%.
- Included discussion of independent scientific peer review findings and stakeholder input received through July 15, 2012 (Chapter 6 and Appendices S, T, U, V, and W).
- Used an adjusted flow record for modeling purposes to account for existing withdrawal impacts (Section 7.3).
- Evaluated impacts of future sea level change on salinity-based habitats (Section 7.3).
- Enhanced discussion regarding confidence and use of modeled flow impacts on fish/invertebrate abundance (Section 5.5).
- Added discussion regarding confidence and use of modeled impacts on habitats associated with salinities of 2 or less (Sections 5.3.3, 5.5 and 7.3.1).
- Evaluated effects of potential flow reductions on primary productivity (Section 7.2).
- Added discussion regarding blue crab response to flow (Section 6.3).
- Revised discussion of water quality issues and expanded discussion of minimum flow impact on water quality (Sections 2.8.1, 2.8.3, 2.8.10 and 7.4).
- Developed long-term hydrologic statistics that may be used to support minimum flow compliance evaluations (Section 7.4).
- Incorporated and updated additional supporting documents in report appendices (Appendices A, D through Z, AA, and AB)
- Evaluated effects of flow reductions ranging from 1 to 4% on salinity-based habitats; previous lowest evaluated flow reduction was 5% (Section 7.3).

Staff plans to present rule amendments associated with the revised minimum flow recommendations to the District Governing at the Board meeting scheduled to be held on August 28, 2012 at the District Headquarters in Brooksville. Board meetings are open to the public and individuals or group representatives may address the Board concerning any meeting agenda item or other water management issue.

The District has established a web site for accepting comments on the proposed minimum flows at:

WaterMatters.org/SpringsCoastMFL

The District is accepting comments via this web page through **Wednesday, August 15, 2012**, on the revised recommended minimum flows for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa river systems. Comments submitted after this date should be submitted in writing via e-mail or letter, using the following contact information.

Email: executive@watermatters.org

Address: 2379 Broad Street, Brooksville, FL 34604, ATTN: Governing Board

Thanks for your interest and continued support for the development of minimum flows for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa River systems.

Douglas A. Leeper
Chief Environmental Scientist

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PHONE LOG

Southwest Florida Water Management District

Brooksville, Florida

Issue: Minimum flows development for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa River Systems.

Caller: Ann Hodgson, 813-220-1666

District Representative: Doug Leeper, Chief Environmental Scientist, Water Resources Bureau

Date: July 30, 2012

Notes: Doug Leeper spoke with Ann Hodgson about major updates to the minimum flow recommendations for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa River systems by telephone on July 30, 2012. Ms. Hodgson offered the following suggestions regarding stakeholder interaction and the schedule for the minimum flows development process.

1. Allow 90 days (3 months) for stakeholder review of the updated reports and minimum flow recommendations. This should be a reasonable time-frame for review of the updates by all stakeholders, including agency staff who may have a difficult time compiling an agency opinion in a one month period.
2. Consider scheduling a public workshop to present and describe the minimum flow updates and to solicit additional public comment. Follow this meeting with a second public workshop a month later to address the District's response to stakeholder concerns.

From: [Brad Rimbey](#)
To: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Re: Appendices for Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Minimum Flow Reports
Date: Monday, July 30, 2012 4:23:25 PM

Doug,

Thanks for the phone call earlier today. I have talked to a few people since we spoke and it seems more people are concerned about driving to Tampa for a GB meeting than I thought.

For those of you who are being copied on this, Doug is trying to get a feel for when/where we would prefer to have the MFL proposals for Chassahowitzka and Homosassa presented to SWFWMD's GB. It seems Doug's suggestion that the MFL proposals would be presented to the GB on August 28 in Brooksville was based primarily on SWFWMD's desire to choose a meeting location which would be convenient for Springs Coast residents to attend. Unfortunately, the logistics of this time choice would make it impossible for SWFWMD to receive and reply to the input they will be likely be receiving on these revised proposals. The September and October SWFWMD GB meetings will be held in Tampa. The November SWFWMD GB meeting will be in Haines City. The December SWFWMD GB will be back in Brooksville.

Please take a moment to let Doug know your thoughts on this. His email address is Doug.Leeper@swfwmd.state.fl.us. I hate to put this off until December but perhaps that is the best option to allow local input to be heard by SWFWMD's GB on this important issue. August 28 is off the table.

I would also ask that SWFWMD considers presenting one more MFL public workshop (possibly in Lecanto) to explain the basis for the substantive changes which are being proposed to the previously proposed MFLs for these Outstanding Florida Waters. One workshop for both the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers would be fine.

Brad W. Rimbey, P.E. for the
Chassahowitzka River Restoration Committee

----- Original Message -----

From: [Doug Leeper](#)
To: [Al Grubman \(grubman1@gmail.com\)](#) ; [Bill Geiger \(bgeiger@cityofbrooksville.us\)](#) ; [Bill Pouder \(bill.pouder@myfwc.com\)](#) ; [Boyd Blihovde \(Boyd_Blihovde@fws.gov\)](#) ; [Brad Rimbey \(BWR.CRRC@tampabay.rr.com\)](#) ; [Brent Whitley \(brentwhitley@sierra-properties.com\)](#) ; [Brockway. Alys \(abrockway@co.hernando.fl.us\)](#) ; [Dennis D. Dutcher \(Dennis3ds@aol.com\)](#) ; [Frank DiGiovanni \(administration@inverness-fl.gov\)](#) ; [Greenwood, Kathleen](#) ; [Helen Spive](#) ; [Hilliard, Dan \(2buntings@comcast.net\)](#) ; [Hoehn, Ted](#) ; [Hope Corona \(hopecorona@tampabay.rr.com\)](#) ; [Jim Farley \(jfarley682@aol.com\)](#) ; [Katie Tripp \(ktripp@savethemanatee.org\)](#) ; [Norman Hopkins \(norman@amyhrf.org\)](#) ; [Rebecca Bays \(rebecca.bays@bocc.citrus.fl.us\)](#) ; [Richard Kane \(rkane@usgs.gov\)](#) ; [Richard Radacky \(rradacky@cityofbrooksville.us\)](#) ; [Ron Miller \(rmille76@tampabay.rr.com\)](#) ; [Sarah Tenison \(cityofweekiwachee@yahoo.com\)](#) ; [Sullivan, Jack \(jsullivan@carltonfields.com\)](#) ; [Voyles, Carolyn \(Carolyn.Voyles@dep.state.fl.us\)](#) ; [Whitey Markle \(whmarkle@gmail.com\)](#) ; [\(janicehowie@aol.com\)](#) ; [Abdon Sidibie](#) ; [Alex McPherson \(aamcpherson@msn.com\)](#) ; [Ann - 2 Hodgson \(ahodgson@gmail.com\)](#) ; [Ann Hodgson \(ahodgson@audubon.org\)](#) ; [Bernard Berauer \(bfberauer@aol.com\)](#) ; [Beverly Overa \(boverly@tampabay.rr.com\)](#) ; [Bill Garvin \(wgarvin@tampabay.rr.com\)](#) ; [Bob Caldwell \(Bobcaldwell51@yahoo.com\)](#) ; [Brack Barker \(brack154@msn.com\)](#) ; [Carl Matthai \(thebabesmimi@gmail.com\)](#) ; [Casey, Emily \(fcnwr@atlantic.net\)](#) ; [Charles Dean \(dean.charles.web@flsenate.gov\)](#) ; [Charles Stonerock \(katcha.stonerock3@gmail.com\)](#) ; [Chris Safos \(chrissafos@embarqmail.com\)](#) ; [Czerwinski, Mike \(mczerwin@tampabay.rr.com\)](#) ; [Darlene Herth \(2cetechology21@gmail.com\)](#) ; [Darrell Snedecor \(president@citruscountyaudubon.com\)](#) ; [Don Hiers \(dhiers3@gmail.com\)](#) ; [Douglas Dame \(doug_dame@yahoo.com\)](#) ; [Elaine Luther](#)

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Sent: Monday, July 30, 2012 12:16 PM

Subject: Appendices for Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Minimum Flow Reports

Greetings:

I am writing to inform you that appendices associated with updated Southwest Florida Water Management District reports on proposed minimum flows for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa river systems are now available from the District web site. The appendices are posted under the "Appendix" column for each system on the *Minimum Flows and Levels (Environmental Flows) Documents and Report Page* at:

http://www.swfwmd.state.fl.us/projects/mfl/mfl_reports.php

-

Thank you for your continued interest and support for the development of minimum flows for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa River systems.

Douglas A. Leeper
Chief Environmental Scientist
Water Resources Bureau
Southwest Florida Water Management District
2379 Broad Street
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From: [Veronica Crow](#)
To: [Brad Rimbey](#)
Cc: [Dan Hilliard](#); phubbell@wraconsultants.com; [Brent Whitley](#); rebecca.bays@bocc.citrus.fl.us; rasjudy@tampabay.rr.com; Charlene.Stroehlen@amec.com; mwright@chronicleonline.com; [Philip Rhinesmith](#); [Mike Heyl](#); [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: RE: Chaz Headspring Restoration Project
Date: Monday, July 30, 2012 5:08:30 PM

Mr. Rimbey,

I apologize for the delayed response, I had several meetings last week that took me out of the office.

The original engineers dredging and disposal estimate provided in the Feasibility Study for the restoration project was between \$147,282 and \$285,189. However, that cost did not include several additional services (ex: polymer addition) that were determined to be needed during the design/permitting phase. The revised engineers estimate provided by MACTEC in May 2012 was \$682,155 and included archaeological services, dewatering processes, etc. I think the \$1.3M estimate stems from prebid meeting conversations however, I've not found documentation supporting that.

I am unable to release the dollar amounts of the two qualified bid responses. They are considered confidential until such time as the project is awarded or one year after originally received. This is done to protect the respondents and allow them to participate again in the competitive bid process. This is done pursuant to Section 119.071(1)(3), Florida Statute.

The District is pursuing this project as part of an overall springs restoration effort. We do not know if this project will result in an increase in the discharge from the main vent. The purpose of the project is to restore the benthic habitat to be suitable for recruitment of native vegetation which will, in turn, improve water quality/clarity.

Sincerely,
Veronica

Veronica Crow
Environmental Section Manager
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----- Original Message -----

From: [Brad Rimbey](#)
To: [Veronica Crow](#)
Cc: mwright@chronicleonline.com; Charlene.Stroehlen@amec.com; [Doug Leeper](#); [Mike Heyl](#); [Philip Rhinesmith](#); rasjudy@tampabay.rr.com; rebecca.bays@bocc.citrus.fl.us;

[properties.com](#) ; phubbell@wraconsultants.com ; 2buntings@comcast.net

Sent: Thursday, July 19, 2012 4:46 PM

Subject: Re: Chaz Headspring Restoration Project

Ms. Craw,

Thanks for taking the time to answer my questions. Just a few more and I will quit bothering you about this.

Last year Mike Wright published an article in the Citrus County Chronicle about this project. That article can be found here.

<http://www.chronicleonline.com/content/chassahowitzka-challenge-water-management-district-restoring-river-thing-beauty>

Mr. Wright indicated the total cost of this project was to be \$1.3 million. Can you confirm that figure? Also, are you able to release the dollar amounts of the two qualified but over-budget bids you received?

One last thought and question. I have to wonder if this project would be necessary if the Chaz Main Spring was flowing anywhere near its historic first magnitude levels. It seems the spring would clear its own throat (and the spring pool) of muck if it was flowing as it did in years past. I doubt we will see those flow rates ever again. The currently proposed MFL flow reduction of 11% will certainly not help in this regard. Does the SWFWMD believe that cleaning the muck out of the main spring pool will increase the spring flow or is this project strictly about enhancing the aesthetics of the spring pool by temporarily restoring it to a white sandy bottom?

Brad W. Rimbey, P.E. for the
Chassahowitzka River Restoration Committee

----- Original Message -----

From: [Veronica Craw](mailto:Veronica.Craw@sierra-properties.com)

To: [Brad Rimbey](mailto:Brad.Rimbey@sierra-properties.com)

Cc: 2buntings@comcast.net ; phubbell@wraconsultants.com ; brentwhitley@sierra-properties.com ; rebecca.bays@bocc.citrus.fl.us ; rasjudy@tampabay.rr.com ; [Philip Rhinesmith](mailto:Philip.Rhinesmith@sierra-properties.com) ; [Mike Heyl](mailto:Mike.Heyl@sierra-properties.com) ; [Doug Leeper](mailto:Doug.Leeper@sierra-properties.com) ; Charlene.Stroehlen@amec.com ; mwright@chronicleonline.com

Sent: Thursday, July 19, 2012 2:50 PM

Subject: RE: Chaz Headspring Restoration Project

Mr. Rimbey,

This project never received funding from the Legislature.

The project was initiated through a cooperative funding agreement between the District and Citrus County. Citrus County was the lead and hired BCI Engineers & Scientists to perform a feasibility study. The work performed included conceptual design plans and sediment surveys for which they were paid \$49,643.44 (the Coastal Rivers Basin Board funded \$24,821.72 and the County contributed an equal amount).

The next phase of the project was led by the District and included final design and permitting activities. The District selected Mactec Engineering and Consulting, Inc. and paid \$75,000. These funds were budgeted by the Coastal Rivers Basin Board and were fully reimbursed through the Water Management Lands Trust Fund.

A sediment characterization study was performed as part of the feasibility study that determined the physical and chemical characteristics of the sediment. Organic matter in various forms represents about 20% of the total sediment mass, and includes wood chips, leaves, and other vegetative matter. However, the exact source of the material was not determined.

I appreciate your concern and share your desire to see the spring system restored. The District is committed to the completion of this project.

Veronica Craw
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From: Brad Rimbey [<mailto:BWR.CRRC@tampabay.rr.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, July 18, 2012 6:53 PM
To: Veronica Craw
Cc: 2buntings@comcast.net; phubbell@wraconsultants.com; brentwhitley@sierra-properties.com; rebecca.bays@bcc.citrus.fl.us; rasjudy@tampabay.rr.com; Philip Rhinesmith; Mike Heyl; Doug Leeper; Charlene.Stroehlen@amec.com; mwright@chronicleonline.com
Subject: Re: Chaz Headspring Restoration Project

Ms. Craw,

Thank you for your response. At this point, I am in the "believe it when I see it" mode. SWFWMD has put this project on the back burner for so many years that it has become something of a standing (bad) local joke. By any chance, would you happen to know when this project was funded by the legislature? Anecdotally, I am told it was at least ten years ago.

Also, I would be interested in knowing how much money was paid to MACTEC (Project # 60631001050) and BCI (Project # 03-13653.7) to produce a set of restoration procedures which were ultimately unaffordable.

Add to this SWFWMD's proposed further degradation of the Chassahowitzka River via the MFL program. To say the least, we are not impressed with SWFWMD's efforts to protect and restore this Outstanding Florida Water (designated on January 5, 1993).

If you have any thoughts regarding Citrus County's continuing practice of spraying toxic herbicides (with FWC's blessing) into the canals which are tributary to this OFW, I would like to hear them. No doubt these cheap-and-dirty invasive aquatic plant management practices have contributed greatly to the muck which must now be removed at considerable expense to the tax payer.

Brad W. Rimbey, P.E. for the
Chassahowitzka River Restoration Committee

----- Original Message -----

From: [Veronica Craw](mailto:Veronica.Craw)

To: [Brad Rimbey](#) ; [Brad - CRRC Rimbey](#)
Cc: mwright@chronicleonline.com ; Charlene.Stroehlen@amec.com ; [Doug Leeper](#) ; [Mike Heyl](#) ; [Philip Rhinesmith](#) ; rasjudy@tampabay.rr.com ; rebecca.bays@bcc.citrus.fl.us ; brentwhitley@sierra-properties.com ; phubbell@wraconsultants.com ; 2buntings@comcast.net
Sent: Wednesday, July 18, 2012 3:40 PM
Subject: RE: Chaz Headspring Restoration Project

Mr. Rimbey,

The District is committed to completing the Chassahowitzka Headspring Restoration Project and to using taxpayer dollars wisely. The District advertised a Request for Bids (RFB) and received two qualified responses. However, these bids exceeded the District's budget for the project and, in addition, the bidders could not complete the project within the permitted construction window this year due to manatee restrictions mandated by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service as specified in the United States Army Corps of Engineers permit for the project.

In response to Florida Department of Environmental Protection permit conditions, the District also conducted extensive sediment quality tests that determined that the material that will be removed during the restoration can be beneficially used in agricultural operations rather than needing to be disposed of in a Class I landfill. This new information will likely reduce the cost of the project significantly and save taxpayer dollars. We anticipate reissuing another RFB this fall that will allow for greater disposal options and are confident the project will be conducted next spring/summer. If you have additional questions, please feel free to contact me.

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From: Brad Rimbey [<mailto:brimbey3@tampabay.rr.com>]
Sent: Monday, July 16, 2012 8:06 PM
To: Brad - CRRC Rimbey
Cc: mwright@chronicleonline.com; Charlene.Stroehlen@amec.com; Doug Leeper; Mike Heyl; Veronica Craw; Philip Rhinesmith
Subject: Chaz Headspring Restoration Project

All,

As expected, the long awaited (and long ago legislatively funded) Chassahowitzka Headspring Restoration Project has once again failed to launch this year.

In short, the SWFWMD has wasted so much money studying the "no brainer" problem that they have no money remaining to implement the obvious solution. Your tax dollars at work?! Really

pathetic!

How was the Weeki Wachee main spring restoration completed? How was the Homosassa main spring restoration completed? Why is the Chassahowitzka main spring restoration project too complex and expensive to complete?! This is not rocket science folks!! Suck out the mud, haul it away, and dump it in an approved landfill!!!

The SWFWMD's rejection letter for all bids is attached. The attached and other relevant documents to the "Chassahowitzka Headspring Restoration Project" can be found at <http://www.swfwmd.state.fl.us/business/contproc/solicitations.php> .

Brad W. Rimbey, P.E. for the
Chassahowitzka River Restoration Committee

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From: [Brad Rimbey](#)
To: [Veronica Crow](#)
Cc: [Dan Hilliard](#); phubbell@wraconsultants.com; [Brent Whitley](#); rebecca.bays@bocc.citrus.fl.us; rasjudy@tampabay.rr.com; Charlene.Stroehlen@amec.com; mwright@chronicleonline.com; [Philip Rhinesmith](#); [Mike Heyl](#); [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Re: Chaz Headspring Restoration Project
Date: Monday, July 30, 2012 9:43:19 PM

Ms. Crow,

Thank you again for your reply and the additional information.

I'm not really sure how the confidentiality of the two qualified bids meshes with Florida 119 FS "Public Records" but that seems ultimately irrelevant.

What is relevant is the fact that SWFWMD cannot assure Florida's taxpayers that the Chassahowitzka Headspring Restoration Project will do anything to restore any spring flow to the Chassahowitzka River. Please correct me if I am mistaken but it is my understanding that the Weeki Wachee and Homosassa River headspring restoration projects were complete failures. It is my understanding that any cosmetic restoration resultant from these projects was completely unnoticeable within one year of their completion. If the SWFWMD has any data which indicates that these projects restored any flow to Weeki Wachee or Homosassa after completion, I would like to receive that data.

Regarding SWFWMD's aspirations of restoration to the benthic habitat in Chassahowitzka's Headspring, please correct me if I am mistaken but it is my understanding that SWFWMD is currently proposing to destroy 15% of the benthic community in the Chassahowitzka River via spring flow reduction under the auspices of the MFL program.

While I would like to see the sandy bottom of Chassahowitzka's Headspring once more in my lifetime, I think the money for this project would be better spent pursuing alternative water supplies. The District should be focusing its energy and resources to pursuing AWS's to reduce the Consumptive Use Permits which are currently being issued with complete indescression to any requestor in Chassahowitzka's Springshed. SWFWMD's continued issuance of these CUP's is killing this Outstanding Florida Water.

Brad W. Rimbey, P.E. for the
Chassahowitzka River Restoration Committee

----- Original Message -----

From: [Veronica Crow](#)
To: [Brad Rimbey](#)
Cc: [Dan Hilliard](#); phubbell@wraconsultants.com; [Brent Whitley](#); rebecca.bays@bocc.citrus.fl.us; rasjudy@tampabay.rr.com; Charlene.Stroehlen@amec.com; mwright@chronicleonline.com; [Philip Rhinesmith](#); [Mike Heyl](#); [Doug Leeper](#)
Sent: Monday, July 30, 2012 5:08 PM
Subject: RE: Chaz Headspring Restoration Project

Mr. Rimbey,

I apologize for the delayed response, I had several meetings last week that took me out of the office.

The original engineers dredging and disposal estimate provided in the Feasibility Study for the restoration project was between \$147,282 and \$285,189. However, that cost did not include several additional services (ex: polymer addition) that were determined to be needed during the

design/permitting phase. The revised engineers estimate provided by MACTEC in May 2012 was \$682,155 and included archaeological services, dewatering processes, etc. I think the \$1.3M estimate stems from prebid meeting conversations however, I've not found documentation supporting that.

I am unable to release the dollar amounts of the two qualified bid responses. They are considered confidential until such time as the project is awarded or one year after originally received. This is done to protect the respondents and allow them to participate again in the competitive bid process. This is done pursuant to Section 119.071(1)(3), Florida Statute.

The District is pursuing this project as part of an overall springs restoration effort. We do not know if this project will result in an increase in the discharge from the main vent. The purpose of the project is to restore the benthic habitat to be suitable for recruitment of native vegetation which will, in turn, improve water quality/clarity.

Sincerely,
Veronica

Veronica Crow
Environmental Section Manager
Southwest Florida Water Management District
2379 Broad Street
Brooksville, FL 34604
352-796-7211 ext. 4267
veronica.crow@swfwmd.state.fl.us

----- Original Message -----

From: [Brad Rimbey](#)
To: [Veronica Crow](#)
Cc: mwright@chronicleonline.com ; Charlene.Stroehlen@amec.com ; [Doug Leeper](#) ; [Mike Heyl](#) ; [Philip Rhinesmith](#) ; rasjudy@tampabay.rr.com ; rebecca.bays@bocc.citrus.fl.us ; brentwhitley@sierra-properties.com ; phubbell@wraconsultants.com ; 2buntings@comcast.net
Sent: Thursday, July 19, 2012 4:46 PM
Subject: Re: Chaz Headspring Restoration Project

Ms. Crow,

Thanks for taking the time to answer my questions. Just a few more and I will quit bothering you about this.

Last year Mike Wright published an article in the Citrus County Chronicle about this project. That article can be found here.
<http://www.chronicleonline.com/content/chassahowitzka-challenge-water-management-district-restoring-river-thing-beauty>

Mr. Wright indicated the total cost of this project was to be \$1.3 million. Can you confirm that figure?
Also, are you able to release the dollar amounts of the two qualified but over-budget bids you received?

One last thought and question. I have to wonder if this project would be necessary if the Chaz Main Spring was flowing anywhere near its historic first magnitude levels. It seems the spring would clear its own throat (and the spring pool) of muck if it was flowing as it did in years past. I doubt we will see those flow rates ever again. The currently proposed MFL flow reduction of 11% will certainly not help in this regard. Does the SWFWMD believe that cleaning the muck out of the main spring pool will increase the spring flow or is this project strictly about enhancing the aesthetics of the spring pool by temporarily restoring it to a white sandy bottom?

Brad W. Rimbey, P.E. for the
Chassahowitzka River Restoration Committee

----- Original Message -----

From: [Veronica Craw](mailto:Veronica.Craw@swfwmd.com)
To: [Brad Rimbey](mailto:Brad.Rimbey@swfwmd.com)
Cc: 2buntings@comcast.net ; phubbell@wraconsultants.com ; brentwhitley@sierra-properties.com
; rebecca.bays@bocc.citrus.fl.us ; rasjudy@tampabay.rr.com ; [Philip Rhinesmith](mailto:Philip.Rhinesmith@swfwmd.com) ; [Mike Heyl](mailto:Mike.Heyl@swfwmd.com) ; [Doug Leeper](mailto:Doug.Leeper@swfwmd.com) ; Charlene.Stroehlen@amec.com ; mwright@chronicleonline.com
Sent: Thursday, July 19, 2012 2:50 PM
Subject: RE: Chaz Headspring Restoration Project

Mr. Rimbey,

This project never received funding from the Legislature.

The project was initiated through a cooperative funding agreement between the District and Citrus County. Citrus County was the lead and hired BCI Engineers & Scientists to perform a feasibility study. The work performed included conceptual design plans and sediment surveys for which they were paid \$49,643.44 (the Coastal Rivers Basin Board funded \$24,821.72 and the County contributed an equal amount).

The next phase of the project was led by the District and included final design and permitting activities. The District selected Mactec Engineering and Consulting, Inc. and paid \$75,000. These funds were budgeted by the Coastal Rivers Basin Board and were fully reimbursed through the Water Management Lands Trust Fund.

A sediment characterization study was performed as part of the feasibility study that determined the physical and chemical characteristics of the sediment. Organic matter in various forms represents about 20% of the total sediment mass, and includes wood chips, leaves, and other vegetative matter. However, the exact source of the material was not determined.

I appreciate your concern and share your desire to see the spring system restored. The District is committed to the completion of this project.

Veronica Craw
Environmental Section Manager
Southwest Florida Water Management District

2379 Broad Street
Brooksville, FL 34604
352-796-7211 ext. 4267
veronica.craw@swfwmd.state.fl.us

From: Brad Rimbey [<mailto:BWR.CRRC@tampabay.rr.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, July 18, 2012 6:53 PM
To: Veronica Craw
Cc: 2buntings@comcast.net; phubbell@wraconsultants.com; brentwhitley@sierra-properties.com; rebecca.bays@bocc.citrus.fl.us; rasjudy@tampabay.rr.com; Philip Rhinesmith; Mike Heyl; Doug Leeper; Charlene.Stroehlen@amec.com; mwright@chronicleonline.com
Subject: Re: Chaz Headspring Restoration Project

Ms. Craw,

Thank you for your response. At this point, I am in the "believe it when I see it" mode. SWFWMD has put this project on the back burner for so many years that it has become something of a standing (bad) local joke. By any chance, would you happen to know when this project was funded by the legislature? Anecdotally, I am told it was at least ten years ago.

Also, I would be interested in knowing how much money was paid to MACTEC (Project # 60631001050) and BCI (Project # 03-13653.7) to produce a set of restoration procedures which were ultimately unaffordable.

Add to this SWFWMD's proposed further degradation of the Chassahowitzka River via the MFL program. To say the least, we are not impressed with SWFWMD's efforts to protect and restore this Outstanding Florida Water (designated on January 5, 1993).

If you have any thoughts regarding Citrus County's continuing practice of spraying toxic herbicides (with FWC's blessing) into the canals which are tributary to this OFW, I would like to hear them. No doubt these cheap-and-dirty invasive aquatic plant management practices have contributed greatly to the muck which must now be removed at considerable expense to the tax payer.

Brad W. Rimbey, P.E. for the
Chassahowitzka River Restoration Committee

----- Original Message -----

From: [Veronica Craw](mailto:Veronica.Craw@swfwmd.state.fl.us)
To: [Brad Rimbey](mailto:Brad.Rimbey@swfwmd.state.fl.us) ; [Brad - CRRC Rimbey](mailto:Brad.CRRC@swfwmd.state.fl.us)
Cc: mwright@chronicleonline.com ; Charlene.Stroehlen@amec.com ; [Doug Leeper](mailto:Doug.Leeper@swfwmd.state.fl.us) ; [Mike Heyl](mailto:Mike.Heyl@swfwmd.state.fl.us) ; [Philip Rhinesmith](mailto:Philip.Rhinesmith@swfwmd.state.fl.us) ; rasjudy@tampabay.rr.com ; rebecca.bays@bocc.citrus.fl.us ; brentwhitley@sierra-properties.com ; phubbell@wraconsultants.com ; 2buntings@comcast.net
Sent: Wednesday, July 18, 2012 3:40 PM
Subject: RE: Chaz Headspring Restoration Project

Mr. Rimbey,

The District is committed to completing the Chassahowitzka Headspring Restoration Project and to using taxpayer dollars wisely. The District advertised a Request for Bids (RFB) and received two qualified responses. However, these bids exceeded the District's budget for the project and, in addition, the bidders could not complete the project within the permitted construction window this year due to manatee restrictions mandated by the United States

Fish and Wildlife Service as specified in the United States Army Corps of Engineers permit for the project.

In response to Florida Department of Environmental Protection permit conditions, the District also conducted extensive sediment quality tests that determined that the material that will be removed during the restoration can be beneficially used in agricultural operations rather than needing to be disposed of in a Class I landfill. This new information will likely reduce the cost of the project significantly and save taxpayer dollars. We anticipate reissuing another RFB this fall that will allow for greater disposal options and are confident the project will be conducted next spring/summer. If you have additional questions, please feel free to contact me.

Veronica Crow
Environmental Section Manager
Southwest Florida Water Management District
2379 Broad Street
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352-796-7211 ext. 4267
veronica.crow@swfwmd.state.fl.us

From: Brad Rimbey [<mailto:brimbey3@tampabay.rr.com>]
Sent: Monday, July 16, 2012 8:06 PM
To: Brad - CRRC Rimbey
Cc: mwright@chronicleonline.com; Charlene.Stroehlen@amec.com; Doug Leeper; Mike Heyl; Veronica Crow; Philip Rhinesmith
Subject: Chaz Headspring Restoration Project

All,

As expected, the long awaited (and long ago legislatively funded) Chassahowitzka Headspring Restoration Project has once again failed to launch this year.

In short, the SWFWMD has wasted so much money studying the "no brainer" problem that they have no money remaining to implement the obvious solution. Your tax dollars at work?! Really pathetic!

How was the Weeki Wachee main spring restoration completed? How was the Homosassa main spring restoration completed? Why is the Chassahowitzka main spring restoration project too complex and expensive to complete?! This is not rocket science folks!! Suck out the mud, haul it away, and dump it in an approved landfill!!

The SWFWMD's rejection letter for all bids is attached. The attached and other relevant documents to the "Chassahowitzka Headspring Restoration Project" can be found at <http://www.swfwmd.state.fl.us/business/contproc/solicitations.php> .

Brad W. Rimbey, P.E. for the
Chassahowitzka River Restoration Committee

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Version: 2012.0.2195 / Virus Database: 2437/5133 - Release Date: 07/15/12

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From: WaterMatters.org
To: croomwalker@gmail.com
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Tuesday, July 31, 2012 10:19:22 AM



Hi Lucille,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series. Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

*Please do not lower the MFLs for the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers -- both are suffering from extensive pollution due to many anthropogenic causes, and have lost their 1993 designation as Outstanding Florida Waters. I also urge you to consider the invitation from Citrus County Audubon and other environmental organizations for SWFWMD decision-makers to visit these rivers. Seeing the damage that has already been done to Florida's heritage would help bring understanding as to why we oppose the proposed change in MFLs. Thank you.
Lucille Lane*

From: [Brad Rimbey](mailto:Brad.Rimbey)
To: [Doug Leeper](mailto:Doug.Leeper)
Cc: judyw1@tampabay.rr.com; dtharp@embarqmail.com; senft1hp2u@aol.com; todd@pressmaninc.com; rsmaggard@gmail.com; info@conservationfoundation.com; hgramling@tbwg.org; neilcombee@yahoo.com; bkbeswick@aol.com; margoh@medallionhome.com; michael@2riversranch.net; jadams@abbeyadams.com; jclosshey@ideas-innovations.com; Craig@sptimes.com; mwright@chronicleonline.com; [Todd Kincaid](mailto:Todd.Kincaid); bknight@wetlandsolutionsinc.com
Subject: Re: Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Minimum Flows Update
Date: Saturday, July 28, 2012 10:58:06 AM

Doug,

Please post the Appendices for these reports on SWFWMD's website. The posted reports are not complete without the Appendices.

Since it has taken over two years for SWFWMD's staff to produce the revised MFL reports for these rivers, it is grossly unfair to stipulate that the public has only two weeks to digest and comment on these revised reports. Many of us have jobs which prevent us from devoting 100% of our time to reviewing and commenting on SWFWMD's MFL proposals in the arbitrarily established time period which you suggest. In any event, the fact that SWFWMD's staff intends to present the revised MFL proposals to SWFWMD's GB one month after the public was notified of their completion makes it abundantly clear that SWFWMD's staff has no serious interest in considering further public input.

By copy of this email, I am inviting SWFWMD's GB members to come to Chassahowitzka and Homosassa to see the Rivers which they will be voting to protect or degrade in next month's GB meeting. I hope the GB members will take this offer seriously. I realize there are Sunshine Laws which prohibit group "meetings" of more than two GB members unless the meeting is publicly noticed. If necessary we can show you these Outstanding Florida Waters individually. It is important that all of SWFWMD's GB members know what is at stake before they vote. If any of SWFWMD's GB members are interested in seeing these rivers before you vote, please contact me ASAP. SWFWMD's staff has set the timeframe and time is short.

I am particularly interested in showing these rivers to the GB members who have seen them in the past. If you have not seen these rivers in recent years, you need to see them now. Anyone who claims that these Outstanding Florida Water have not already been "Significantly Harmed" needs a reality check.

Brad W. Rimbey, PE for the
Chassahowitzka River Restoration Committee

cell 813-417-9453

----- Original Message -----

From: [Doug Leeper](mailto:Doug.Leeper)
To: [Al Grubman \(grubman1@gmail.com\)](mailto:Al.Grubman) ; [Bill Geiger \(bgeiger@cityofbrooksville.us\)](mailto:Bill.Geiger) ; [Bill Pouder \(bill.pouder@myfwc.com\)](mailto:Bill.Pouder) ; [Boyd Blihovde \(Boyd_Blihovde@fws.gov\)](mailto:Boyd.Blihovde) ; [Brad Rimbey \(BWR.CRRC@tampabay.rr.com\)](mailto:Brad.Rimbey) ; [Brent Whitley \(brentwhitley@sierra-properties.com\)](mailto:Brent.Whitley) ; [Brockway Alys \(abrockway@co.hernando.fl.us\)](mailto:Brockway.Alys) ; [Dennis D. Dutcher \(Dennis3ds@aol.com\)](mailto:Dennis.D.Dutcher) ; [Frank DiGiovanni \(administration@inverness-fl.gov\)](mailto:Frank.DiGiovanni) ; [Greenwood, Kathleen](mailto:Greenwood.Kathleen) ; [Helen Spive](mailto:Helen.Spive) ; [Hilliard, Dan \(2buntings@comcast.net\)](mailto:Hilliard.Dan) ; [Hoehn, Ted](mailto:Hoehn.Ted) ; [Hope Corona \(hopecorona@tampabay.rr.com\)](mailto:Hope.Corona) ; [Jim Farley \(jfarley682@aol.com\)](mailto:Jim.Farley) ; [Katie Tripp \(ktripp@savethemanatee.org\)](mailto:Katie.Tripp) ; [Norman Hopkins \(norman@amyhrf.org\)](mailto:Norman.Hopkins) ; [Rebecca Bays \(rebecca.bays@bocc.citrus.fl.us\)](mailto:Rebecca.Bays) ; [Richard Kane \(rkane@usgs.gov\)](mailto:Richard.Kane) ; [Richard Radacky \(rradacky@cityofbrooksville.us\)](mailto:Richard.Radacky) ; [Ron Miller \(rmille76@tampabay.rr.com\)](mailto:Ron.Miller) ; [Sarah Tenison \(cityofweekiwachee@yahoo.com\)](mailto:Sarah.Tenison) ; [Sullivan, Jack \(jsullivan@carltonfields.com\)](mailto:Sullivan.Jack) ; [Voyles, Carolyn \(Carolyn.Voyles@dep.state.fl.us\)](mailto:Voyles.Carolyn) ; [Whitey Markle](mailto:Whitey.Markle)

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slnofear@aol.com ; tcglover58@hotmail.com ; tcsmith57@hotmail.com ; terry@awakening-healing.com ;
treehugger52768@gmail.com ; vinnymullins@live.com

Sent: Friday, July 27, 2012 4:46 PM

Subject: Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Minimum Flows Update

Greetings:

I am writing to inform you that the Southwest Florida Water Management District has developed revised minimum flow recommendations for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa River systems. Minimum flows identify "...the the limit at which further withdrawals would be significantly harmful to the water resources or ecology of the area" (Section 373.042, Florida Statutes), are adopted by the District Governing Board into Chapter 40D-8, Florida Administrative Code, and are used for regulatory purposes, including the review and issuance of water use permits.

The revised, recommended minimum flows for the Chassahowitzka River System are 91% of its natural flow and the revised, recommended minimum flows for the Homosassa River System are 97% of its natural flow. Natural flow is defined as the flow that would exist in the absence of water withdrawals. There are currently no surface-water withdrawals from either system permitted by the District and flow reductions in each that can be attributed to groundwater withdrawals are approximately 1% of the natural flows. When expressed from a water-use perspective, the revised minimum flow recommendations correspond with allowable flow reductions of up to 9% for the Chassahowitzka system and 3% for the Homosassa system. What this means is that compared to the existing conditions, the proposed minimum flows would allow additional reductions of 8% for the Chassahowitzka system and 2% for the Homosassa system.

The currently recommended minimum flows differ from those previously proposed for the river systems and outlined in draft technical reports that were developed in 2010. The previously recommended minimum flows required that 89% of the natural flow in the Chassahowitzka system and 95% of the natural flow in the Homosassa system must be maintained, i.e., not removed as a result of water withdrawals.

Differences between the previously recommended and currently recommended minimum flows for the river systems can be attributed to analyses that were completed based on scientific peer review and stakeholder review of the previously recommended minimum flows. The analyses

are summarized in updated technical reports that are posted on the *River Systems and Springs* tab on the *Minimum Flows and Levels (Environmental Flows) Documents and Reports* page of the District web site. Updated appendices for the reports will soon be posted to the same web page. Report titles and a link to the web page are provided below. Major report revisions, including those associated with development of the revised recommended minimum flows are also summarized below.

Report Titles and Link to the Minimum Flows and Levels (Environmental Flows) Documents and Report Page

Recommended Minimum Flows for the Chassahowitzka River System, July 15, 2012

Recommended Minimum Flows for the Homosassa River System, July 15, 2012

http://www.swfwmd.state.fl.us/projects/mfl/mfl_reports.php

Major Report Updates Addressing Changes to Minimum Flow Recommendations for the Chassahowitzka River System

- Recommended changing allowable reductions in natural flow from 11% to 9%.
- Included discussion of independent scientific peer review findings and stakeholder input received through July 15, 2012 (Chapters 9 and Section 11.18).
- Used an adjusted flow record for modeling purposes to account for existing withdrawal impacts (Sections 2.3.1.1.1 and 8.2).
- Evaluated impacts of future sea level change on salinity-based habitats (Sections 3.2 and 8.3).
- Added discussion regarding confidence and use of modeled flow impacts on fish/invertebrate abundance (Section 7.1).
- Added discussion regarding confidence and use of modeled impacts on habitats associated with salinities of 2 or less (Section 7.3).
- Evaluated effects of potential flow reductions on primary productivity (Sections 5.5 and 7.5).
- Added discussion regarding blue crab response to flow (Sections 7.1 and 11.16).
- Revised discussion of water quality issues and expanded discussion of minimum flow impact on water quality (Sections 4.3, 8.4 and 11.17).
- Updated long-term hydrologic statistics that may be used to support minimum flow compliance evaluations (Section 8.2).
- Incorporated and updated additional supporting documents in report appendices (Sections 11.14 through 11.18).
- Added an additional model for predicting submerged aquatic vegetation density as a function of salinity (Section 7.2).

Major Report Updates Addressing Changes to Minimum Flow Recommendations for the Homosassa River System

- Recommended changing allowable reduction in natural flow from 5% to 3%.
- Included discussion of independent scientific peer review findings and stakeholder input received through July 15, 2012 (Chapter 6 and Appendices S, T, U, V, and W).
- Used an adjusted flow record for modeling purposes to account for existing withdrawal impacts (Section 7.3).
- Evaluated impacts of future sea level change on salinity-based habitats (Section 7.3).
- Enhanced discussion regarding confidence and use of modeled flow impacts on

- fish/invertebrate abundance (Section 5.5).
- Added discussion regarding confidence and use of modeled impacts on habitats associated with salinities of 2 or less (Sections 5.3.3, 5.5 and 7.3.1).
- Evaluated effects of potential flow reductions on primary productivity (Section 7.2).
- Added discussion regarding blue crab response to flow (Section 6.3).
- Revised discussion of water quality issues and expanded discussion of minimum flow impact on water quality (Sections 2.8.1, 2.8.3, 2.8.10 and 7.4).
- Developed long-term hydrologic statistics that may be used to support minimum flow compliance evaluations (Section 7.4).
- Incorporated and updated additional supporting documents in report appendices (Appendices A, D through Z, AA, and AB)
- Evaluated effects of flow reductions ranging from 1 to 4% on salinity-based habitats; previous lowest evaluated flow reduction was 5% (Section 7.3).

Staff plans to present rule amendments associated with the revised minimum flow recommendations to the District Governing at the Board meeting scheduled to be held on August 28, 2012 at the District Headquarters in Brooksville. Board meetings are open to the public and individuals or group representatives may address the Board concerning any meeting agenda item or other water management issue.

The District has established a web site for accepting comments on the proposed minimum flows at:

WaterMatters.org/SpringsCoastMFL

The District is accepting comments via this web page through **Wednesday, August 15, 2012**, on the revised recommended minimum flows for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa river systems. Comments submitted after this date should be submitted in writing via e-mail or letter, using the following contact information.

Email: executive@watermatters.org

Address: 2379 Broad Street, Brooksville, FL 34604, ATTN: Governing Board

Thanks for your interest and continued support for the development of minimum flows for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa River systems.

Douglas A. Leeper
Chief Environmental Scientist
Water Resources Bureau
Southwest Florida Water Management District
2379 Broad Street
Brooksville, Florida 34604-6899
1-800-423-1476, ext. 4272 (FL only)
352-796-7211, ext. 4272

352-754-6885 (Fax)

doug.leeper@watermatters.org

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Chief Environmental Scientist

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From: [Brad Rimbey](#)
To: [Veronica Craw](#)
Cc: [Dan Hilliard](#); [phubbell@wraconsultants.com](#); [Brent Whitley](#); [rebecca.bays@bocc.citrus.fl.us](#); [rasjudy@tampabay.rr.com](#); [Charlene.Stroehlen@amec.com](#); [mwright@chronicleonline.com](#); [Philip Rhinesmith](#); [Mike Heyl](#); [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Fw: Chaz Headspring Restoration Project
Date: Saturday, July 28, 2012 11:35:26 AM

Ms. Craw,

Perhaps you did not receive this email. In any event, I have received no response. Please answer my questions.

Brad W. Rimbey, P.E. for the
Chassahowitzka River Restoration Committee

----- Original Message -----

From: [Brad Rimbey](#)
To: [Veronica Craw](#)
Cc: [mwright@chronicleonline.com](#); [Charlene.Stroehlen@amec.com](#); [Doug Leeper](#); [Mike Heyl](#); [Philip Rhinesmith](#); [rasjudy@tampabay.rr.com](#); [rebecca.bays@bocc.citrus.fl.us](#); [brentwhitley@sierra-properties.com](#); [phubbell@wraconsultants.com](#); [2buntings@comcast.net](#)
Sent: Thursday, July 19, 2012 4:46 PM
Subject: Re: Chaz Headspring Restoration Project

Ms. Craw,

Thanks for taking the time to answer my questions. Just a few more and I will quit bothering you about this.

Last year Mike Wright published an article in the Citrus County Chronicle about this project. That article can be found here.
<http://www.chronicleonline.com/content/chassahowitzka-challenge-water-management-district-restoring-river-thing-beauty>

Mr. Wright indicated the total cost of this project was to be \$1.3 million. Can you confirm that figure? Also, are you able to release the dollar amounts of the two qualified but over-budget bids you received?

One last thought and question. I have to wonder if this project would be necessary if the Chaz Main Spring was flowing anywhere near its historic first magnitude levels. It seems the spring would clear its own throat (and the spring pool) of muck if it was flowing as it did in years past. I doubt we will see those flow rates ever again. The currently proposed MFL flow reduction of 11% will certainly not help in this regard. Does the SWFWMD believe that cleaning the muck out of the main spring pool will increase the spring flow or is this project strictly about enhancing the aesthetics of the spring pool by temporarily restoring it to a white sandy bottom?

Brad W. Rimbey, P.E. for the
Chassahowitzka River Restoration Committee

----- Original Message -----

From: [Veronica Craw](#)
To: [Brad Rimbey](#)
Cc: [2buntings@comcast.net](#); [phubbell@wraconsultants.com](#); [brentwhitley@sierra-properties.com](#);

rebecca.bays@bocc.citrus.fl.us ; rasjudy@tampabay.rr.com ; [Philip Rhinesmith](#) ; [Mike Heyl](#) ; [Doug Leeper](#) ; Charlene.Stroehlen@amec.com ; mwright@chronicleonline.com

Sent: Thursday, July 19, 2012 2:50 PM

Subject: RE: Chaz Headspring Restoration Project

Mr. Rimbey,

This project never received funding from the Legislature.

The project was initiated through a cooperative funding agreement between the District and Citrus County. Citrus County was the lead and hired BCI Engineers & Scientists to perform a feasibility study. The work performed included conceptual design plans and sediment surveys for which they were paid \$49,643.44 (the Coastal Rivers Basin Board funded \$24,821.72 and the County contributed an equal amount).

The next phase of the project was led by the District and included final design and permitting activities. The District selected Mactec Engineering and Consulting, Inc. and paid \$75,000. These funds were budgeted by the Coastal Rivers Basin Board and were fully reimbursed through the Water Management Lands Trust Fund.

A sediment characterization study was performed as part of the feasibility study that determined the physical and chemical characteristics of the sediment. Organic matter in various forms represents about 20% of the total sediment mass, and includes wood chips, leaves, and other vegetative matter. However, the exact source of the material was not determined.

I appreciate your concern and share your desire to see the spring system restored. The District is committed to the completion of this project.

Veronica Craw
Environmental Section Manager
Southwest Florida Water Management District
2379 Broad Street
Brooksville, FL 34604
352-796-7211 ext. 4267
veronica.craw@swfwmd.state.fl.us

From: Brad Rimbey [mailto:BWR.CRRC@tampabay.rr.com]

Sent: Wednesday, July 18, 2012 6:53 PM

To: Veronica Craw

Cc: 2buntings@comcast.net; phubbell@wraconsultants.com; brentwhitley@sierra-properties.com; rebecca.bays@bocc.citrus.fl.us; rasjudy@tampabay.rr.com; [Philip Rhinesmith](#); [Mike Heyl](#); [Doug Leeper](#); Charlene.Stroehlen@amec.com; mwright@chronicleonline.com

Subject: Re: Chaz Headspring Restoration Project

Ms. Craw,

Thank you for your response. At this point, I am in the "believe it when I see it" mode.

SWFWMD has put this project on the back burner for so many years that it has become something of a standing (bad) local joke. By any chance, would you happen to know when this project was funded by the legislature? Anecdotally, I am told it was at least ten years ago.

Also, I would be interested in knowing how much money was paid to MACTEC (Project # 60631001050) and BCI (Project # 03-13653.7) to produce a set of restoration procedures which were ultimately unaffordable.

Add to this SWFWMD's proposed further degradation of the Chassahowitzka River via the MFL program. To say the least, we are not impressed with SWFWMD's efforts to protect and restore this Outstanding Florida Water (designated on January 5, 1993).

If you have any thoughts regarding Citrus County's continuing practice of spraying toxic herbicides (with FWC's blessing) into the canals which are tributary to this OFW, I would like to hear them. No doubt these cheap-and-dirty invasive aquatic plant management practices have contributed greatly to the muck which must now be removed at considerable expense to the tax payer.

Brad W. Rimbey, P.E. for the
Chassahowitzka River Restoration Committee

----- Original Message -----

From: [Veronica Crow](#)
To: [Brad Rimbey](#) ; [Brad - CRRRC Rimbey](#)
Cc: mwright@chronicleonline.com ; Charlene.Stroehlen@amec.com ; [Doug Leeper](#) ; [Mike Heyl](#) ; [Philip Rhinesmith](mailto:Philip.Rhinesmith) ; rasjudy@tampabay.rr.com ; rebecca.bays@bcc.citrus.fl.us ; brentwhitley@sierra-properties.com ; phubbell@wraconsultants.com ; 2buntings@comcast.net
Sent: Wednesday, July 18, 2012 3:40 PM
Subject: RE: Chaz Headspring Restoration Project

Mr. Rimbey,

The District is committed to completing the Chassahowitzka Headspring Restoration Project and to using taxpayer dollars wisely. The District advertised a Request for Bids (RFB) and received two qualified responses. However, these bids exceeded the District's budget for the project and, in addition, the bidders could not complete the project within the permitted construction window this year due to manatee restrictions mandated by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service as specified in the United States Army Corps of Engineers permit for the project.

In response to Florida Department of Environmental Protection permit conditions, the District also conducted extensive sediment quality tests that determined that the material that will be removed during the restoration can be beneficially used in agricultural operations rather than needing to be disposed of in a Class I landfill. This new information will likely reduce the cost of the project significantly and save taxpayer dollars. We anticipate reissuing another RFB this fall that will allow for greater disposal options and are confident the project will be conducted next spring/summer. If you have additional questions, please feel free to contact me.

Veronica Crow

Environmental Section Manager
Southwest Florida Water Management District
2379 Broad Street
Brooksville, FL 34604
352-796-7211 ext. 4267
veronica.craw@swfwmd.state.fl.us

From: Brad Rimbey [<mailto:brimbey3@tampabay.rr.com>]
Sent: Monday, July 16, 2012 8:06 PM
To: Brad - CRRRC Rimbey
Cc: mwright@chronicleonline.com; Charlene.Stroehlen@amec.com; Doug Leeper; Mike Heyl; Veronica Crow; Philip Rhinesmith
Subject: Chaz Headspring Restoration Project

All,

As expected, the long awaited (and long ago legislatively funded) Chassahowitzka Headspring Restoration Project has once again failed to launch this year.

In short, the SWFWMD has wasted so much money studying the "no brainer" problem that they have no money remaining to implement the obvious solution. Your tax dollars at work?! Really pathetic!

How was the Weeki Wachee main spring restoration completed? How was the Homosassa main spring restoration completed? Why is the Chassahowitzka main spring restoration project too complex and expensive to complete?! This is not rocket science folks!! Suck out the mud, haul it away, and dump it in an approved landfill!!!

The SWFWMD's rejection letter for all bids is attached. The attached and other relevant documents to the "Chassahowitzka Headspring Restoration Project" can be found at <http://www.swfwmd.state.fl.us/business/contproc/solicitations.php>.

Brad W. Rimbey, P.E. for the
Chassahowitzka River Restoration Committee

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From: [hope](#)
To: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Re: Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Minimum Flows Update
Date: Monday, July 30, 2012 1:44:14 AM

Hi Doug,

Could you send me 3 poster-size (large font) Notices (of Governing Board Meeting Date, Time, Location, and phone number / address / email to send comments regarding Chassahowitzka Minimum Flow) to put in the Chassahowitzka Community Bulletin Board for all those citizens in Chassahowitzka who do not have access to internet.

A basic, "what, when, where" type thing that lets the Community know that the District still intends to seriously reduce flow to our already ailing river, by 9%; and the dates/times/places where the meeting will be held, and a phone number for additional questions comments.

Citrus County made me the volunteer "custodian" of the Chassahowitzka community bulletin board at the Fire House, and gave me keys, but no money for ink, paper, printer, etc.....geeze. I don't know your public information officer, but would appreciate it if you ask him/her to please make up some "drive by and read" size notices to send me for the bulletin board.

I think SWFWMD should also post Notices in the Chassahowitzka Boat Ramp and Campground areas (District Owned Parcels where numerous Stakeholders frequent regularly).

My mailing address for the 3 Notices to put in the Chassahowitzka Community Bulletin Board is:

Hope Corona
10024 S. Riviera Pt.
Homosassa, FL 34448

Thank you,
hope

----- Original Message -----

From: [Doug Leeper](#)
To: [Al Grubman \(grubman1@gmail.com\)](#) ; [Bill Geiger \(bgeiger@cityofbrooksville.us\)](#) ; [Bill Pouder \(bill.pouder@myfwc.com\)](#) ; [Boyd Blihovde \(Boyd_Blihovde@fws.gov\)](#) ; [Brad Rimbey \(BWR_CRRC@tampabay.rr.com\)](#) ; [Brent Whitley \(brentwhitley@sierra-properties.com\)](#) ; [Brockway. Alys \(abrockway@co.hernando.fl.us\)](#) ; [Dennis D. Dutcher \(Dennis3ds@aol.com\)](#) ; [Frank DiGiovanni \(administration@inverness-fl.gov\)](#) ; [Greenwood, Kathleen](#) ; [Helen Spive](#) ; [Hilliard, Dan \(2buntings@comcast.net\)](#) ; [Hoehn, Ted](#) ; [Hope Corona \(hopecorona@tampabay.rr.com\)](#) ; [Jim Farley \(jfarley682@aol.com\)](#) ; [Katie Tripp \(ktripp@savethemanatee.org\)](#) ; [Norman Hopkins \(norman@amyhrf.org\)](#) ; [Rebecca Bays \(rebecca.bays@bocc.citrus.fl.us\)](#) ; [Richard Kane \(rkane@usgs.gov\)](#) ; [Richard Radacky \(rradacky@cityofbrooksville.us\)](#) ; [Ron Miller \(rmille76@tampabay.rr.com\)](#) ; [Sarah Tenison \(cityofweekiwachee@yahoo.com\)](#) ; [Sullivan, Jack \(jsullivan@carltonfields.com\)](#) ; [Voyles, Carolyn \(Carolyn.Voyles@dep.state.fl.us\)](#) ; [Whitey Markle \(whmarkle@gmail.com\)](#) ; [\(janicehowie@aol.com\)](#) ; [Abdon Sidibie](#) ; [Alex McPherson \(aamcpherson@msn.com\)](#) ; [Ann - 2 Hodgson \(ahodgson@gmail.com\)](#) ; [Ann Hodgson \(ahodgson@audubon.org\)](#) ; [Bernard Berauer \(bfberauer@aol.com\)](#) ; [Beverly Overa \(boverly@tampabay.rr.com\)](#) ; [Bill Garvin \(wgarvin@tampabay.rr.com\)](#) ; [Bob Caldwell](#)

(Bobcaldwell51@yahoo.com) ; [Brack Barker \(brack154@msn.com\)](mailto:BrackBarker@msn.com) ; [Carl Mattthai \(thebabesmimi@gmail.com\)](mailto:CarlMattthai@thebabesmimi@gmail.com) ; [Casey, Emily \(fcnwr@atlantic.net\)](mailto:Casey.Emily@fcnwr.atlantic.net) ; [Charles Dean \(dean.charles.web@flsenate.gov\)](mailto:CharlesDean@dean.charles.web@flsenate.gov) ; [Charles Stonerock \(katcha.stonerock3@gmail.com\)](mailto:CharlesStonerock@katcha.stonerock3@gmail.com) ; [Chris Safos \(chrisafos@embarqmail.com\)](mailto:ChrisSafos@chrisafos@embarqmail.com) ; [Czerwinski, Mike \(mczerwin@tampabay.rr.com\)](mailto:Czerwinski.Mike@mczerwin@tampabay.rr.com) ; [Darlene Herth \(2cetechology21@gmail.com\)](mailto:DarleneHerth@2cetechology21@gmail.com) ; [Darrell Snedecor \(president@citruscountyaudubon.com\)](mailto:DarrellSnedecor@president@citruscountyaudubon.com) ; [Don Hiers \(dhiers3@gmail.com\)](mailto:DonHiers@dhiers3@gmail.com) ; [Douglas Dame \(doug_dame@yahoo.com\)](mailto:DouglasDame@doug_dame@yahoo.com) ; [Elaine Luther \(barneyandcap@hotmail.com\)](mailto:ElaineLuther@barneyandcap@hotmail.com) ; [Emily Casey \(ecasey21@hotmail.com\)](mailto:EmilyCasey@ecasey21@hotmail.com) ; [Emma Knight \(eknight@wetlandsolutionsinc.com\)](mailto:EmmaKnight@eknight@wetlandsolutionsinc.com) ; [George Harbin \(gharbin@tampabay.rr.com\)](mailto:GeorgeHarbin@gharbin@tampabay.rr.com) ; [George McClog \(classof47@gmail.com\)](mailto:GeorgeMcClog@classof47@gmail.com) ; [Gorgon O'Connor \(gorgon_o@yahoo.com\)](mailto:GorgonOConnor@gorgon_o@yahoo.com) ; [Harry Steiner \(harry109@aol.com\)](mailto:HarrySteiner@harry109@aol.com) ; [Jack Calbeck \(calbeckj@citrus.k12.fl.us\)](mailto:JackCalbeck@calbeckj@citrus.k12.fl.us) ; [jane Perrin \(jpcsperrinmd@sbcglobal.net\)](mailto:janePerrin@jpcsperrinmd@sbcglobal.net) ; [Jerry Morton \(JerrMorton@aol.com\)](mailto:JerryMorton@JerrMorton@aol.com) ; [Jessie Gourlie \(gourliej@thirdplanetwind.com\)](mailto:JessieGourlie@gourliej@thirdplanetwind.com) ; [Jim Collins \(jimmiekey22@yahoo.com\)](mailto:JimCollins@jimmiekey22@yahoo.com) ; [Jimmie Smith \(Jimmie.Smith@myfloridahouse.gov\)](mailto:JimmieSmith@Jimmie.Smith@myfloridahouse.gov) ; [Joe Calamari](mailto:JoeCalamari) ; [John Lord \(jclord109@yahoo.com\)](mailto:JohnLord@jclord109@yahoo.com) ; [John Mayo \(freedomway1@gmail.com\)](mailto:JohnMayo@freedomway1@gmail.com) ; [Karen Johnstone \(kjohns213@sbcglobal.net\)](mailto:KarenJohnstone@kjohns213@sbcglobal.net) ; [Kim Caldwell \(caldwell.kimberly@yahoo.com\)](mailto:KimCaldwell@caldwell.kimberly@yahoo.com) ; [Kim Dinkins \(kim.dinkins@marioncountyfl.org\)](mailto:KimDinkins@kim.dinkins@marioncountyfl.org) ; [Linda Pierce \(tpierce35@tampabay.rr.com\)](mailto:LindaPierce@tpierce35@tampabay.rr.com) ; [Linda Vanderveen \(hernandoaudubon@yahoo.com\)](mailto:LindaVanderveen@hernandoaudubon@yahoo.com) ; [Mary Anne Lynn \(mlynn1978@tampabay.rr.com\)](mailto:MaryAnneLynn@mlynn1978@tampabay.rr.com) ; [Matthew Corona \(mcorona1@tampabay.rr.com\)](mailto:MatthewCorona@mcorona1@tampabay.rr.com) ; [Max Rhinesmith \(rhinesmith@webtv.net\)](mailto:MaxRhinesmith@rhinesmith@webtv.net) ; [Amber Breland](mailto:AmberBreland) ; [Andy Houston \(ahouston@crystalriverfl.org\)](mailto:AndyHouston@ahouston@crystalriverfl.org) ; [Art Yerian \(Al.Yerian@dep.state.fl.us\)](mailto:ArtYerian@Al.Yerian@dep.state.fl.us) ; [Ben Weiss](mailto:BenWeiss) ; [Beth Hovinde](mailto:BethHovinde) ; [Brad Thorpe \(brad.thorpe@bocc.citrus.fl.us\)](mailto:BradThorpe@brad.thorpe@bocc.citrus.fl.us) ; [Courtney Edwards \(cedwards@savethemanatee.org\)](mailto:CourtneyEdwards@cedwards@savethemanatee.org) ; [Dale Jones \(Jones@MyFWC.com\)](mailto:DaleJones@Jones@MyFWC.com) ; [Dana Bryan \(dana.bryan@dep.state.fl.us\)](mailto:DanaBryan@dana.bryan@dep.state.fl.us) ; [Darrell Snedecor](mailto:DarrellSnedecor) ; [David Hamilton \(countyadministrator@hernandocounty.us\)](mailto:DavidHamilton@countyadministrator@hernandocounty.us) ; [David Hankla \(david_hankla@fws.gov\)](mailto:DavidHankla@david_hankla@fws.gov) ; [Don Wright \(wright@sura.org\)](mailto:DonWright@wright@sura.org) ; [Dusty McDevitt \(mcdevitt@usgs.gov\)](mailto:DustyMcDevitt@mcdevitt@usgs.gov) ; [Ed Call \(marvin.call@MyFWC.com\)](mailto:EdCall@marvin.call@MyFWC.com) ; [Eric Nagid \(eric.nagid@MyFWC.com\)](mailto:EricNagid@eric.nagid@MyFWC.com) ; [FFWCC MFLs Review E-Mail Address \(fwwccconservationplanningservices@myfwc.com\)](mailto:FFWCCMFLsReviewE-MailAddress@fwwccconservationplanningservices@myfwc.com) ; [J. 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Sent: Friday, July 27, 2012 4:46 PM

Subject: Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Minimum Flows Update

Greetings:

I am writing to inform you that the Southwest Florida Water Management District has developed revised minimum flow recommendations for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa River systems. Minimum flows identify "...the the limit at which further withdrawals would be significantly harmful to the water resources or ecology of the area" (Section 373.042, Florida Statutes), are adopted by the District Governing Board into Chapter 40D-8, Florida Administrative Code, and are used for regulatory purposes, including the review and issuance of water use permits.

The revised, recommended minimum flows for the Chassahowitzka River System are 91% of its natural flow and the revised, recommended minimum flows for the Homosassa River System are 97% of its natural flow. Natural flow is defined as the flow that would exist in the absence of water withdrawals. There are currently no surface-water withdrawals from either system permitted by the District and flow reductions in each that can be attributed to groundwater withdrawals are approximately 1% of the natural flows. When expressed from a water-use perspective, the revised minimum flow recommendations correspond with allowable flow reductions of up to 9% for the Chassahowitzka system and 3% for the Homosassa system. What this means is that compared to the existing conditions, the proposed minimum flows would allow additional reductions of 8% for the Chassahowitzka system and 2% for the Homosassa system.

The currently recommended minimum flows differ from those previously proposed for the river systems and outlined in draft technical reports that were developed in 2010. The previously recommended minimum flows required that 89% of the natural flow in the Chassahowitzka system and 95% of the natural flow in the Homosassa system must be maintained, i.e., not removed as a result of water withdrawals.

Differences between the previously recommended and currently recommended minimum flows for the river systems can be attributed to analyses that were completed based on scientific peer review and stakeholder review of the previously recommended minimum flows. The analyses are summarized in updated technical reports that are posted on the *River Systems and Springs* tab on the *Minimum Flows and Levels (Environmental Flows) Documents and Reports* page of the District web site. Updated appendices for the reports will soon be posted to the same web page.

Report titles and a link to the web page are provided below. Major report revisions, including those associated with development of the revised recommended minimum flows are also summarized below.

Report Titles and Link to the Minimum Flows and Levels (Environmental Flows) Documents and Report Page

Recommended Minimum Flows for the Chassahowitzka River System, July 15, 2012

Recommended Minimum Flows for the Homosassa River System, July 15, 2012

http://www.swfwmd.state.fl.us/projects/mfl/mfl_reports.php

Major Report Updates Addressing Changes to Minimum Flow Recommendations for the Chassahowitzka River System

- Recommended changing allowable reductions in natural flow from 11% to 9%.
- Included discussion of independent scientific peer review findings and stakeholder input received through July 15, 2012 (Chapters 9 and Section 11.18).
- Used an adjusted flow record for modeling purposes to account for existing withdrawal impacts (Sections 2.3.1.1.1 and 8.2).
- Evaluated impacts of future sea level change on salinity-based habitats (Sections 3.2 and 8.3).
- Added discussion regarding confidence and use of modeled flow impacts on fish/invertebrate abundance (Section 7.1).
- Added discussion regarding confidence and use of modeled impacts on habitats associated with salinities of 2 or less (Section 7.3).
- Evaluated effects of potential flow reductions on primary productivity (Sections 5.5 and 7.5).
- Added discussion regarding blue crab response to flow (Sections 7.1 and 11.16).
- Revised discussion of water quality issues and expanded discussion of minimum flow impact on water quality (Sections 4.3, 8.4 and 11.17).
- Updated long-term hydrologic statistics that may be used to support minimum flow compliance evaluations (Section 8.2).
- Incorporated and updated additional supporting documents in report appendices (Sections 11.14 through 11.18).
- Added an additional model for predicting submerged aquatic vegetation density as a function of salinity (Section 7.2).

Major Report Updates Addressing Changes to Minimum Flow Recommendations for the Homosassa River System

- Recommended changing allowable reduction in natural flow from 5% to 3%.
- Included discussion of independent scientific peer review findings and stakeholder input received through July 15, 2012 (Chapter 6 and Appendices S, T, U, V, and W).
- Used an adjusted flow record for modeling purposes to account for existing withdrawal impacts (Section 7.3).
- Evaluated impacts of future sea level change on salinity-based habitats (Section 7.3).
- Enhanced discussion regarding confidence and use of modeled flow impacts on fish/invertebrate abundance (Section 5.5).
- Added discussion regarding confidence and use of modeled impacts on habitats associated with salinities of 2 or less (Sections 5.3.3, 5.5 and 7.3.1).

- Evaluated effects of potential flow reductions on primary productivity (Section 7.2).
- Added discussion regarding blue crab response to flow (Section 6.3).
- Revised discussion of water quality issues and expanded discussion of minimum flow impact on water quality (Sections 2.8.1, 2.8.3, 2.8.10 and 7.4).
- Developed long-term hydrologic statistics that may be used to support minimum flow compliance evaluations (Section 7.4).
- Incorporated and updated additional supporting documents in report appendices (Appendices A, D through Z, AA, and AB)
- Evaluated effects of flow reductions ranging from 1 to 4% on salinity-based habitats; previous lowest evaluated flow reduction was 5% (Section 7.3).

Staff plans to present rule amendments associated with the revised minimum flow recommendations to the District Governing at the Board meeting scheduled to be held on August 28, 2012 at the District Headquarters in Brooksville. Board meetings are open to the public and individuals or group representatives may address the Board concerning any meeting agenda item or other water management issue.

The District has established a web site for accepting comments on the proposed minimum flows at:

WaterMatters.org/SpringsCoastMFL

The District is accepting comments via this web page through **Wednesday, August 15, 2012**, on the revised recommended minimum flows for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa river systems. Comments submitted after this date should be submitted in writing via e-mail or letter, using the following contact information.

Email: executive@watermatters.org

Address: 2379 Broad Street, Brooksville, FL 34604, ATTN: Governing Board

Thanks for your interest and continued support for the development of minimum flows for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa River systems.

Douglas A. Leeper
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From: Doug Leeper
To: ["Gus Kraye"](#)
Subject: RE: Request for email list inclusion
Date: Monday, July 30, 2012 7:11:00 AM

Mr. Kraye:

Thank you for your interest in the development of minimum flows for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa River systems. I have added you to my Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels mailing list per your request.

Douglas A. Leeper
Chief Environmental Scientist
Water Resources Bureau
Southwest Florida Water Management District
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1-800-423-1476, ext. 4272 (FL only)
352-796-7211, ext. 4272
352-754-6885 (Fax)
doug.leeper@watermatters.org

From: Gus Kraye [<mailto:guskraze@gmail.com>]
Sent: Saturday, July 28, 2012 3:50 PM
To: Doug Leeper
Subject: Request for email list inclusion

Please include me in future emails to interested parties:

g.kraze@ieee.org

Thank you.

May God bless you, & may God bless America!

*Gus Kraye, Chairman
Citrus County Council's
Environment & Natural Resources Cmte.*

From: [Alan Martyn Johnson](#)
To: [Kevin J Grimsley](#)
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Monthly Discharge Data Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Gage Sites
Date: Monday, July 30, 2012 8:28:30 AM

Kevin,
Sorry to trouble you again.

Some months ago I had used Monthly Discharge Data to derive some 5 year moving average discharges. For months where no data had been reported I averaged between the adjacent months; not exactly scientific but it gave me a general picture. I would now like to better understand the blank fields in the monthly data.

The monthly discharge data shown on the Water Information web site are titled as Daily Mean data. I assume the monthly data is a simple arithmetic mean of the daily data. But, when discharge data missing e.g. for 2 hours, is a daily mean still calculated; or how much missing data before a daily mean is not calculated?

Guess that may not be the best way to ask my question as I am interested in the months that show as blank. So to put it another way, when the monthly data field is blank what are the criteria for it to be blank?

Kevin,
This is a general question and not associated with the SE Fork during the time velocity meter data has been collected once each hour; but having raised that, how is the data going to be handled at the end of the water year?

Martyn

From: [Ron Miller](#)
To: [Doug Leeper](#)
Cc: [Priscilla Watkins](#); [Brad Rimbey](#); [Jim Bitter](#); [Al Grubman](#); [Dan Hilliard](#)
Subject: Fw: Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Minimum Flows Update
Date: Monday, July 30, 2012 12:05:15 PM

Hi Doug,

The Homosassa River Alliance agrees with Brad. The Appendices are missing and it is grossly unfair to give us only 2 weeks in August to respond. As you may guess many of our members are out of town in the middle of Summer. And believe it or not some of our folks live without the Internet.

Accordingly I would like to request:

1. Please make the appendices available.
2. Please move the Comment and Governing Board dates back one month... into Sept.
3. Please Provide 5 copies of the modified report to the Homosassa River Alliance and 5 copies to the Chassahowitzka River Restoration Committee. We will pick up these copies as soon as possible at your office.

Thank You,
Ron Miller

From: [Brad Rimbey](#)
Sent: Saturday, July 28, 2012 10:58 AM
To: [Doug Leeper](#)
Cc: [judyw1@tampabay.rr.com](#) ; [dtharp@embarqmail.com](#) ; [senft1hp2u@aol.com](#) ; [todd@pressmaninc.com](#) ; [rsmaggard@gmail.com](#) ; [info@conservationfoundation.com](#) ; [hgramling@tbwg.org](#) ; [neilcombe@yahoo.com](#) ; [bkbewick@aol.com](#) ; [margoh@medallionhome.com](#) ; [michael@2riversranch.net](#) ; [jadams@abbeyadams.com](#) ; [jclosshey@ideas-innovations.com](#) ; [Craig@sptimes.com](#) ; [mwright@chronicleonline.com](#) ; [Todd Kincaid](#) ; [bknight@wetlandsolutionsinc.com](#)
Subject: Re: Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Minimum Flows Update

Doug,

Please post the Appendices for these reports on SWFWMD's website. **The posted reports are not complete without the Appendices.**

Since it has taken over two years for SWFWMD's staff to produce the revised MFL reports for these rivers, **it is grossly unfair to stipulate that the public has only two weeks to digest and comment on these revised reports.** Many of us have jobs which prevent us from devoting 100% of our time to reviewing and commenting on SWFWMD's MFL proposals in the arbitrarily established time period which you suggest. In any event, the fact that SWFWMD's staff intends to present the revised MFL proposals to SWFWMD's GB one month after the public was notified of their completion makes it abundantly clear that SWFWMD's staff has no serious interest in considering further public input.

By copy of this email, I am inviting SWFWMD's GB members to come to Chassahowitzka and Homosassa to see the Rivers which they will be voting to protect or degrade in next month's GB meeting. I hope the GB members will take this offer seriously. I realize there are Sunshine Laws

which prohibit group "meetings" of more than two GB members unless the meeting is publicly noticed. If necessary we can show you these Outstanding Florida Waters individually. It is important that all of SWFWMD's GB members know what is at stake before they vote. If any of SWFWMD's GB members are interested in seeing these rivers before you vote, please contact me ASAP. SWFWMD's staff has set the timeframe and time is short.

I am particularly interested in showing these rivers to the GB members who have seen them in the past. If you have not seen these rivers in recent years, you need to see them now. Anyone who claims that these Outstanding Florida Water have not already been "Significantly Harmed" needs a reality check.

Brad W. Rimbey, PE for the
Chassahowitzka River Restoration Committee

cell 813-417-9453

----- Original Message -----

From: [Doug Leeper](#)

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Sent: Friday, July 27, 2012 4:46 PM

Subject: Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Minimum Flows Update

Greetings:

I am writing to inform you that the Southwest Florida Water Management District has developed revised minimum flow recommendations for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa River systems.

Minimum flows identify "...the the limit at which further withdrawals would be significantly harmful to the water resources or ecology of the area" (Section 373.042, Florida Statutes), are adopted by the District Governing Board into Chapter 40D-8, Florida Administrative Code, and are used for regulatory purposes, including the review and issuance of water use permits.

The revised, recommended minimum flows for the Chassahowitzka River System are 91% of its natural flow and the revised, recommended minimum flows for the Homosassa River System are 97% of its natural flow. Natural flow is defined as the flow that would exist in the absence of water withdrawals. There are currently no surface-water withdrawals from either system permitted by the District and flow reductions in each that can be attributed to groundwater withdrawals are approximately 1% of the natural flows. When expressed from a water-use perspective, the revised minimum flow recommendations correspond with allowable flow reductions of up to 9% for the Chassahowitzka system and 3% for the Homosassa system. What this means is that compared to the existing conditions, the proposed minimum flows would allow additional reductions of 8% for the Chassahowitzka system and 2% for the Homosassa system.

The currently recommended minimum flows differ from those previously proposed for the river systems and outlined in draft technical reports that were developed in 2010. The previously recommended minimum flows required that 89% of the natural flow in the Chassahowitzka system and 95% of the natural flow in the Homosassa system must be maintained, i.e., not removed as a result of water withdrawals.

Differences between the previously recommended and currently recommended minimum flows for the river systems can be attributed to analyses that were completed based on scientific peer review and stakeholder review of the previously recommended minimum flows. The analyses are summarized in updated technical reports that are posted on the *River Systems and Springs* tab on the *Minimum Flows and Levels (Environmental Flows) Documents and Reports* page of the District web site. Updated appendices for the reports will soon be posted to the same web page. Report titles and a link to the web page are provided below. Major report revisions, including those associated with development of the revised recommended minimum flows are also summarized below.

Report Titles and Link to the Minimum Flows and Levels (Environmental Flows) Documents and Report Page

Recommended Minimum Flows for the Chassahowitzka River System, July 15, 2012

Recommended Minimum Flows for the Homosassa River System, July 15, 2012

http://www.swfwmd.state.fl.us/projects/mfl/mfl_reports.php

Major Report Updates Addressing Changes to Minimum Flow Recommendations for the Chassahowitzka River System

- Recommended changing allowable reductions in natural flow from 11% to 9%.
- Included discussion of independent scientific peer review findings and stakeholder input received through July 15, 2012 (Chapters 9 and Section 11.18).
- Used an adjusted flow record for modeling purposes to account for existing withdrawal

- impacts (Sections 2.3.1.1.1 and 8.2).
- Evaluated impacts of future sea level change on salinity-based habitats (Sections 3.2 and 8.3).
- Added discussion regarding confidence and use of modeled flow impacts on fish/invertebrate abundance (Section 7.1).
- Added discussion regarding confidence and use of modeled impacts on habitats associated with salinities of 2 or less (Section 7.3).
- Evaluated effects of potential flow reductions on primary productivity (Sections 5.5 and 7.5).
- Added discussion regarding blue crab response to flow (Sections 7.1 and 11.16).
- Revised discussion of water quality issues and expanded discussion of minimum flow impact on water quality (Sections 4.3, 8.4 and 11.17).
- Updated long-term hydrologic statistics that may be used to support minimum flow compliance evaluations (Section 8.2).
- Incorporated and updated additional supporting documents in report appendices (Sections 11.14 through 11.18).
- Added an additional model for predicting submerged aquatic vegetation density as a function of salinity (Section 7.2).

Major Report Updates Addressing Changes to Minimum Flow Recommendations for the Homosassa River System

- Recommended changing allowable reduction in natural flow from 5% to 3%.
- Included discussion of independent scientific peer review findings and stakeholder input received through July 15, 2012 (Chapter 6 and Appendices S, T, U, V, and W).
- Used an adjusted flow record for modeling purposes to account for existing withdrawal impacts (Section 7.3).
- Evaluated impacts of future sea level change on salinity-based habitats (Section 7.3).
- Enhanced discussion regarding confidence and use of modeled flow impacts on fish/invertebrate abundance (Section 5.5).
- Added discussion regarding confidence and use of modeled impacts on habitats associated with salinities of 2 or less (Sections 5.3.3, 5.5 and 7.3.1).
- Evaluated effects of potential flow reductions on primary productivity (Section 7.2).
- Added discussion regarding blue crab response to flow (Section 6.3).
- Revised discussion of water quality issues and expanded discussion of minimum flow impact on water quality (Sections 2.8.1, 2.8.3, 2.8.10 and 7.4).
- Developed long-term hydrologic statistics that may be used to support minimum flow compliance evaluations (Section 7.4).
- Incorporated and updated additional supporting documents in report appendices (Appendices A, D through Z, AA, and AB)
- Evaluated effects of flow reductions ranging from 1 to 4% on salinity-based habitats; previous lowest evaluated flow reduction was 5% (Section 7.3).

Staff plans to present rule amendments associated with the revised minimum flow recommendations to the District Governing at the Board meeting scheduled to be held on August 28, 2012 at the District Headquarters in Brooksville. Board meetings are open to the public and individuals or group representatives may address the Board concerning any meeting

agenda item or other water management issue.

The District has established a web site for accepting comments on the proposed minimum flows at:

WaterMatters.org/SpringsCoastMFL

The District is accepting comments via this web page through **Wednesday, August 15, 2012**, on the revised recommended minimum flows for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa river systems. Comments submitted after this date should be submitted in writing via e-mail or letter, using the following contact information.

Email: executive@watermatters.org

Address: 2379 Broad Street, Brooksville, FL 34604, ATTN: Governing Board

Thanks for your interest and continued support for the development of minimum flows for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa River systems.

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From: Boyd_Blihovde@fws.gov
To: Doug.Leeper
Subject: Re: Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Minimum Flows Update
Date: Monday, July 30, 2012 12:52:35 PM

Doug,

Just to be clear, can you give me the deadline to get comments back to you? Thanks very much!

Thanks,

boyd blihovde
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07/27/2012 04:47 PM

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cc

Subject: Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Minimum Flows Update

Greetings:

I am writing to inform you that the Southwest Florida Water Management District has developed revised minimum flow recommendations for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa River systems. Minimum flows identify "...the the limit at which further withdrawals would be significantly harmful to the water resources or ecology of the area" (Section 373.042, Florida Statutes), are adopted by the District Governing Board into Chapter 40D-8, Florida Administrative Code, and are used for regulatory purposes, including the review and issuance of water use permits.

The revised, recommended minimum flows for the Chassahowitzka River System are 91% of its natural flow and the revised, recommended minimum flows for the Homosassa River System are 97% of its natural flow. Natural flow is defined as the flow that would exist in the absence of water withdrawals. There are currently

no surface-water withdrawals from either system permitted by the District and flow reductions in each that can be attributed to groundwater withdrawals are approximately 1% of the natural flows. When expressed from a water-use perspective, the revised minimum flow recommendations correspond with allowable flow reductions of up to 9% for the Chassahowitzka system and 3% for the Homosassa system. What this means is that compared to the existing conditions, the proposed minimum flows would allow additional reductions of 8% for the Chassahowitzka system and 2% for the Homosassa system.

The currently recommended minimum flows differ from those previously proposed for the river systems and outlined in draft technical reports that were developed in 2010. The previously recommended minimum flows required that 89% of the natural flow in the Chassahowitzka system and 95% of the natural flow in the Homosassa system must be maintained, i.e., not removed as a result of water withdrawals.

Differences between the previously recommended and currently recommended minimum flows for the river systems can be attributed to analyses that were completed based on scientific peer review and stakeholder review of the previously recommended minimum flows. The analyses are summarized in updated technical reports that are posted on the *River Systems and Springs* tab on the *Minimum Flows and Levels (Environmental Flows) Documents and Reports* page of the District web site. Updated appendices for the reports will soon be posted to the same web page. Report titles and a link to the web page are provided below. Major report revisions, including those associated with development of the revised recommended minimum flows are also summarized below.

Report Titles and Link to the Minimum Flows and Levels (Environmental Flows) Documents and Report Page

Recommended Minimum Flows for the Chassahowitzka River System, July 15, 2012

Recommended Minimum Flows for the Homosassa River System, July 15, 2012

http://www.swfwmd.state.fl.us/projects/mfl/mfl_reports.php

Major Report Updates Addressing Changes to Minimum Flow Recommendations for the Chassahowitzka River System

- Recommended changing allowable reductions in natural flow from 11% to 9%.
- Included discussion of independent scientific peer review findings and stakeholder input received through July 15, 2012 (Chapters 9 and Section 11.18).
- Used an adjusted flow record for modeling purposes to account for existing withdrawal impacts (Sections 2.3.1.1.1 and 8.2).
- Evaluated impacts of future sea level change on salinity-based habitats (Sections 3.2 and 8.3).
- Added discussion regarding confidence and use of modeled flow impacts on fish/invertebrate abundance (Section 7.1).
- Added discussion regarding confidence and use of modeled impacts on habitats associated with salinities of 2 or less (Section 7.3).
- Evaluated effects of potential flow reductions on primary productivity (Sections 5.5 and 7.5).
- Added discussion regarding blue crab response to flow (Sections 7.1 and 11.16).
- Revised discussion of water quality issues and expanded discussion of minimum flow impact on water quality (Sections 4.3, 8.4 and 11.17).
- Updated long-term hydrologic statistics that may be used to support minimum flow compliance evaluations (Section 8.2).
- Incorporated and updated additional supporting documents in report appendices (Sections 11.14 through 11.18).
- Added an additional model for predicting submerged aquatic vegetation density as a function of salinity (Section 7.2).

Major Report Updates Addressing Changes to Minimum Flow Recommendations for the Homosassa River

System

- Recommended changing allowable reduction in natural flow from 5% to 3%.
- Included discussion of independent scientific peer review findings and stakeholder input received through July 15, 2012 (Chapter 6 and Appendices S, T, U, V, and W).
- Used an adjusted flow record for modeling purposes to account for existing withdrawal impacts (Section 7.3).
- Evaluated impacts of future sea level change on salinity-based habitats (Section 7.3).
- Enhanced discussion regarding confidence and use of modeled flow impacts on fish/invertebrate abundance (Section 5.5).
- Added discussion regarding confidence and use of modeled impacts on habitats associated with salinities of 2 or less (Sections 5.3.3, 5.5 and 7.3.1).
- Evaluated effects of potential flow reductions on primary productivity (Section 7.2).
- Added discussion regarding blue crab response to flow (Section 6.3).
- Revised discussion of water quality issues and expanded discussion of minimum flow impact on water quality (Sections 2.8.1, 2.8.3, 2.8.10 and 7.4).
- Developed long-term hydrologic statistics that may be used to support minimum flow compliance evaluations (Section 7.4).
- Incorporated and updated additional supporting documents in report appendices (Appendices A, D through Z, AA, and AB)
- Evaluated effects of flow reductions ranging from 1 to 4% on salinity-based habitats; previous lowest evaluated flow reduction was 5% (Section 7.3).

Staff plans to present rule amendments associated with the revised minimum flow recommendations to the District Governing at the Board meeting scheduled to be held on August 28, 2012 at the District Headquarters in Brooksville. Board meetings are open to the public and individuals or group representatives may address the Board concerning any meeting agenda item or other water management issue.

The District has established a web site for accepting comments on the proposed minimum flows at:

WaterMatters.org/SpringsCoastMFL

The District is accepting comments via this web page through **Wednesday, August 15, 2012**, on the revised recommended minimum flows for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa river systems. Comments submitted after this date should be submitted in writing via e-mail or letter, using the following contact information.

Email: executive@watermatters.org

Address: 2379 Broad Street, Brooksville, FL 34604, ATTN: Governing Board

Thanks for your interest and continued support for the development of minimum flows for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa River systems.

Douglas A. Leeper
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Southwest Florida Water Management District
2379 Broad Street
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From: Doug Leeper
To: "Boyd_Blihovde@fws.gov"
Subject: RE: Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Minimum Flows Update
Date: Monday, July 30, 2012 12:56:00 PM
Attachments: [image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)

Hi Boyd:

You can use the comments button on the web page through August 15, 2012. After that date and up to the Board meeting date, which is August 28, 2012, written comments should be submitted by letter or e-mail.

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From: Boyd_Blihovde@fws.gov [mailto:Boyd_Blihovde@fws.gov]
Sent: Monday, July 30, 2012 12:49 PM
To: Doug Leeper
Subject: Re: Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Minimum Flows Update

Doug,

Just to be clear, can you give me the deadline to get comments back to you? Thanks very much!

Thanks,

boyd blihovde
Deputy Refuge Manager
Chassahowitzka National Wildlife Refuge Complex
1502 SE Kings Bay Drive
Crystal River, FL 34429
(P) 352-563-2088
(F) 352-795-7961

▼ Doug Leeper <Doug.Leeper@swfwmd.state.fl.us>

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07/27/2012 04:47 PM

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cc

Subject: Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Minimum Flows
Update

Greetings:

I am writing to inform you that the Southwest Florida Water Management District has developed revised minimum flow recommendations for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa River systems. Minimum flows identify "...the the limit at which further withdrawals would be significantly harmful to the water resources or ecology of the area" (Section 373.042, Florida Statutes), are adopted by the District Governing Board into Chapter 40D-8, Florida Administrative Code, and are used for regulatory purposes, including the review and issuance of water use permits.

The revised, recommended minimum flows for the Chassahowitzka River System are 91% of its natural flow and the revised, recommended minimum flows for the Homosassa River System are 97% of its natural flow. Natural flow is defined as the flow that would exist in the absence of water withdrawals. There are currently no surface-water withdrawals from either system permitted by the District and flow reductions in each that can be attributed to groundwater withdrawals are approximately 1% of the natural flows. When expressed from a water-use perspective, the revised minimum flow recommendations correspond with allowable flow reductions of up to 9% for the Chassahowitzka system and 3% for the Homosassa system. What this means is that compared to the existing conditions, the proposed minimum flows would allow additional reductions of 8% for the Chassahowitzka system and 2% for the Homosassa system.

The currently recommended minimum flows differ from those previously proposed for the river systems and outlined in draft technical reports that were developed in 2010. The previously recommended minimum flows required that 89% of the natural flow in the Chassahowitzka system and 95% of the natural flow in the Homosassa system must be maintained, i.e., not removed as a result of water withdrawals.

Differences between the previously recommended and currently recommended minimum flows for the river systems can be attributed to analyses that were completed based on scientific peer review and stakeholder review of the previously recommended minimum flows. The analyses are summarized in updated technical reports that are posted on the *River Systems and Springs* tab on the *Minimum Flows and Levels (Environmental Flows) Documents and Reports* page of the District web site. Updated appendices for the reports will soon be posted to the same web page. Report titles and a link to the web page are provided below. Major report revisions, including those associated with development of the revised recommended minimum flows are also summarized below.

Report Titles and Link to the Minimum Flows and Levels (Environmental Flows) Documents and Report Page

Recommended Minimum Flows for the Chassahowitzka River System, July 15, 2012

Recommended Minimum Flows for the Homosassa River System, July 15, 2012

http://www.swfwmd.state.fl.us/projects/mfl/mfl_reports.php

Major Report Updates Addressing Changes to Minimum Flow Recommendations for the Chassahowitzka River System

- Recommended changing allowable reductions in natural flow from 11% to 9%.
- Included discussion of independent scientific peer review findings and stakeholder input received through July 15, 2012 (Chapters 9 and Section 11.18).
- Used an adjusted flow record for modeling purposes to account for existing withdrawal impacts (Sections 2.3.1.1.1 and 8.2).
- Evaluated impacts of future sea level change on salinity-based habitats (Sections 3.2 and 8.3).
- Added discussion regarding confidence and use of modeled flow impacts on fish/invertebrate abundance (Section 7.1).
- Added discussion regarding confidence and use of modeled impacts on habitats associated with salinities of 2 or less (Section 7.3).
- Evaluated effects of potential flow reductions on primary productivity (Sections 5.5 and 7.5).
- Added discussion regarding blue crab response to flow (Sections 7.1 and 11.16).
- Revised discussion of water quality issues and expanded discussion of minimum flow impact on water quality (Sections 4.3, 8.4 and 11.17).
- Updated long-term hydrologic statistics that may be used to support minimum flow compliance evaluations (Section 8.2).
- Incorporated and updated additional supporting documents in report appendices (Sections 11.14

through 11.18).

- Added an additional model for predicting submerged aquatic vegetation density as a function of salinity (Section 7.2).

Major Report Updates Addressing Changes to Minimum Flow Recommendations for the Homosassa River System

- Recommended changing allowable reduction in natural flow from 5% to 3%.
- Included discussion of independent scientific peer review findings and stakeholder input received through July 15, 2012 (Chapter 6 and Appendices S, T, U, V, and W).
- Used an adjusted flow record for modeling purposes to account for existing withdrawal impacts (Section 7.3).
- Evaluated impacts of future sea level change on salinity-based habitats (Section 7.3).
- Enhanced discussion regarding confidence and use of modeled flow impacts on fish/invertebrate abundance (Section 5.5).
- Added discussion regarding confidence and use of modeled impacts on habitats associated with salinities of 2 or less (Sections 5.3.3, 5.5 and 7.3.1).
- Evaluated effects of potential flow reductions on primary productivity (Section 7.2).
- Added discussion regarding blue crab response to flow (Section 6.3).
- Revised discussion of water quality issues and expanded discussion of minimum flow impact on water quality (Sections 2.8.1, 2.8.3, 2.8.10 and 7.4).
- Developed long-term hydrologic statistics that may be used to support minimum flow compliance evaluations (Section 7.4).
- Incorporated and updated additional supporting documents in report appendices (Appendices A, D through Z, AA, and AB)
- Evaluated effects of flow reductions ranging from 1 to 4% on salinity-based habitats; previous lowest evaluated flow reduction was 5% (Section 7.3).

Staff plans to present rule amendments associated with the revised minimum flow recommendations to the District Governing at the Board meeting scheduled to be held on August 28, 2012 at the District Headquarters in Brooksville. Board meetings are open to the public and individuals or group representatives may address the Board concerning any meeting agenda item or other water management issue.

The District has established a web site for accepting comments on the proposed minimum flows at:

WaterMatters.org/SpringsCoastMFL

The District is accepting comments via this web page through **Wednesday, August 15, 2012**, on the revised recommended minimum flows for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa river systems. Comments submitted after this date should be submitted in writing via e-mail or letter, using the following contact information.

Email: executive@watermatters.org

Address: 2379 Broad Street, Brooksville, FL 34604, ATTN: Governing Board

Thanks for your interest and continued support for the development of minimum flows for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa River systems.

Douglas A. Leeper
Chief Environmental Scientist

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From: [2buntings](#)
To: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Re: Appendices for Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Minimum Flow Reports
Date: Monday, July 30, 2012 2:09:54 PM

Good golly Ms. Molly.....my download digits are sore!

Thanks for putting that up though.

Dan

PS: Lawyers: They don't think lawyer jokes are funny and the rest of us don't think they're jokes.

On 7/30/2012 12:16 PM, Doug Leeper wrote:

Greetings:

I am writing to inform you that appendices associated with updated Southwest Florida Water Management District reports on proposed minimum flows for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa river systems are now available from the District web site. The appendices are posted under the "Appendix" column for each system on the *Minimum Flows and Levels (Environmental Flows) Documents and Report Page* at:

http://www.swfwmd.state.fl.us/projects/mfl/mfl_reports.php

-

Thank you for your continued interest and support for the development of minimum flows for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa River systems.

Douglas A. Leeper
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--

Dan Hilliard
Director
W.A.R. Inc. (501.C3)
352/447-5434
www.warinonline.com

From: chris_safos
To: [Doug Leeper](mailto:Doug.Leeper)
Subject: Re: Appendices for Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Minimum Flow Reports
Date: Monday, July 30, 2012 2:21:41 PM

thank you for the information.

----- Original Message -----

From: [Doug Leeper](mailto:Doug.Leeper)
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Sent: Monday, July 30, 2012 12:16 PM

Subject: Appendices for Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Minimum Flow Reports

Greetings:

I am writing to inform you that appendices associated with updated Southwest Florida Water Management District reports on proposed minimum flows for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa river systems are now available from the District web site. The appendices are posted under the "Appendix" column for each system on the *Minimum Flows and Levels (Environmental Flows) Documents and Report Page* at:

http://www.swfwmd.state.fl.us/projects/mfl/mfl_reports.php

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Thank you for your continued interest and support for the development of minimum flows for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa River systems.

Douglas A. Leeper
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PHONE LOG

Southwest Florida Water Management District

Brooksville, Florida

Issue: Minimum flows development for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa River Systems.

Caller: Ann Hodgson, 813-220-1666

District Representative: Doug Leeper, Chief Environmental Scientist, Water Resources Bureau

Date: July 30, 2012

Notes: Doug Leeper spoke with Ann Hodgson about major updates to the minimum flow recommendations for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa River systems by telephone on July 30, 2012. Ms. Hodgson offered the following suggestions regarding stakeholder interaction and the schedule for the minimum flows development process.

1. Allow 90 days (3 months) for stakeholder review of the updated reports and minimum flow recommendations. This should be a reasonable time-frame for review of the updates by all stakeholders, including agency staff who may have a difficult time compiling an agency opinion in a one month period.
2. Consider scheduling a public workshop to present and describe the minimum flow updates and to solicit additional public comment. Follow this meeting with a second public workshop a month later to address the District's response to stakeholder concerns.

From: [Brad Rimbey](#)
To: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Re: Appendices for Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Minimum Flow Reports
Date: Monday, July 30, 2012 4:23:25 PM

Doug,

Thanks for the phone call earlier today. I have talked to a few people since we spoke and it seems more people are concerned about driving to Tampa for a GB meeting than I thought.

For those of you who are being copied on this, Doug is trying to get a feel for when/where we would prefer to have the MFL proposals for Chassahowitzka and Homosassa presented to SWFWMD's GB. It seems Doug's suggestion that the MFL proposals would be presented to the GB on August 28 in Brooksville was based primarily on SWFWMD's desire to choose a meeting location which would be convenient for Springs Coast residents to attend. Unfortunately, the logistics of this time choice would make it impossible for SWFWMD to receive and reply to the input they will be likely be receiving on these revised proposals. The September and October SWFWMD GB meetings will be held in Tampa. The November SWFWMD GB meeting will be in Haines City. The December SWFWMD GB will be back in Brooksville.

Please take a moment to let Doug know your thoughts on this. His email address is Doug.Leeper@swfwmd.state.fl.us. I hate to put this off until December but perhaps that is the best option to allow local input to be heard by SWFWMD's GB on this important issue. August 28 is off the table.

I would also ask that SWFWMD considers presenting one more MFL public workshop (possibly in Lecanto) to explain the basis for the substantive changes which are being proposed to the previously proposed MFLs for these Outstanding Florida Waters. One workshop for both the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers would be fine.

Brad W. Rimbey, P.E. for the
Chassahowitzka River Restoration Committee

----- Original Message -----

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Sent: Monday, July 30, 2012 12:16 PM

Subject: Appendices for Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Minimum Flow Reports

Greetings:

I am writing to inform you that appendices associated with updated Southwest Florida Water Management District reports on proposed minimum flows for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa river systems are now available from the District web site. The appendices are posted under the "Appendix" column for each system on the *Minimum Flows and Levels (Environmental Flows) Documents and Report Page* at:

http://www.swfwmd.state.fl.us/projects/mfl/mfl_reports.php

-

Thank you for your continued interest and support for the development of minimum flows for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa River systems.

Douglas A. Leeper
Chief Environmental Scientist
Water Resources Bureau
Southwest Florida Water Management District
2379 Broad Street
Brooksville, Florida 34604-6899
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From: [hope](#)
To: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: GB Meeting on Chassahowitzka & Homosassa MFL definitely needs to be in Citrus or Hernando County
Date: Monday, July 30, 2012 5:06:58 PM

Hi Doug,

We just received the forwarded email from Brad regarding your conversation about the proposed Governing Board meeting dates to discuss the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa MFLs.

In my opinion:

The Governing Board Meeting regarding the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa River MFLs **definitely** needs to be in the affected county and aquifer region (Citrus - Hernando Nature Coast area), thus, Lecanto Government Complex or Brooksville (SWFWMD Headquarters).

A public forum of this magnitude (like a wake for a beloved - or a discussion of how you plan to execute/kill/destroy the last of an endangered species - something so rare and irreplaceable as one of Florida's most pristine and least developed spring-fed River ecosystem) should be in a Nature Coast location that can handle the crowds of concerned citizens, and is not a burdensome driving distance (or expensive public transportation commute) for the citizens and stakeholders most affected.

Per the forwarded email I received from Brad, it looks like the next available Brooksville meeting will be in December?

Please let me know when you guys have firmed up the date so I can update the Blog and Community Bulletin Boards.

Thank you,
Hope Corona
hopecorona@tampabay.rr.com

From: [Veronica Crow](#)
To: [Brad Rimbey](#)
Cc: [Dan Hilliard](#); phubbell@wraconsultants.com; [Brent Whitley](#); rebecca.bays@bocc.citrus.fl.us; rasjudy@tampabay.rr.com; Charlene.Stroehlen@amec.com; mwright@chronicleonline.com; [Philip Rhinesmith](#); [Mike Heyl](#); [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: RE: Chaz Headspring Restoration Project
Date: Monday, July 30, 2012 5:08:30 PM

Mr. Rimbey,

I apologize for the delayed response, I had several meetings last week that took me out of the office.

The original engineers dredging and disposal estimate provided in the Feasibility Study for the restoration project was between \$147,282 and \$285,189. However, that cost did not include several additional services (ex: polymer addition) that were determined to be needed during the design/permitting phase. The revised engineers estimate provided by MACTEC in May 2012 was \$682,155 and included archaeological services, dewatering processes, etc. I think the \$1.3M estimate stems from prebid meeting conversations however, I've not found documentation supporting that.

I am unable to release the dollar amounts of the two qualified bid responses. They are considered confidential until such time as the project is awarded or one year after originally received. This is done to protect the respondents and allow them to participate again in the competitive bid process. This is done pursuant to Section 119.071(1)(3), Florida Statute.

The District is pursuing this project as part of an overall springs restoration effort. We do not know if this project will result in an increase in the discharge from the main vent. The purpose of the project is to restore the benthic habitat to be suitable for recruitment of native vegetation which will, in turn, improve water quality/clarity.

Sincerely,
Veronica

Veronica Crow
Environmental Section Manager
Southwest Florida Water Management District
2379 Broad Street
Brooksville, FL 34604
352-796-7211 ext. 4267
veronica.crow@swfwmd.state.fl.us

----- Original Message -----

From: [Brad Rimbey](#)
To: [Veronica Crow](#)
Cc: mwright@chronicleonline.com; Charlene.Stroehlen@amec.com; [Doug Leeper](#); [Mike Heyl](#); [Philip Rhinesmith](#); rasjudy@tampabay.rr.com; rebecca.bays@bocc.citrus.fl.us;

[properties.com](#) ; phubbell@wraconsultants.com ; 2buntings@comcast.net

Sent: Thursday, July 19, 2012 4:46 PM

Subject: Re: Chaz Headspring Restoration Project

Ms. Craw,

Thanks for taking the time to answer my questions. Just a few more and I will quit bothering you about this.

Last year Mike Wright published an article in the Citrus County Chronicle about this project. That article can be found here.

<http://www.chronicleonline.com/content/chassahowitzka-challenge-water-management-district-restoring-river-thing-beauty>

Mr. Wright indicated the total cost of this project was to be \$1.3 million. Can you confirm that figure? Also, are you able to release the dollar amounts of the two qualified but over-budget bids you received?

One last thought and question. I have to wonder if this project would be necessary if the Chaz Main Spring was flowing anywhere near its historic first magnitude levels. It seems the spring would clear its own throat (and the spring pool) of muck if it was flowing as it did in years past. I doubt we will see those flow rates ever again. The currently proposed MFL flow reduction of 11% will certainly not help in this regard. Does the SWFWMD believe that cleaning the muck out of the main spring pool will increase the spring flow or is this project strictly about enhancing the aesthetics of the spring pool by temporarily restoring it to a white sandy bottom?

Brad W. Rimbey, P.E. for the
Chassahowitzka River Restoration Committee

----- Original Message -----

From: [Veronica Craw](mailto:Veronica.Craw@sierra-properties.com)

To: [Brad Rimbey](mailto:Brad.Rimbey@sierra-properties.com)

Cc: 2buntings@comcast.net ; phubbell@wraconsultants.com ; brentwhitley@sierra-properties.com ; rebecca.bays@bocc.citrus.fl.us ; rasjudy@tampabay.rr.com ; [Philip Rhinesmith](mailto:Philip.Rhinesmith@sierra-properties.com) ; [Mike Heyl](mailto:Mike.Heyl@sierra-properties.com) ; [Doug Leeper](mailto:Doug.Leeper@sierra-properties.com) ; Charlene.Stroehlen@amec.com ; mwright@chronicleonline.com

Sent: Thursday, July 19, 2012 2:50 PM

Subject: RE: Chaz Headspring Restoration Project

Mr. Rimbey,

This project never received funding from the Legislature.

The project was initiated through a cooperative funding agreement between the District and Citrus County. Citrus County was the lead and hired BCI Engineers & Scientists to perform a feasibility study. The work performed included conceptual design plans and sediment surveys for which they were paid \$49,643.44 (the Coastal Rivers Basin Board funded \$24,821.72 and the County contributed an equal amount).

The next phase of the project was led by the District and included final design and permitting activities. The District selected Mactec Engineering and Consulting, Inc. and paid \$75,000. These funds were budgeted by the Coastal Rivers Basin Board and were fully reimbursed through the Water Management Lands Trust Fund.

A sediment characterization study was performed as part of the feasibility study that determined the physical and chemical characteristics of the sediment. Organic matter in various forms represents about 20% of the total sediment mass, and includes wood chips, leaves, and other vegetative matter. However, the exact source of the material was not determined.

I appreciate your concern and share your desire to see the spring system restored. The District is committed to the completion of this project.

Veronica Craw
Environmental Section Manager
Southwest Florida Water Management District
2379 Broad Street
Brooksville, FL 34604
352-796-7211 ext. 4267
veronica.craw@swfwmd.state.fl.us

From: Brad Rimbey [<mailto:BWR.CRRC@tampabay.rr.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, July 18, 2012 6:53 PM
To: Veronica Craw
Cc: 2buntings@comcast.net; phubbell@wraconsultants.com; brentwhitley@sierra-properties.com; rebecca.bays@bcc.citrus.fl.us; rasjudy@tampabay.rr.com; Philip Rhinesmith; Mike Heyl; Doug Leeper; Charlene.Stroehlen@amec.com; mwright@chronicleonline.com
Subject: Re: Chaz Headspring Restoration Project

Ms. Craw,

Thank you for your response. At this point, I am in the "believe it when I see it" mode. SWFWMD has put this project on the back burner for so many years that it has become something of a standing (bad) local joke. By any chance, would you happen to know when this project was funded by the legislature? Anecdotally, I am told it was at least ten years ago.

Also, I would be interested in knowing how much money was paid to MACTEC (Project # 60631001050) and BCI (Project # 03-13653.7) to produce a set of restoration procedures which were ultimately unaffordable.

Add to this SWFWMD's proposed further degradation of the Chassahowitzka River via the MFL program. To say the least, we are not impressed with SWFWMD's efforts to protect and restore this Outstanding Florida Water (designated on January 5, 1993).

If you have any thoughts regarding Citrus County's continuing practice of spraying toxic herbicides (with FWC's blessing) into the canals which are tributary to this OFW, I would like to hear them. No doubt these cheap-and-dirty invasive aquatic plant management practices have contributed greatly to the muck which must now be removed at considerable expense to the tax payer.

Brad W. Rimbey, P.E. for the
Chassahowitzka River Restoration Committee

----- Original Message -----

From: [Veronica Craw](mailto:Veronica.Craw)

To: [Brad Rimbey](#) ; [Brad - CRRC Rimbey](#)
Cc: mwright@chronicleonline.com ; Charlene.Stroehlen@amec.com ; [Doug Leeper](#) ; [Mike Heyl](#) ; [Philip Rhinesmith](#) ; rasjudy@tampabay.rr.com ; rebecca.bays@bcc.citrus.fl.us ; brentwhitley@sierra-properties.com ; phubbell@wraconsultants.com ; 2buntings@comcast.net
Sent: Wednesday, July 18, 2012 3:40 PM
Subject: RE: Chaz Headspring Restoration Project

Mr. Rimbey,

The District is committed to completing the Chassahowitzka Headspring Restoration Project and to using taxpayer dollars wisely. The District advertised a Request for Bids (RFB) and received two qualified responses. However, these bids exceeded the District's budget for the project and, in addition, the bidders could not complete the project within the permitted construction window this year due to manatee restrictions mandated by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service as specified in the United States Army Corps of Engineers permit for the project.

In response to Florida Department of Environmental Protection permit conditions, the District also conducted extensive sediment quality tests that determined that the material that will be removed during the restoration can be beneficially used in agricultural operations rather than needing to be disposed of in a Class I landfill. This new information will likely reduce the cost of the project significantly and save taxpayer dollars. We anticipate reissuing another RFB this fall that will allow for greater disposal options and are confident the project will be conducted next spring/summer. If you have additional questions, please feel free to contact me.

Veronica Craw
Environmental Section Manager
Southwest Florida Water Management District
2379 Broad Street
Brooksville, FL 34604
352-796-7211 ext. 4267
veronica.craw@swfwmd.state.fl.us

From: Brad Rimbey [<mailto:brimbey3@tampabay.rr.com>]
Sent: Monday, July 16, 2012 8:06 PM
To: Brad - CRRC Rimbey
Cc: mwright@chronicleonline.com; Charlene.Stroehlen@amec.com; Doug Leeper; Mike Heyl; Veronica Craw; Philip Rhinesmith
Subject: Chaz Headspring Restoration Project

All,

As expected, the long awaited (and long ago legislatively funded) Chassahowitzka Headspring Restoration Project has once again failed to launch this year.

In short, the SWFWMD has wasted so much money studying the "no brainer" problem that they have no money remaining to implement the obvious solution. Your tax dollars at work?! Really

pathetic!

How was the Weeki Wachee main spring restoration completed? How was the Homosassa main spring restoration completed? Why is the Chassahowitzka main spring restoration project too complex and expensive to complete?! This is not rocket science folks!! Suck out the mud, haul it away, and dump it in an approved landfill!!!

The SWFWMD's rejection letter for all bids is attached. The attached and other relevant documents to the "Chassahowitzka Headspring Restoration Project" can be found at <http://www.swfwmd.state.fl.us/business/contproc/solicitations.php> .

Brad W. Rimbey, P.E. for the
Chassahowitzka River Restoration Committee

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From: cathyharrelson@gmail.com on behalf of [Cathy Harrelson](#)
To: [Brad Rimbey](#)
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Re: Appendices for Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Minimum Flow Reports
Date: Monday, July 30, 2012 5:12:40 PM

Doug,

I agree with Brad that the meeting should be held in proximity to the affected locations, although I believe those in the Tampa Bay area should be made more aware of what is happening with our springs and springsheds. It looks like the December meeting in Brooksville makes the most sense. Likewise, an interim workshop would generate additional public education and comment.

Thank you,

Cathy Harrelson
Florida Organizer

Gulf Restoration Network
cathy@healthygulf.org

727-415-8805

<http://healthygulf.org/>

On Mon, Jul 30, 2012 at 4:23 PM, Brad Rimbey <BWR.CRRC@tampabay.rr.com> wrote:

Doug,

Thanks for the phone call earlier today. I have talked to a few people since we spoke and it seems more people are concerned about driving to Tampa for a GB meeting than I thought.

For those of you who are being copied on this, Doug is trying to get a feel for when/where we would prefer to have the MFL proposals for Chassahowitzka and Homosassa presented to SWFWMD's GB. It seems Doug's suggestion that the MFL proposals would be presented to the GB on August 28 in Brooksville was based primarily on SWFWMD's desire to choose a meeting location which would be convenient for Springs Coast residents to attend. Unfortunately, the logistics of this time choice would make it impossible for SWFWMD to receive and reply to the input they will be likely be receiving on these revised proposals. The September and October SWFWMD GB meetings will be held in Tampa. The November SWFWMD GB meeting will be in Haines City. The December SWFWMD GB will be back in Brooksville.

Please take a moment to let Doug know your thoughts on this. His email address is Doug.Leeper@swfwmd.state.fl.us. I hate to put this off until December but perhaps that is the best option to allow local input to be heard by SWFWMD's GB

on this important issue. August 28 is off the table.

I would also ask that SWFWMD considers presenting one more MFL public workshop (possibly in Lecanto) to explain the basis for the substantive changes which are being proposed to the previously proposed MFLs for these Outstanding Florida Waters. One workshop for both the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers would be fine.

Brad W. Rimbey, P.E. for the
Chassahowitzka River Restoration Committee

----- Original Message -----

From: [Doug Leeper](mailto:Doug.Leeper)

To: [Al Grubman \(grubman1@gmail.com\)](mailto:Al.Grubman1@gmail.com) ; [Bill Geiger \(bgeiger@cityofbrooksville.us\)](mailto:bgeiger@cityofbrooksville.us) ; [Bill Pouder \(bill.pouder@myfwc.com\)](mailto:Bill.Pouder@myfwc.com) ; [Boyd Blihovde \(Boyd_Blihovde@fws.gov\)](mailto:Boyd.Blihovde@fws.gov) ; [Brad Rimbey \(BWR.CRRC@tampabay.rr.com\)](mailto:Brad.Rimbey@BWR.CRRC@tampabay.rr.com) ; [Brent Whitley \(brentwhitley@sierra-properties.com\)](mailto:brentwhitley@sierra-properties.com) ; [Brockway Alys \(abrockway@co.hernando.fl.us\)](mailto:Brockway.Alys@co.hernando.fl.us) ; [Dennis D. 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Sent: Monday, July 30, 2012 12:16 PM

Subject: Appendices for Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Minimum Flow Reports

Greetings:

I am writing to inform you that appendices associated with updated Southwest Florida Water Management District reports on proposed minimum flows for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa river systems are now available from the District web site. The appendices are posted under the "Appendix" column for each

system on the *Minimum Flows and Levels (Environmental Flows) Documents and Report Page* at:

http://www.swfwmd.state.fl.us/projects/mfl/mfl_reports.php

Thank you for your continued interest and support for the development of minimum flows for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa River systems.

Douglas A. Leeper

Chief Environmental Scientist

Water Resources Bureau

Southwest Florida Water Management District

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doug.leeper@watermatters.org

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From: [Jos Tar](#)
To: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Re: Appendices for Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Minimum Flow Reports
Date: Monday, July 30, 2012 5:43:20 PM

thank you, Doug

--- On **Mon, 7/30/12, Doug Leeper** <Doug.Leeper@swfwmd.state.fl.us> wrote:

From: Doug Leeper <Doug.Leeper@swfwmd.state.fl.us>
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Date: Monday, July 30, 2012, 4:16 PM

Greetings:

I am writing to inform you that appendices associated with updated Southwest Florida Water Management District reports on proposed minimum flows for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa river systems are now available from the District web site. The appendices are posted under the "Appendix" column for each system on the *Minimum Flows and Levels (Environmental Flows) Documents and Report Page* at:

http://www.swfwmd.state.fl.us/projects/mfl/mfl_reports.php

Thank you for your continued interest and support for the development of minimum flows for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa River systems.

Douglas A. Leeper

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From: [Jos Tar](#)
To: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Re: Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Minimum Flows Update
Date: Monday, July 30, 2012 5:46:44 PM

thank you for this information Doug,well done---jct

--- On **Fri, 7/27/12, Doug Leeper** <Doug.Leeper@swfwmd.state.fl.us> wrote:

From: Doug Leeper <Doug.Leeper@swfwmd.state.fl.us>
Subject: Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Minimum Flows Update
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Date: Friday, July 27, 2012, 8:46 PM

Greetings:

I am writing to inform you that the Southwest Florida Water Management District has developed revised minimum flow recommendations for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa River systems. Minimum flows identify "...the limit at which further withdrawals would be significantly harmful to the water resources or ecology of the area" (Section 373.042, Florida Statutes), are adopted by the District Governing Board into Chapter 40D-8, Florida Administrative Code, and are used for regulatory purposes, including the review and issuance of water use permits.

The revised, recommended minimum flows for the Chassahowitzka River System are 91% of its natural flow and the revised, recommended minimum flows for the Homosassa River System are 97% of its natural flow. Natural flow is defined as the flow that would exist in the absence of water withdrawals. There are currently no surface-water withdrawals from either system permitted by the District and flow reductions in each that can be attributed to groundwater withdrawals are approximately 1% of the natural flows. When expressed from a water-use perspective, the revised minimum flow recommendations correspond with allowable flow reductions of up to 9% for the Chassahowitzka system and 3% for the Homosassa system. What this means is that compared to the existing conditions, the proposed minimum flows would allow additional reductions of 8% for the

Chassahowitzka system and 2% for the Homosassa system.

The currently recommended minimum flows differ from those previously proposed for the river systems and outlined in draft technical reports that were developed in 2010. The previously recommended minimum flows required that 89% of the natural flow in the Chassahowitzka system and 95% of the natural flow in the Homosassa system must be maintained, i.e., not removed as a result of water withdrawals.

Differences between the previously recommended and currently recommended minimum flows for the river systems can be attributed to analyses that were completed based on scientific peer review and stakeholder review of the previously recommended minimum flows. The analyses are summarized in updated technical reports that are posted on the *River Systems and Springs* tab on the *Minimum Flows and Levels (Environmental Flows) Documents and Reports* page of the District web site. Updated appendices for the reports will soon be posted to the same web page. Report titles and a link to the web page are provided below. Major report revisions, including those associated with development of the revised recommended minimum flows are also summarized below.

Report Titles and Link to the Minimum Flows and Levels (Environmental Flows) Documents and Report Page

Recommended Minimum Flows for the Chassahowitzka River System, July 15, 2012

Recommended Minimum Flows for the Homosassa River System, July 15, 2012

http://www.swfwmd.state.fl.us/projects/mfl/mfl_reports.php

Major Report Updates Addressing Changes to Minimum Flow Recommendations for the Chassahowitzka River System

- Recommended changing allowable reductions in natural flow from 11% to 9%.
- Included discussion of independent scientific peer review findings and stakeholder input received through July 15, 2012 (Chapters 9 and Section 11.18).
- Used an adjusted flow record for modeling purposes to account for existing withdrawal impacts (Sections 2.3.1.1.1 and 8.2).
- Evaluated impacts of future sea level change on salinity-based habitats (Sections 3.2 and 8.3).

- Added discussion regarding confidence and use of modeled flow impacts on fish/invertebrate abundance (Section 7.1).
- Added discussion regarding confidence and use of modeled impacts on habitats associated with salinities of 2 or less (Section 7.3).
- Evaluated effects of potential flow reductions on primary productivity (Sections 5.5 and 7.5).
- Added discussion regarding blue crab response to flow (Sections 7.1 and 11.16).
- Revised discussion of water quality issues and expanded discussion of minimum flow impact on water quality (Sections 4.3, 8.4 and 11.17).
- Updated long-term hydrologic statistics that may be used to support minimum flow compliance evaluations (Section 8.2).
- Incorporated and updated additional supporting documents in report appendices (Sections 11.14 through 11.18).
- Added an additional model for predicting submerged aquatic vegetation density as a function of salinity (Section 7.2).

Major Report Updates Addressing Changes to Minimum Flow Recommendations for the Homosassa River System

- Recommended changing allowable reduction in natural flow from 5% to 3%.
- Included discussion of independent scientific peer review findings and stakeholder input received through July 15, 2012 (Chapter 6 and Appendices S, T, U, V, and W).
- Used an adjusted flow record for modeling purposes to account for existing withdrawal impacts (Section 7.3).
- Evaluated impacts of future sea level change on salinity-based habitats (Section 7.3).
- Enhanced discussion regarding confidence and use of modeled flow impacts on fish/invertebrate abundance (Section 5.5).
- Added discussion regarding confidence and use of modeled impacts on habitats associated with salinities of 2 or less (Sections 5.3.3, 5.5 and 7.3.1).
- Evaluated effects of potential flow reductions on primary productivity (Section 7.2).
- Added discussion regarding blue crab response to flow (Section 6.3).
- Revised discussion of water quality issues and expanded discussion of minimum flow impact on water quality (Sections 2.8.1, 2.8.3, 2.8.10 and 7.4).
- Developed long-term hydrologic statistics that may be used to support minimum flow compliance evaluations (Section 7.4).
- Incorporated and updated additional supporting documents in report appendices (Appendices A, D through Z, AA, and AB)
- Evaluated effects of flow reductions ranging from 1 to 4% on salinity-based habitats; previous lowest evaluated flow reduction was 5% (Section 7.3).

Staff plans to present rule amendments associated with the revised minimum flow recommendations to the District Governing at the Board meeting scheduled to be held on August 28, 2012 at the District Headquarters in Brooksville. Board meetings are open to the public and individuals or group representatives may address the Board concerning any meeting agenda item or other water management issue.

The District has established a web site for accepting comments on the proposed minimum flows at:

WaterMatters.org/SpringsCoastMFL

The District is accepting comments via this web page through **Wednesday, August 15, 2012**, on the revised recommended minimum flows for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa river systems. Comments submitted after this date should be submitted in writing via e-mail or letter, using the following contact information.

Email: executive@watermatters.org

Address: 2379 Broad Street, Brooksville, FL 34604, ATTN: Governing Board

Thanks for your interest and continued support for the development of minimum flows for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa River systems.

Douglas A. Leeper

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From: [Andy & Terri Auner](#)
To: [Doug Leeper](#)
Cc: ["Brad Rimbey"](#)
Subject: MFL Input Meeting
Date: Monday, July 30, 2012 5:53:03 PM

Mr. Leeper,

In order to allow the residents of Citrus and Hernando Counties to attend, please choose a site that is somewhere in these two counties.

I would hope and guess the attendance will be high, so perhaps a large enough place, such as one of the Auditoriums or at Central Florida College in Lecanto.

Also perhaps pick a date separate from a regular SWFWMD meeting and allocate all the time to this issue.

Thank You,

Andy & Terri Auner
Old Homosassa and Weeki Wachee

From: [2buntings](#)
To: [Brad Rimbey](#)
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#); [Steve Edmonds](#)
Subject: Re: Appendices for Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Minimum Flow Reports
Date: Monday, July 30, 2012 6:50:03 PM

Wow, this thing goes in more directions than a 3 legged cat chasing a mouse on a pogo stick.

Doug,

In my occasionally humble opinion, a GB hearing of this matter in venues other than Brooksville would be viewed as a District duck 'n cover maneuver by the public/stakeholders. Reality is not the issue here, but rather perception. I do not know for certain that the attention given to the Springs Coast MFL by the public has set any records, but it has at least garnered a lot of focus and precipitated a tremendous amount of energy expenditure on the part of the stakeholders and subsequently the District Staff. Though perhaps tedious and even "painful" at times, the end product will benefit.

The input provided by WAR in this affair was prompted in large part by our continuing involvement in the review for the Withlacoochee River. Though our participation has been tempered by that exercise we find common elements in these processes with which our membership has substantial concerns. It has been a long road to be sure, but it is far from over.

I emailed Brad earlier today indicating that WAR would meet the then existing deadline for comments on this process. Given the file sizes of the recommendations for the Chaz and Homosassa Rivers and (psychotic giggle) the Appendices, I had no doubt when I forwarded such input that it would be far short of the standard we try to meet in public participation for such affairs. Digesting the recommendations and many appendices in two weeks is a tall order, even for one talented at slight of hand. I'm not, but I know a few good jokes.

End of the day we will abide by the District's decision on this, but I would recommend Brooksville for the GB hearing and if that takes it to December, so be it.

Tampa has but two redeeming virtues from where I sit. One is Bern's Steakhouse and the other is the expressway network which allows quick exit to the north.

Best Regards,

Dan

On 7/30/2012 4:23 PM, Brad Rimbey wrote:

Doug,

Thanks for the phone call earlier today. I have talked to a few people since we spoke and it seems more people are concerned about driving to Tampa for a GB meeting than I thought.

For those of you who are being copied on this, Doug is trying to get a feel for when/where we would prefer to have the MFL proposals for Chassahowitzka and Homosassa presented to SWFWMD's GB. It seems Doug's suggestion that the MFL proposals would be presented to the GB on August 28 in Brooksville was based primarily on SWFWMD's desire to choose a meeting location which would be convenient for Springs Coast residents to attend. Unfortunately, the logistics of this time choice would make it impossible for SWFWMD to receive and reply to the input they will be likely be receiving on these revised proposals. The September and October SWFWMD GB meetings will be held in Tampa. The November SWFWMD GB meeting will be in Haines City. The December SWFWMD GB will be back in Brooksville.

Please take a moment to let Doug know your thoughts on this. His email address is Doug.Leeper@swfwm.state.fl.us. I hate to put this off until December but perhaps that is the best option to allow local input to be heard by SWFWMD's GB on this important issue. August 28 is off the table.

I would also ask that SWFWMD considers presenting one more MFL public workshop (possibly in Lecanto) to explain the basis for the substantive changes which are being proposed to the previously proposed MFLs for these Outstanding Florida Waters. One workshop for both the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers would be fine.

Brad W. Rimbey, P.E. for the
Chassahowitzka River Restoration Committee

----- Original Message -----

From: [Doug Leeper](mailto:Doug.Leeper@swfwm.state.fl.us)

To: [Al Grubman \(grubman1@gmail.com\)](mailto:Al.Grubman@gmail.com) ; [Bill Geiger \(bgeiger@cityofbrooksville.us\)](mailto:bgeiger@cityofbrooksville.us) ; [Bill Pouder \(bill.pouder@myfwc.com\)](mailto:bill.pouder@myfwc.com) ; [Boyd Blihovde \(Boyd_Blihovde@fws.gov\)](mailto:Boyd_Blihovde@fws.gov) ; [Brad Rimbey \(BWR.CRRC@tampabay.rr.com\)](mailto:Brad.Rimbey@BWR.CRRC@tampabay.rr.com) ; [Brent Whitley \(brentwhitley@sierra-properties.com\)](mailto:brentwhitley@sierra-properties.com) ; [Brockway, Alys \(abrockway@co.hernando.fl.us\)](mailto:abrockway@co.hernando.fl.us) ; [Dennis D. Dutcher \(Dennis3ds@aol.com\)](mailto:Dennis3ds@aol.com) ; [Frank DiGiovanni \(administration@inverness-fl.gov\)](mailto:administration@inverness-fl.gov) ; [Greenwood, Kathleen](mailto:Kathleen.Greenwood) ; [Helen Spive](mailto:Helen.Spive) ; [Hilliard, Dan \(2buntings@comcast.net\)](mailto:2buntings@comcast.net) ; [Hoehn, Ted](mailto:Ted.Hoehn) ; [Hope Corona \(hopecorona@tampabay.rr.com\)](mailto:hopecorona@tampabay.rr.com) ; [Jim Farley \(jfarley682@aol.com\)](mailto:jfarley682@aol.com) ; [Katie Tripp \(ktripp@savethemanatee.org\)](mailto:ktripp@savethemanatee.org) ; [Norman Hopkins \(norman@amyhrf.org\)](mailto:norman@amyhrf.org) ; [Rebecca Bays \(rebecca.bays@bocc.citrus.fl.us\)](mailto:rebecca.bays@bocc.citrus.fl.us) ; [Richard Kane \(rkane@usgs.gov\)](mailto:rkane@usgs.gov) ; [Richard Radacky \(rradacky@cityofbrooksville.us\)](mailto:rradacky@cityofbrooksville.us) ; [Ron Miller \(rmille76@tampabay.rr.com\)](mailto:Ron.Miller) ; [Sarah Tenison \(cityofweekiwachee@yahoo.com\)](mailto:cityofweekiwachee@yahoo.com) ; [Sullivan, Jack \(jsullivan@carltonfields.com\)](mailto:jsullivan@carltonfields.com) ; [Voyles, Carolyn \(Carolyn.Voyles@dep.state.fl.us\)](mailto:Carolyn.Voyles@dep.state.fl.us) ; [Whitey Markle \(whmarkle@gmail.com\)](mailto:whmarkle@gmail.com) ; janicehowie@aol.com ; [Abdon Sidibie](mailto:Abdon.Sidibie) ; [Alex McPherson \(aamcpherson@msn.com\)](mailto:aamcpherson@msn.com) ; [Ann - 2 Hodgson \(ahodgson@gmail.com\)](mailto:ahodgson@gmail.com) ; [Ann Hodgson \(ahodgson@audubon.org\)](mailto:ahodgson@audubon.org) ; [Bernard Berauer \(bfberauer@aol.com\)](mailto:bfberauer@aol.com) ; [Beverly Overa \(boverly@tampabay.rr.com\)](mailto:boverly@tampabay.rr.com) ; [Bill Garvin \(wgarvin@tampabay.rr.com\)](mailto:wgarvin@tampabay.rr.com) ; [Bob Caldwell \(Bobcaldwell51@yahoo.com\)](mailto:Bobcaldwell51@yahoo.com) ; [Brack Barker \(brack154@msn.com\)](mailto:brack154@msn.com) ; [Carl Matthai \(thebabesmimi@gmail.com\)](mailto:thebabesmimi@gmail.com) ; [Casey, Emily \(fcnwr@atlantic.net\)](mailto:fcnwr@atlantic.net) ; [Charles Dean \(dean.charles.web@flsenate.gov\)](mailto:dean.charles.web@flsenate.gov) ; [Charles Stonerock \(katcha.stonerock3@gmail.com\)](mailto:katcha.stonerock3@gmail.com) ; [Chris Safos \(chris.safos@embarqmail.com\)](mailto:chris.safos@embarqmail.com) ; [Czerwinski, Mike \(mczerwin@tampabay.rr.com\)](mailto:mczerwin@tampabay.rr.com) ; [Darlene Herth \(2cetechnology21@gmail.com\)](mailto:2cetechnology21@gmail.com) ; [Darrell Snedecor \(president@citruscountyaudubon.com\)](mailto:Darrell.Snedecor) ; [Don Hiers \(dhiers3@gmail.com\)](mailto:dhiers3@gmail.com) ; [Douglas Dame \(doug_dame@yahoo.com\)](mailto:doug_dame@yahoo.com) ; [Elaine Luther \(barneyandcap@hotmail.com\)](mailto:barneyandcap@hotmail.com) ; [Emily Casey \(ecasey21@hotmail.com\)](mailto:ecasey21@hotmail.com) ; [Emma Knight \(eknight@wetlandsolutionsinc.com\)](mailto:eknight@wetlandsolutionsinc.com) ; [George Harbin \(gharbin@tampabay.rr.com\)](mailto:gharbin@tampabay.rr.com) ; [George McClog \(classof47@gmail.com\)](mailto:classof47@gmail.com) ; [Gorgon O'Connor \(gorgon_o@yahoo.com\)](mailto:gorgon_o@yahoo.com) ; [Harry Steiner \(harry109@aol.com\)](mailto:harry109@aol.com) ; [Jack Calbeck \(calbeckj@citrus.k12.fl.us\)](mailto:calbeckj@citrus.k12.fl.us) ; [jane Perrin \(jcsperinmd@sbcglobal.net\)](mailto:jcsperinmd@sbcglobal.net) ; Jerry

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Sent: Monday, July 30, 2012 12:16 PM

Subject: Appendices for Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Minimum Flow Reports

Greetings:

I am writing to inform you that appendices associated with updated Southwest Florida Water Management District reports on proposed minimum flows for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa river systems are now available from the District web site. The appendices are posted under the "Appendix" column for each system on the *Minimum Flows and Levels (Environmental Flows) Documents and Report Page* at:

http://www.swfwmd.state.fl.us/projects/mfl/mfl_reports.php

-

Thank you for your continued interest and support for the development of minimum flows for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa River systems.

Douglas A. Leeper
Chief Environmental Scientist
Water Resources Bureau
Southwest Florida Water Management District
2379 Broad Street
Brooksville, Florida 34604-6899
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Dan Hilliard
Director
W.A.R. Inc. (501.C3)
352/447-5434
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From: [Elaine Moore](#)
To: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: mtg on MFLs
Date: Monday, July 30, 2012 6:54:03 PM

Please postpone the SWFWMD GB mtg until December in Brooksville. Also please hold a MFL workshop in Lecanto before then. Thanks.

Elaine B. Moore

Moore & Moore Realty, Inc.
dba Chassahowitzka River Campground
9820 W. Yulee Drive
Homosassa, FL 34448
800 660-8850 352 621-3004

From: [Brad Rimbey](#)
To: [Veronica Crow](#)
Cc: [Dan Hilliard](#); phubbell@wraconsultants.com; [Brent Whitley](#); rebecca.bays@bocc.citrus.fl.us; rasjudy@tampabay.rr.com; Charlene.Stroehlen@amec.com; mwright@chronicleonline.com; [Philip Rhinesmith](#); [Mike Heyl](#); [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Re: Chaz Headspring Restoration Project
Date: Monday, July 30, 2012 9:43:19 PM

Ms. Crow,

Thank you again for your reply and the additional information.

I'm not really sure how the confidentiality of the two qualified bids meshes with Florida 119 FS "Public Records" but that seems ultimately irrelevant.

What is relevant is the fact that SWFWMD cannot assure Florida's taxpayers that the Chassahowitzka Headspring Restoration Project will do anything to restore any spring flow to the Chassahowitzka River. Please correct me if I am mistaken but it is my understanding that the Weeki Wachee and Homosassa River headspring restoration projects were complete failures. It is my understanding that any cosmetic restoration resultant from these projects was completely unnoticeable within one year of their completion. If the SWFWMD has any data which indicates that these projects restored any flow to Weeki Wachee or Homosassa after completion, I would like to receive that data.

Regarding SWFWMD's aspirations of restoration to the benthic habitat in Chassahowitzka's Headspring, please correct me if I am mistaken but it is my understanding that SWFWMD is currently proposing to destroy 15% of the benthic community in the Chassahowitzka River via spring flow reduction under the auspices of the MFL program.

While I would like to see the sandy bottom of Chassahowitzka's Headspring once more in my lifetime, I think the money for this project would be better spent pursuing alternative water supplies. The District should be focusing its energy and resources to pursuing AWS's to reduce the Consumptive Use Permits which are currently being issued with complete indescression to any requestor in Chassahowitzka's Springshed. SWFWMD's continued issuance of these CUP's is killing this Outstanding Florida Water.

Brad W. Rimbey, P.E. for the
Chassahowitzka River Restoration Committee

----- Original Message -----

From: [Veronica Crow](#)
To: [Brad Rimbey](#)
Cc: [Dan Hilliard](#); phubbell@wraconsultants.com; [Brent Whitley](#); rebecca.bays@bocc.citrus.fl.us; rasjudy@tampabay.rr.com; Charlene.Stroehlen@amec.com; mwright@chronicleonline.com; [Philip Rhinesmith](#); [Mike Heyl](#); [Doug Leeper](#)
Sent: Monday, July 30, 2012 5:08 PM
Subject: RE: Chaz Headspring Restoration Project

Mr. Rimbey,

I apologize for the delayed response, I had several meetings last week that took me out of the office.

The original engineers dredging and disposal estimate provided in the Feasibility Study for the restoration project was between \$147,282 and \$285,189. However, that cost did not include several additional services (ex: polymer addition) that were determined to be needed during the

design/permitting phase. The revised engineers estimate provided by MACTEC in May 2012 was \$682,155 and included archaeological services, dewatering processes, etc. I think the \$1.3M estimate stems from prebid meeting conversations however, I've not found documentation supporting that.

I am unable to release the dollar amounts of the two qualified bid responses. They are considered confidential until such time as the project is awarded or one year after originally received. This is done to protect the respondents and allow them to participate again in the competitive bid process. This is done pursuant to Section 119.071(1)(3), Florida Statute.

The District is pursuing this project as part of an overall springs restoration effort. We do not know if this project will result in an increase in the discharge from the main vent. The purpose of the project is to restore the benthic habitat to be suitable for recruitment of native vegetation which will, in turn, improve water quality/clarity.

Sincerely,
Veronica

Veronica Crow
Environmental Section Manager
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----- Original Message -----

From: [Brad Rimbey](#)
To: [Veronica Crow](#)
Cc: mwright@chronicleonline.com ; Charlene.Stroehlen@amec.com ; [Doug Leeper](#) ; [Mike Heyl](#) ; [Philip Rhinesmith](#) ; rasjudy@tampabay.rr.com ; rebecca.bays@bocc.citrus.fl.us ; brentwhitley@sierra-properties.com ; phubbell@wraconsultants.com ; 2buntings@comcast.net
Sent: Thursday, July 19, 2012 4:46 PM
Subject: Re: Chaz Headspring Restoration Project

Ms. Crow,

Thanks for taking the time to answer my questions. Just a few more and I will quit bothering you about this.

Last year Mike Wright published an article in the Citrus County Chronicle about this project. That article can be found here.
<http://www.chronicleonline.com/content/chassahowitzka-challenge-water-management-district-restoring-river-thing-beauty>

Mr. Wright indicated the total cost of this project was to be \$1.3 million. Can you confirm that figure? Also, are you able to release the dollar amounts of the two qualified but over-budget bids you received?

One last thought and question. I have to wonder if this project would be necessary if the Chaz Main Spring was flowing anywhere near its historic first magnitude levels. It seems the spring would clear its own throat (and the spring pool) of muck if it was flowing as it did in years past. I doubt we will see those flow rates ever again. The currently proposed MFL flow reduction of 11% will certainly not help in this regard. Does the SWFWMD believe that cleaning the muck out of the main spring pool will increase the spring flow or is this project strictly about enhancing the aesthetics of the spring pool by temporarily restoring it to a white sandy bottom?

Brad W. Rimbey, P.E. for the
Chassahowitzka River Restoration Committee

----- Original Message -----

From: [Veronica Craw](mailto:Veronica.Craw@swfwmd.com)
To: [Brad Rimbey](mailto:Brad.Rimbey@swfwmd.com)
Cc: 2buntings@comcast.net ; phubbell@wraconsultants.com ; brentwhitley@sierra-properties.com
; rebecca.bays@bocc.citrus.fl.us ; rasjudy@tampabay.rr.com ; [Philip Rhinesmith](mailto:Philip.Rhinesmith@swfwmd.com) ; [Mike Heyl](mailto:Mike.Heyl@swfwmd.com) ; [Doug Leeper](mailto:Doug.Leeper@swfwmd.com) ; Charlene.Stroehlen@amec.com ; mwright@chronicleonline.com
Sent: Thursday, July 19, 2012 2:50 PM
Subject: RE: Chaz Headspring Restoration Project

Mr. Rimbey,

This project never received funding from the Legislature.

The project was initiated through a cooperative funding agreement between the District and Citrus County. Citrus County was the lead and hired BCI Engineers & Scientists to perform a feasibility study. The work performed included conceptual design plans and sediment surveys for which they were paid \$49,643.44 (the Coastal Rivers Basin Board funded \$24,821.72 and the County contributed an equal amount).

The next phase of the project was led by the District and included final design and permitting activities. The District selected Mactec Engineering and Consulting, Inc. and paid \$75,000. These funds were budgeted by the Coastal Rivers Basin Board and were fully reimbursed through the Water Management Lands Trust Fund.

A sediment characterization study was performed as part of the feasibility study that determined the physical and chemical characteristics of the sediment. Organic matter in various forms represents about 20% of the total sediment mass, and includes wood chips, leaves, and other vegetative matter. However, the exact source of the material was not determined.

I appreciate your concern and share your desire to see the spring system restored. The District is committed to the completion of this project.

Veronica Craw
Environmental Section Manager
Southwest Florida Water Management District

2379 Broad Street
Brooksville, FL 34604
352-796-7211 ext. 4267
veronica.craw@swfwmd.state.fl.us

From: Brad Rimbey [<mailto:BWR.CRRC@tampabay.rr.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, July 18, 2012 6:53 PM
To: Veronica Craw
Cc: 2buntings@comcast.net; phubbell@wraconsultants.com; brentwhitley@sierra-properties.com; rebecca.bays@bocc.citrus.fl.us; rasjudy@tampabay.rr.com; Philip Rhinesmith; Mike Heyl; Doug Leeper; Charlene.Stroehlen@amec.com; mwright@chronicleonline.com
Subject: Re: Chaz Headspring Restoration Project

Ms. Craw,

Thank you for your response. At this point, I am in the "believe it when I see it" mode. SWFWMD has put this project on the back burner for so many years that it has become something of a standing (bad) local joke. By any chance, would you happen to know when this project was funded by the legislature? Anecdotally, I am told it was at least ten years ago.

Also, I would be interested in knowing how much money was paid to MACTEC (Project # 60631001050) and BCI (Project # 03-13653.7) to produce a set of restoration procedures which were ultimately unaffordable.

Add to this SWFWMD's proposed further degradation of the Chassahowitzka River via the MFL program. To say the least, we are not impressed with SWFWMD's efforts to protect and restore this Outstanding Florida Water (designated on January 5, 1993).

If you have any thoughts regarding Citrus County's continuing practice of spraying toxic herbicides (with FWC's blessing) into the canals which are tributary to this OFW, I would like to hear them. No doubt these cheap-and-dirty invasive aquatic plant management practices have contributed greatly to the muck which must now be removed at considerable expense to the tax payer.

Brad W. Rimbey, P.E. for the
Chassahowitzka River Restoration Committee

----- Original Message -----

From: [Veronica Craw](mailto:Veronica.Craw@swfwmd.state.fl.us)
To: [Brad Rimbey](mailto:Brad.Rimbey@swfwmd.state.fl.us) ; [Brad - CRRC Rimbey](mailto:Brad.CRRC@swfwmd.state.fl.us)
Cc: mwright@chronicleonline.com ; Charlene.Stroehlen@amec.com ; [Doug Leeper](mailto:Doug.Leeper@swfwmd.state.fl.us) ; [Mike Heyl](mailto:Mike.Heyl@swfwmd.state.fl.us) ; [Philip Rhinesmith](mailto:Philip.Rhinesmith@swfwmd.state.fl.us) ; rasjudy@tampabay.rr.com ; rebecca.bays@bocc.citrus.fl.us ; brentwhitley@sierra-properties.com ; phubbell@wraconsultants.com ; 2buntings@comcast.net
Sent: Wednesday, July 18, 2012 3:40 PM
Subject: RE: Chaz Headspring Restoration Project

Mr. Rimbey,

The District is committed to completing the Chassahowitzka Headspring Restoration Project and to using taxpayer dollars wisely. The District advertised a Request for Bids (RFB) and received two qualified responses. However, these bids exceeded the District's budget for the project and, in addition, the bidders could not complete the project within the permitted construction window this year due to manatee restrictions mandated by the United States

Fish and Wildlife Service as specified in the United States Army Corps of Engineers permit for the project.

In response to Florida Department of Environmental Protection permit conditions, the District also conducted extensive sediment quality tests that determined that the material that will be removed during the restoration can be beneficially used in agricultural operations rather than needing to be disposed of in a Class I landfill. This new information will likely reduce the cost of the project significantly and save taxpayer dollars. We anticipate reissuing another RFB this fall that will allow for greater disposal options and are confident the project will be conducted next spring/summer. If you have additional questions, please feel free to contact me.

Veronica Crow
Environmental Section Manager
Southwest Florida Water Management District
2379 Broad Street
Brooksville, FL 34604
352-796-7211 ext. 4267
veronica.crow@swfwmd.state.fl.us

From: Brad Rimbey [<mailto:brimbey3@tampabay.rr.com>]
Sent: Monday, July 16, 2012 8:06 PM
To: Brad - CRRC Rimbey
Cc: mwright@chronicleonline.com; Charlene.Stroehlen@amec.com; Doug Leeper; Mike Heyl; Veronica Crow; Philip Rhinesmith
Subject: Chaz Headspring Restoration Project

All,

As expected, the long awaited (and long ago legislatively funded) Chassahowitzka Headspring Restoration Project has once again failed to launch this year.

In short, the SWFWMD has wasted so much money studying the "no brainer" problem that they have no money remaining to implement the obvious solution. Your tax dollars at work?! Really pathetic!

How was the Weeki Wachee main spring restoration completed? How was the Homosassa main spring restoration completed? Why is the Chassahowitzka main spring restoration project too complex and expensive to complete?! This is not rocket science folks!! Suck out the mud, haul it away, and dump it in an approved landfill!!

The SWFWMD's rejection letter for all bids is attached. The attached and other relevant documents to the "Chassahowitzka Headspring Restoration Project" can be found at <http://www.swfwmd.state.fl.us/business/contproc/solicitations.php> .

Brad W. Rimbey, P.E. for the
Chassahowitzka River Restoration Committee

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From: [Bob Knight](#)
To: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: RE: Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Minimum Flows Update
Date: Tuesday, July 31, 2012 8:20:06 AM

Doug

Thank you for sending this information. Please keep me in the loop concerning any board meetings for discussion or approval of these MFLs.

Best wishes,

Bob

From: Doug Leeper [mailto:Doug.Leeper@swfwmd.state.fl.us]
Sent: Friday, July 27, 2012 4:46 PM
To: Al Grubman (grubman1@gmail.com); Bill Geiger (bgeiger@cityofbrooksville.us); Bill Pouder (bill.pouder@myfwc.com); Boyd Blihovde (Boyd_Blihovde@fws.gov); Brad Rimbey (BWR.CRRC@tampabay.rr.com); Brent Whitley (brentwhitley@sierra-properties.com); Brockway, Alys (abrockway@co.hernando.fl.us); Dennis D. Dutcher (Dennis3ds@aol.com); Frank DiGiovanni (administration@inverness-fl.gov); Greenwood, Kathleen; Helen Spive; Hilliard, Dan (2buntings@comcast.net); Hoehn, Ted; Hope Corona (hopecorona@tampabay.rr.com); Jim Farley (jfarley682@aol.com); Katie Tripp (ktripp@savethemanatee.org); Norman Hopkins (norman@amyhrf.org); Rebecca Bays (rebecca.bays@bocc.citrus.fl.us); Richard Kane (rkane@usgs.gov); Richard Radacky (rradacky@cityofbrooksville.us); Ron Miller (rmille76@tampabay.rr.com); Sarah Tenison (cityofweekiwachee@yahoo.com); Sullivan, Jack (jsullivan@carltonfields.com); Voyles, Carolyn (Carolyn.Voyles@dep.state.fl.us); Whitey Markle (whmarkle@gmail.com); (janicehowie@aol.com); Abdon Sidibie; Alex McPherson (aamcpherson@msn.com); Ann - 2 Hodgson (ahodgson@gmail.com); Ann Hodgson (ahodgson@audubon.org); Bernard Berauer (bfberauer@aol.com); Beverly Overa (boverly@tampabay.rr.com); Bill Garvin (wgarvin@tampabay.rr.com); Bob Caldwell (Bobcaldwell51@yahoo.com); Brack Barker (brack154@msn.com); Carl Matthai (thebabesmimi@gmail.com); Casey, Emily (fcnwr@atlantic.net); Charles Dean (dean.charles.web@flsenate.gov); Charles Stonerock (katcha.stonerock3@gmail.com); Chris Safos (chrissafos@embarqmail.com); Czerwinski, Mike (mczerwin@tampabay.rr.com); Darlene Herth (2cetechnology21@gmail.com); Darrell Snedecor (president@citruscountyaudubon.com); Don Hiers (dhiers3@gmail.com); Douglas Dame (doug_dame@yahoo.com); Elaine Luther (barneyandcap@hotmail.com); Emily Casey (ecasey21@hotmail.com); Emma Knight (eknight@wetlandssolutionsinc.com); George Harbin (gharbin@tampabay.rr.com); George McClog (classof47@gmail.com); Gorgon O'Connor (gorgon_o@yahoo.com); Harry Steiner (harry109@aol.com); Jack Calbeck (calbeckj@citrus.k12.fl.us); jane Perrin (jcsperrinmd@sbcglobal.net); Jerry Morton (JerrMorton@aol.com); Jessie Gourlie (gourliej@thirdplanetwind.com); Jim Collins (jimmiekey22@yahoo.com); Jimmie Smith (Jimmie.Smith@myfloridahouse.gov); Joe Calamari; John Lord (jclord109@yahoo.com); John Mayo (freedomway1@gmail.com); Karen Johnstone (kjohns213@sbcglobal.net); Kim Caldwell (caldwell.kimberly@yahoo.com); Kim Dinkins (kim.dinkins@marioncountyfl.org); Linda Pierce (tpierce35@tampabay.rr.com); Linda Vanderveen (hernandoaudubon@yahoo.com); Mary Anne Lynn (mlynn1978@tampabay.rr.com); Matthew Corona (mcorona1@tampabay.rr.com); Max Rhinesmith (rhinesmith@webtv.net); Amber Breland; Andy Houston (ahouston@crystalriverfl.org); Art Yerian (Al.Yerian@dep.state.fl.us); Ben Weiss; Beth Hovinde; Brad Thorpe (brad.thorpe@bocc.citrus.fl.us); Courtney Edwards (cedwards@savethemanatee.org); Dale Jones (Jones@MyFWC.com); Dana Bryan (dana.bryan@dep.state.fl.us); Darrell Snedecor; David Hamilton (countyadministrator@hernandocounty.us); David Hankla (david_hankla@fws.gov); Don Wright (wright@sura.org); Dusty McDevitt (mcdevitt@usgs.gov); Ed Call (marvin.call@MyFWC.com); Eric Nagid

(eric.nagid@MyFWC.com); FFWCC MFLs Review E-Mail Address (fwccconservationplanningservices@myfwc.com); J. J. Kenney (jj.kenney@bocc.citrus.fl.us); Jennene Norman-Vacha (jnvacha@ci.brooksville.fl.us); Joyce_Kleen@fws.gov; Kandi Harper (kandi.harper@bocc.citrus.fl.us); Keith Ramos (Keith.Ramos@fws.gov); Kent Smith (kent.smith2@myfwc.com); Kevin Grimsley (kjgrims@usgs.gov); Michael Lusk (Michael_Lusk@fws.gov); Mitchell Newberger (mnewberger@verizon.net); Nick Robbins (Nick.Robbins@dep.state.fl.us); Nicole Adimey (Nicole_Adimey@fws.gov); Paul Thomas (paulw.thomas@MyFWC.com); Ron Mezich (ron.mezich@MyFWC.com); Shelly Yaun (shelly.yaun@dep.state.fl.us); Toby Brewer (Toby.Brewer@dep.state.fl.us); Tracy Colson; Wallace, Traci; Adkins, Jim; Bitter, Jim; Bryant, Richard; Cantero, Vince; Carpenter, Paul; Cheek, Ken; Daniels, Chase; Dueker, Duane; Gordon, Lisa-Perras; Gramling, Hugh; Harrelson, Cathy; Hubbell, Pete; Johnson, Eric; Johnson, Martyn; Keim, Robert; Kincaid, Todd; Kline, Allen; Knight, Bob; Knudson, Ross; Overa, Tom; Owen, Rick; Parrow, Liz; Rolf Auermann (rauerman@tampabay.rr.com); Rusnak, Teddi; Tarochinoe, Joseph; Watkins, Priscilla; Watrous, Russell; Weber, Ken; Wilson, Roger; WRWSA; aquahab@gmail.com; bocacatlover@gmail.com; bruceseaman@zoho.com; btrfly21@msn.com; casabianca@live.com; celesteas@gmail.com; christina.joyinmotion@gmail.com; citizen@fsmail.net; dancross@bellsouth.net; dawnsdusks@bellsouth.net; dreandvicki@bellsouth.net; earthy_wolf@hotmail.com; ecocosm@bellsouth.net; egarvett@gmail.com; gmorotti@gmail.com; gregatourhouse@hotmail.com; Gulf Restoration Network; heylady1948@yahoo.com; jjinabnw@att.net; jumbly8@yahoo.com; karensmith187@gmail.com; licy75@aol.com; linda@perry.net; llbalaw@gmail.com; mccunesfla@aol.com; mejides@yahoo.com; mshargel@gmail.com; mwalker13fr@gmail.com; pete22roc@aol.com; prunemstr@aol.com; rebeccaruby@msn.com; riverguide2000@yahoo.com; robertadever@yahoo.com; robsand@bellsouth.net; ronm430@aol.com; rrriley71@att.net; rst333@hotmail.com; salleeaba@me.com; ssiegmann@gmail.com; staceydaniels@shellpoint.org; sunpreston@gmail.com; sunwrent@aol.com; tonytke@yahoo.com; warrior_red@hotmail.com; zerogirl@gmail.com; ahlers.karen@gmail.com; apostolicboylargo@yahoo.com; catsandcrops@yahoo.com; cattleya@comcast.net; dan-lesley@att.net; detororachel@yahoo.com; gunnhonican@aol.com; jackyboy86@gmail.com; jehallh20@aol.com; jimbrunton@yahoo.com; kbolomey@aol.com; l.j.travers@gmail.com; lazygin@bellsouth.net; lfurgal@yahoo.com; lrdevine@yahoo.com; lrpm2@yahoo.com; lrpm22@gmail.com; meem4822@aol.com; melissa.allen@hotmail.com; missyno@bellsouth.net; obyrynen@bellsouth.net; pjtpowers@hotmail.com; popcomic@tampabay.rr.com; rfay808700@aol.com; rhinopias@comcast.net; scott.logan@aon.com; segnbora@gmail.com; snorklmike@yahoo.com; studio8@infionline.net; tabdolphins@yahoo.com; tno2007@aol.com; vaughan@fireflyclay.com; youelyoga@gmail.com; ziffel1@bellsouth.net; aairis@aol.com; babij204@msn.com; ban260zz@yahoo.com; bv@wvmlaw.com; crmcglone@moose-mail.com; dirgis3@aol.com; dougpowless@hotmail.com; facwetkat@hotmail.com; faithoogs@aol.com; firewaterair@gmail.com; gomerlu@yahoo.com; jactetchmson@hotmail.com; jnovotny@comcast.net; jrjzr@yahoo.com; keth@awakening-healing.com; lbedinger@yahoo.com; long5892@bellsouth.net; lori_mccraney@yahoo.com; mark@bassanio.dsl.atlantic.net; masonfamily@centurylink.net; morgan@cc-events.org; navistar@wildmail.com; parneixr@cfl.rr.com; quehoraes7@aol.com; rantala.mervi@gmail.com; robin@greenerpixels.com; saralee.lem@gmail.com; scooke1107@hotmail.com; segocl@aol.com; sharonbrich@yahoo.com; skeiser@dadeschools.net; slnofear@aol.com; tcglover58@hotmail.com; tcsmith57@hotmail.com; terry@awakening-healing.com; treehugger52768@gmail.com; vinnymullins@live.com

Subject: Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Minimum Flows Update

Greetings:

I am writing to inform you that the Southwest Florida Water Management District has developed revised minimum flow recommendations for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa River systems. Minimum flows identify "...the the limit at which further withdrawals would be significantly harmful to the water resources or ecology of the area" (Section 373.042, Florida Statutes), are adopted by the District Governing Board into Chapter 40D-8, Florida Administrative Code, and are used for regulatory purposes, including the review and issuance of water use permits.

The revised, recommended minimum flows for the Chassahowitzka River System are 91% of its natural flow and the revised, recommended minimum flows for the Homosassa River System are

97% of its natural flow. Natural flow is defined as the flow that would exist in the absence of water withdrawals. There are currently no surface-water withdrawals from either system permitted by the District and flow reductions in each that can be attributed to groundwater withdrawals are approximately 1% of the natural flows. When expressed from a water-use perspective, the revised minimum flow recommendations correspond with allowable flow reductions of up to 9% for the Chassahowitzka system and 3% for the Homosassa system. What this means is that compared to the existing conditions, the proposed minimum flows would allow additional reductions of 8% for the Chassahowitzka system and 2% for the Homosassa system.

The currently recommended minimum flows differ from those previously proposed for the river systems and outlined in draft technical reports that were developed in 2010. The previously recommended minimum flows required that 89% of the natural flow in the Chassahowitzka system and 95% of the natural flow in the Homosassa system must be maintained, i.e., not removed as a result of water withdrawals.

Differences between the previously recommended and currently recommended minimum flows for the river systems can be attributed to analyses that were completed based on scientific peer review and stakeholder review of the previously recommended minimum flows. The analyses are summarized in updated technical reports that are posted on the *River Systems and Springs* tab on the *Minimum Flows and Levels (Environmental Flows) Documents and Reports* page of the District web site. Updated appendices for the reports will soon be posted to the same web page. Report titles and a link to the web page are provided below. Major report revisions, including those associated with development of the revised recommended minimum flows are also summarized below.

Report Titles and Link to the Minimum Flows and Levels (Environmental Flows) Documents and Report Page

Recommended Minimum Flows for the Chassahowitzka River System, July 15, 2012

Recommended Minimum Flows for the Homosassa River System, July 15, 2012

http://www.swfwmd.state.fl.us/projects/mfl/mfl_reports.php

Major Report Updates Addressing Changes to Minimum Flow Recommendations for the Chassahowitzka River System

- Recommended changing allowable reductions in natural flow from 11% to 9%.
- Included discussion of independent scientific peer review findings and stakeholder input received through July 15, 2012 (Chapters 9 and Section 11.18).
- Used an adjusted flow record for modeling purposes to account for existing withdrawal impacts (Sections 2.3.1.1.1 and 8.2).
- Evaluated impacts of future sea level change on salinity-based habitats (Sections 3.2 and 8.3).
- Added discussion regarding confidence and use of modeled flow impacts on fish/invertebrate abundance (Section 7.1).
- Added discussion regarding confidence and use of modeled impacts on habitats associated with salinities of 2 or less (Section 7.3).
- Evaluated effects of potential flow reductions on primary productivity (Sections 5.5 and 7.5).
- Added discussion regarding blue crab response to flow (Sections 7.1 and 11.16).

- Revised discussion of water quality issues and expanded discussion of minimum flow impact on water quality (Sections 4.3, 8.4 and 11.17).
- Updated long-term hydrologic statistics that may be used to support minimum flow compliance evaluations (Section 8.2).
- Incorporated and updated additional supporting documents in report appendices (Sections 11.14 through 11.18).
- Added an additional model for predicting submerged aquatic vegetation density as a function of salinity (Section 7.2).

Major Report Updates Addressing Changes to Minimum Flow Recommendations for the Homosassa River System

- Recommended changing allowable reduction in natural flow from 5% to 3%.
- Included discussion of independent scientific peer review findings and stakeholder input received through July 15, 2012 (Chapter 6 and Appendices S, T, U, V, and W).
- Used an adjusted flow record for modeling purposes to account for existing withdrawal impacts (Section 7.3).
- Evaluated impacts of future sea level change on salinity-based habitats (Section 7.3).
- Enhanced discussion regarding confidence and use of modeled flow impacts on fish/invertebrate abundance (Section 5.5).
- Added discussion regarding confidence and use of modeled impacts on habitats associated with salinities of 2 or less (Sections 5.3.3, 5.5 and 7.3.1).
- Evaluated effects of potential flow reductions on primary productivity (Section 7.2).
- Added discussion regarding blue crab response to flow (Section 6.3).
- Revised discussion of water quality issues and expanded discussion of minimum flow impact on water quality (Sections 2.8.1, 2.8.3, 2.8.10 and 7.4).
- Developed long-term hydrologic statistics that may be used to support minimum flow compliance evaluations (Section 7.4).
- Incorporated and updated additional supporting documents in report appendices (Appendices A, D through Z, AA, and AB)
- Evaluated effects of flow reductions ranging from 1 to 4% on salinity-based habitats; previous lowest evaluated flow reduction was 5% (Section 7.3).

Staff plans to present rule amendments associated with the revised minimum flow recommendations to the District Governing at the Board meeting scheduled to be held on August 28, 2012 at the District Headquarters in Brooksville. Board meetings are open to the public and individuals or group representatives may address the Board concerning any meeting agenda item or other water management issue.

The District has established a web site for accepting comments on the proposed minimum flows at:

WaterMatters.org/SpringsCoastMFL

The District is accepting comments via this web page through **Wednesday, August 15, 2012**, on the revised recommended minimum flows for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa river systems. Comments submitted after this date should be submitted in writing via e-mail or letter, using the

following contact information.

Email: executive@watermatters.org

Address: 2379 Broad Street, Brooksville, FL 34604, ATTN: Governing Board

Thanks for your interest and continued support for the development of minimum flows for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa River systems.

Douglas A. Leeper
Chief Environmental Scientist
Water Resources Bureau
Southwest Florida Water Management District
2379 Broad Street
Brooksville, Florida 34604-6899
1-800-423-1476, ext. 4272 (FL only)
352-796-7211, ext. 4272
352-754-6885 (Fax)
doug.leeper@watermatters.org

Douglas A. Leeper
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From: [MAD MAX](#)
To: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Re: Appendices for Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Minimum Flow Reports
Date: Tuesday, July 31, 2012 8:28:02 AM

I still feel it is immoral and Not cool to send Other folks email addresses out to EVeryone. Man dude.. ur list is over 50! Doesn]t anyone else complain?

From: WaterMatters.org
To: croomwalker@gmail.com
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Tuesday, July 31, 2012 10:19:22 AM



Hi Lucille,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series. Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

*Please do not lower the MFLs for the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers -- both are suffering from extensive pollution due to many anthropogenic causes, and have lost their 1993 designation as Outstanding Florida Waters. I also urge you to consider the invitation from Citrus County Audubon and other environmental organizations for SWFWMD decision-makers to visit these rivers. Seeing the damage that has already been done to Florida's heritage would help bring understanding as to why we oppose the proposed change in MFLs. Thank you.
Lucille Lane*

From: [Beverly Overa](#)
To: "[Brad Rimbey](#)"; [Veronica Crow](#)
Cc: "[Dan Hilliard](#)"; phubbell@wraconsultants.com; "[Brent Whitley](#)"; rebecca.bays@bocc.citrus.fl.us; rasjudy@tampabay.rr.com; Charlene.Stroehlen@amec.com; mwright@chronicleonline.com; [Philip Rhinesmith](#); [Mike Heyl](#); [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: RE: Chaz Headspring Restoration Project
Date: Tuesday, July 31, 2012 11:02:34 AM

Brad,

Thank you for your tenacity in understanding and furthering this issue. The BoCC's refusal to take a stand for our waterways will surely destroy the very ecosystem that makes our County so desirable to visitors and new retirees who seek escape and solace from the results of the timidity, incompetence and greed of their leaders.

Dr. K.C. Nayfield framed the opinion of many, if not most, people when he wrote in the July 29 Chronicle piece, "I have no problems with people making money. I do have a problem with people making huge profits at the expense of the environment or my quality of life."

Quality of life – it does mean different things to different people, but water is basic, not just quantity, but quality. Just ask the folks in Cedar Key whose faucets deliver undrinkable salt water. No gardening now, unless they have roof-fed cisterns for the rainwater like my family did when I was young. And property values? Well yes, it is nice to live by the sea, but not when it's coming out of your faucets.

You and other concerned, very well informed and educated citizens made an effort (at their own expense) to educate the BoCC on the flawed science being used to defend the MFL reductions – to no avail. Yes, Citrus County is open for business, but it must be only new businesses they are interested in, not the multi-million dollar tourist industry that has sustained us during this economic downturn.

So look for an Adena Ranch or something like it soon – slaughterhouse or just more houses and golf courses. The 1% of wealth will come to take the remainder of the 1% of fresh, potable water.

[Beverly Overa](#)

boverly@tampabay.rr.com

From: Brad Rimbey [mailto:BWR.CRRC@tampabay.rr.com]
Sent: Monday, July 30, 2012 9:43 PM
To: Veronica Crow
Cc: Dan Hilliard; phubbell@wraconsultants.com; Brent Whitley; rebecca.bays@bocc.citrus.fl.us; rasjudy@tampabay.rr.com; Charlene.Stroehlen@amec.com; mwright@chronicleonline.com; Philip Rhinesmith; Mike Heyl; Doug Leeper
Subject: Re: Chaz Headspring Restoration Project

Ms. Crow,

Thank you again for your reply and the additional information.

I'm not really sure how the confidentiality of the two qualified bids meshes with Florida 119 FS "Public Records" but that seems ultimately irrelevant.

What is relevant is the fact that SWFWMD cannot assure Florida's taxpayers that the Chassahowitzka Headspring Restoration Project will do anything to restore any spring flow to the Chassahowitzka River. Please correct me if I am mistaken but it is my understanding that the Weeki Wachee and Homosassa River headspring restoration projects were complete failures. It is my understanding that any cosmetic restoration resultant from these projects was completely unnoticeable within one year of their completion. If the SWFWMD has any data which indicates that these projects restored any flow to Weeki Wachee or Homosassa after completion, I would like to receive that data.

Regarding SWFWMD's aspirations of restoration to the benthic habitat in Chassahowitzka's Headspring, please correct me if I am mistaken but it is my understanding that SWFWMD is currently proposing to destroy 15% of the benthic community in the Chassahowitzka River via spring flow reduction under the auspices of the MFL program.

While I would like to see the sandy bottom of Chassahowitzka's Headspring once more in my lifetime, I think the money for this project would be better spent pursuing alternative water supplies. The District should be focusing its energy and resources to pursuing AWS's to reduce the Consumptive Use Permits which are currently being issued with complete indescression to any requestor in Chassahowitzka's Springshed. SWFWMD's continued issuance of these CUP's is killing this Outstanding Florida Water.

Brad W. Rimbey, P.E. for the
Chassahowitzka River Restoration Committee

----- Original Message -----

From: [Veronica Crow](#)

To: [Brad Rimbey](#)

Cc: [Dan Hilliard](#) ; phubbell@wraconsultants.com ; [Brent Whitley](#) ; rebecca.bays@bocc.citrus.fl.us ; rasjudy@tampabay.rr.com ; Charlene.Stroehlen@amec.com ; mwright@chronicleonline.com ; [Philip Rhinesmith](#) ; [Mike Heyl](#) ; [Doug Leeper](#)

Sent: Monday, July 30, 2012 5:08 PM

Subject: RE: Chaz Headspring Restoration Project

Mr. Rimbey,

I apologize for the delayed response, I had several meetings last week that took me out of the office.

The original engineers dredging and disposal estimate provided in the Feasibility Study for the restoration project was between \$147,282 and \$285,189. However, that cost did not include several additional services (ex: polymer addition) that were determined to be needed during the design/permitting phase. The revised engineers estimate provided by MACTEC in May 2012 was \$682,155 and included archaeological services, dewatering processes, etc. I think the \$1.3M estimate stems from prebid meeting conversations however, I've not found documentation supporting that.

I am unable to release the dollar amounts of the two qualified bid responses. They are considered confidential until such time as the project is awarded or one year after originally received. This is done to protect the respondents and allow them to participate again in the

competitive bid process. This is done pursuant to Section 119.071(1)(3), Florida Statute.

The District is pursuing this project as part of an overall springs restoration effort. We do not know if this project will result in an increase in the discharge from the main vent. The purpose of the project is to restore the benthic habitat to be suitable for recruitment of native vegetation which will, in turn, improve water quality/clarity.

Sincerely,
Veronica

Veronica Craw
Environmental Section Manager
Southwest Florida Water Management District
2379 Broad Street
Brooksville, FL 34604
352-796-7211 ext. 4267
veronica.craw@swfwmd.state.fl.us

----- Original Message -----

From: [Brad Rimbey](#)
To: [Veronica Craw](#)
Cc: mwright@chronicleonline.com ; Charlene.Stroehlen@amec.com ; [Doug Leeper](#) ; [Mike Heyl](#) ; [Philip Rhinesmith](#) ; rasjudy@tampabay.rr.com ; rebecca.bays@bocc.citrus.fl.us ; brentwhitley@sierra-properties.com ; phubbell@wraconsultants.com ; 2buntings@comcast.net
Sent: Thursday, July 19, 2012 4:46 PM
Subject: Re: Chaz Headspring Restoration Project

Ms. Craw,

Thanks for taking the time to answer my questions. Just a few more and I will quit bothering you about this.

Last year Mike Wright published an article in the Citrus County Chronicle about this project. That article can be found here.

<http://www.chronicleonline.com/content/chassahowitzka-challenge-water-management-district-restoring-river-thing-beauty>

Mr. Wright indicated the total cost of this project was to be \$1.3 million. Can you confirm that figure? Also, are you able to release the dollar amounts of the two qualified but over-budget bids you received?

One last thought and question. I have to wonder if this project would be necessary if the Chaz Main Spring was flowing anywhere near its historic first magnitude levels. It seems the spring would clear its own throat (and the spring pool) of muck if it was flowing as it did in years past. I doubt we will see those flow rates ever again. The currently proposed MFL flow reduction of 11% will certainly not help in this regard. Does the SWFWMD believe that cleaning the muck out of the main spring pool will increase the spring flow or is this project strictly about enhancing the aesthetics of the spring pool by temporarily restoring it to a white sandy bottom?

Brad W. Rimbey, P.E. for the

Chassahowitzka River Restoration Committee

----- Original Message -----

From: [Veronica Craw](mailto:Veronica.Craw@swfwmd.state.fl.us)

To: [Brad Rimbey](mailto:Brad.Rimbey@tampabay.rr.com)

Cc: 2buntings@comcast.net ; phubbell@wraconsultants.com ; brentwhitley@sierra-properties.com ; rebecca.bays@bocc.citrus.fl.us ; rasjudy@tampabay.rr.com ; [Philip Rhinesmith](mailto:Philip.Rhinesmith@sierra-properties.com) ; [Mike Heyl](mailto:Mike.Heyl@sierra-properties.com) ; [Doug Leeper](mailto:Doug.Leeper@sierra-properties.com) ; Charlene.Stroehlen@amec.com ; mwright@chronicleonline.com

Sent: Thursday, July 19, 2012 2:50 PM

Subject: RE: Chaz Headspring Restoration Project

Mr. Rimbey,

This project never received funding from the Legislature.

The project was initiated through a cooperative funding agreement between the District and Citrus County. Citrus County was the lead and hired BCI Engineers & Scientists to perform a feasibility study. The work performed included conceptual design plans and sediment surveys for which they were paid \$49,643.44 (the Coastal Rivers Basin Board funded \$24,821.72 and the County contributed an equal amount).

The next phase of the project was led by the District and included final design and permitting activities. The District selected Mactec Engineering and Consulting, Inc. and paid \$75,000. These funds were budgeted by the Coastal Rivers Basin Board and were fully reimbursed through the Water Management Lands Trust Fund.

A sediment characterization study was performed as part of the feasibility study that determined the physical and chemical characteristics of the sediment. Organic matter in various forms represents about 20% of the total sediment mass, and includes wood chips, leaves, and other vegetative matter. However, the exact source of the material was not determined.

I appreciate your concern and share your desire to see the spring system restored. The District is committed to the completion of this project.

Veronica Craw
Environmental Section Manager
Southwest Florida Water Management District
2379 Broad Street
Brooksville, FL 34604
352-796-7211 ext. 4267
veronica.craw@swfwmd.state.fl.us

From: Brad Rimbey [<mailto:BWR.CRRC@tampabay.rr.com>]

Sent: Wednesday, July 18, 2012 6:53 PM

To: Veronica Craw

Cc: 2buntings@comcast.net; phubbell@wraconsultants.com; brentwhitley@sierra-properties.com;

rebecca.bays@bocc.citrus.fl.us; rasjudy@tampabay.rr.com; Philip Rhinesmith; Mike Heyl; Doug Leeper; Charlene.Stroehlen@amec.com; mwright@chronicleonline.com
Subject: Re: Chaz Headspring Restoration Project

Ms. Craw,

Thank you for your response. At this point, I am in the "believe it when I see it" mode. SWFWMD has put this project on the back burner for so many years that it has become something of a standing (bad) local joke. By any chance, would you happen to know when this project was funded by the legislature? Anecdotally, I am told it was at least ten years ago.

Also, I would be interested in knowing how much money was paid to MACTEC (Project # 60631001050) and BCI (Project # 03-13653.7) to produce a set of restoration procedures which were ultimately unaffordable.

Add to this SWFWMD's proposed further degradation of the Chassahowitzka River via the MFL program. To say the least, we are not impressed with SWFWMD's efforts to protect and restore this Outstanding Florida Water (designated on January 5, 1993).

If you have any thoughts regarding Citrus County's continuing practice of spraying toxic herbicides (with FWC's blessing) into the canals which are tributary to this OFW, I would like to hear them. No doubt these cheap-and-dirty invasive aquatic plant management practices have contributed greatly to the muck which must now be removed at considerable expense to the tax payer.

Brad W. Rimbey, P.E. for the
Chassahowitzka River Restoration Committee

----- Original Message -----

From: [Veronica Craw](mailto:Veronica.Craw)
To: [Brad Rimbey](mailto:Brad.Rimbey) ; Brad - CRRC Rimbey
Cc: mwright@chronicleonline.com ; Charlene.Stroehlen@amec.com ; [Doug Leeper](mailto:Doug.Leeper) ; [Mike Heyl](mailto:Mike.Heyl) ; [Philip Rhinesmith](mailto:Philip.Rhinesmith) ; rasjudy@tampabay.rr.com ; rebecca.bays@bocc.citrus.fl.us ; brentwhitley@sierra-properties.com ; phubbell@wraconsultants.com ; 2buntings@comcast.net
Sent: Wednesday, July 18, 2012 3:40 PM
Subject: RE: Chaz Headspring Restoration Project

Mr. Rimbey,

The District is committed to completing the Chassahowitzka Headspring Restoration Project and to using taxpayer dollars wisely. The District advertised a Request for Bids (RFB) and received two qualified responses. However, these bids exceeded the District's budget for the project and, in addition, the bidders could not complete the project within the permitted construction window this year due to manatee restrictions mandated by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service as specified in the United States Army Corps of Engineers permit for the project.

In response to Florida Department of Environmental Protection permit conditions, the District also conducted extensive sediment quality tests that determined that the material that will be removed during the restoration can be beneficially used in agricultural operations rather than needing to be disposed of in a Class I landfill. This new information will likely reduce the cost of the project significantly and save taxpayer dollars. We anticipate reissuing another RFB this fall that will allow for greater disposal options and are confident the project will be

conducted next spring/summer. If you have additional questions, please feel free to contact me.

Veronica Crow
Environmental Section Manager
Southwest Florida Water Management District
2379 Broad Street
Brooksville, FL 34604
352-796-7211 ext. 4267
veronica.craw@swfwmd.state.fl.us

From: Brad Rimbey [<mailto:brimbey3@tampabay.rr.com>]
Sent: Monday, July 16, 2012 8:06 PM
To: Brad - CRRC Rimbey
Cc: mwright@chronicleonline.com; Charlene.Stroehlen@amec.com; Doug Leeper; Mike Heyl; Veronica Crow; Philip Rhinesmith
Subject: Chaz Headspring Restoration Project

All,

As expected, the long awaited (and long ago legislatively funded) Chassahowitzka Headspring Restoration Project has once again failed to launch this year.

In short, the SWFWMD has wasted so much money studying the "no brainer" problem that they have no money remaining to implement the obvious solution. Your tax dollars at work?! Really pathetic!

How was the Weeki Wachee main spring restoration completed? How was the Homosassa main spring restoration completed? Why is the Chassahowitzka main spring restoration project too complex and expensive to complete?! This is not rocket science folks!! Suck out the mud, haul it away, and dump it in an approved landfill!!!

The SWFWMD's rejection letter for all bids is attached. The attached and other relevant documents to the "Chassahowitzka Headspring Restoration Project" can be found at <http://www.swfwmd.state.fl.us/business/contproc/solicitations.php>.

Brad W. Rimbey, P.E. for the
Chassahowitzka River Restoration Committee

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Version: 2012.0.2197 / Virus Database: 2437/5160 - Release Date: 07/28/12

IMPORTANT NOTICE: All E-mail sent to or from this address are public record and archived. The Southwest Florida Water Management District does not allow use of District equipment and E-mail facilities for non-District business purposes.

From: JaniceHowie@aol.com
To: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Board of Governors Meeting for the revised MFL Proposals for Homosassa and Chas
Date: Tuesday, July 31, 2012 3:56:17 PM

I would prefer waiting until December for the proposals to be presented to the Board in Brooksville, but would be able to attend a meeting in Tampa earlier as well. Jan Howie

From: WaterMatters.org
To: FLkrakr@yahoo.com
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Tuesday, July 31, 2012 8:43:01 PM



Hi Diane,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series. Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

Dear Board Members, I am appalled to learn to that you are STILL recommending that minimum flow levels be reduced for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers. This is not acceptable. Isn't it your job to SAVE our waters, not destroy them? As a 5th generation Florida native I have slowly watched the decline of my beautiful home state along with the quality of our waters. We cannot continue to suck our aquifer dry of our precious waters. I have to ask if you have a plan in place in the eventuality that our aquifer is unable to support the number of people in this state? What happens then? Where do we find the money to build desalinization plants to begin pumping the Gulf of Mexico dry? Why are we not working to find ways to conserve our water? Please view this video that I shot on Chassahowitzka River earlier this year: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ljk_9afmhQY&list=UUJ4ISAaCiOGxclP2CbS6Gng&index=1&feature=plcp If we continue to allow more and more of our waters to be destroyed I no longer will be able to view this kind of wildlife from my kayak on this beautiful river. Please....SAVE our waters! Respectfully, Diane Lewis

From: [Nancy Kost](#)
To: [Doug Leeper](#)
Cc: [Brad Rimbey@CRRC](#); [Darrell](#)
Subject: FW: Appendices for Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Minimum Flow Reports
Date: Wednesday, August 01, 2012 11:00:11 AM

In response to Brad Rimbey's email, on behalf of Citrus County Audubon Society I am requesting that the Springs Coast MFL proposals be presented in Brooksville in December with a public workshop in Lecanto prior to that time in order to afford our membership/supporters a better opportunity to participate in both events.

[Nancy Kost](#)
[Citrus County Audubon Society](#)

-----Original Message-----

From: Brad Rimbey [mailto:BWR.CRRC@tampabay.rr.com]
Sent: Monday, July 30, 2012 1:23 PM
To: Doug Leeper
Subject: Re: Appendices for Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Minimum Flow Reports

Doug,

Thanks for the phone call earlier today. I have talked to a few people since we spoke and it seems more people are concerned about driving to Tampa for a GB meeting than I thought.

For those of you who are being copied on this, Doug is trying to get a feel for when/where we would prefer to have the MFL proposals for Chassahowitzka and Homosassa presented to SWFWMD's GB. It seems Doug's suggestion that the MFL proposals would be presented to the GB on August 28 in Brooksville was based primarily on SWFWMD's desire to choose a meeting location which would be convenient for Springs Coast residents to attend. Unfortunately, the logistics of this time choice would make it impossible for SWFWMD to receive and reply to the input they will be likely be receiving on these revised proposals. The September and October SWFWMD GB meetings will be held in Tampa. The November SWFWMD GB meeting will be in Haines City. The December SWFWMD GB will be back in Brooksville.

Please take a moment to let Doug know your thoughts on this. His email address is Doug.Leeper@swfwmd.state.fl.us. I hate to put this off until December but perhaps that is the best option to allow local input to be heard by SWFWMD's GB on this important issue. August 28 is off the table.

I would also ask that SWFWMD considers presenting one more MFL public workshop (possibly in Lecanto) to explain the basis for the substantive changes which are being proposed to the previously proposed MFLs for these Outstanding Florida Waters. One workshop for both the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers would be fine.

Brad W. Rimbey, P.E. for the
Chassahowitzka River Restoration Committee

----- Original Message -----

Sent: Monday, July 30, 2012 12:16 PM
Subject: Appendices for Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Minimum Flow Reports

Greetings:

I am writing to inform you that appendices associated with updated Southwest Florida Water Management District reports on proposed minimum flows for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa river systems are now available from the District web site. The appendices are posted under the "Appendix" column for each system on the *Minimum Flows and Levels (Environmental Flows) Documents and Report Page* at:

http://www.swfwmd.state.fl.us/projects/mfl/mfl_reports.php

Thank you for your continued interest and support for the development of minimum flows for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa River systems.

Douglas A. Leeper
Chief Environmental Scientist
Water Resources Bureau
Southwest Florida Water Management District
2379 Broad Street
Brooksville, Florida 34604-6899
1-800-423-1476, ext. 4272 (FL only)
352-796-7211, ext. 4272
352-754-6885 (Fax)
doug.leeper@watermatters.org

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Version: 2012.0.2197 / Virus Database: 2437/5160 - Release Date: 07/28/12

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From: [Veronica Crow](#)
To: [Doug Leeper](#); [Mike Heyl](#)
Cc: [Jerry Mallams](#); [Eric DeHaven](#); [Mark Hammond](#); [Kenneth R. Herd](#); [Christopher Pettit](#); [Chris Zajac](#)
Subject: FW: Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Minimum Flows Update
Date: Wednesday, August 01, 2012 4:26:27 PM
Attachments: [2012 Feb letter to Mr. Newberger.pdf](#)
Importance: High

FYI. See message below from EPA to FDEP.

Daryll Joyner is going to tell EPA to coordinate with Janet Llewellyn, FDEP.

Chris Pettit has already passed this on to Laura and Karen West.

Veronica Crow
Environmental Section Manager
Southwest Florida Water Management District
2379 Broad Street
Brooksville, FL 34604
352-796-7211 ext. 4267
veronica.craw@swfwmd.state.fl.us

From: Joyner, Daryll [<mailto:Daryll.Joyner@dep.state.fl.us>]
Sent: Wednesday, August 01, 2012 2:04 PM
To: Veronica Crow
Subject: Fw: Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Minimum Flows Update

Fyi

Sent from my BlackBerry Wireless Handheld

Please take a few minutes to share your comments on the service you received from the department by clicking on this link [DEP Customer Survey](#).

From: Lisa-Perras Gordon
To: Joyner, Daryll; Bartlett, Drew
Cc: Joanne Benante ; Annie Godfrey ; Lauren Petter ; Michele Wetherington
Sent: Wed Aug 01 10:55:16 2012
Subject: Fw: Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Minimum Flows Update

Drew, Daryll,

Checking back in with you now that the revised MFLs for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa are out for comment and review. In our February 23, 2012 letter to Mr. Newberger (below), we committed to working with FDEP "to ensure that any CWA concerns are addressed."

We heard from Mr. Newberger as soon as the revision came out and he is very interested in the results of a review which compares the proposed MFL with the CWA. I'm planning on sending him an email later today (and cc you) that we'll be looking at the revised documents and working with FDEP as

planned.

If we have any comments, they are due by August 15. SWFWMD is going to their Governing Board by August 28. Quite a quick turnaround. **I'll be doing the review in the next couple of days.** Who should I work with at FDEP on any comments or questions that I may have? Was there someone at FDEP who may have worked with SWFWMD on the revisions?

Thanks,
Lisa G.

Lisa Perras Gordon, Environmental Scientist
Water Quality Planning Branch
Water Protection Division
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Atlanta, Georgia
(404) 562-9317

(See attached file: 2012 Feb letter to Mr. Newberger.pdf)
----- Forwarded by Lisa-Perras Gordon/R4/USEPA/US on 08/01/2012 10:41 AM -----

From: Doug Leeper <Doug.Leeper@swfwmd.state.fl.us>
To: "Al Grubman (grubman1@gmail.com)" <grubman1@gmail.com>, "Bill Geiger (bgeiger@cityofbrooksville.us)" <bgeiger@cityofbrooksville.us>, "Bill Pouder (bill.pouder@myfwc.com)" <bill.pouder@myfwc.com>, "Boyd Blihovde (Boyd_Blihovde@fws.gov)" <Boyd_Blihovde@fws.gov>, "Brad Rimbey (BWR.CRRC@tampabay.rr.com)" <BWR.CRRC@tampabay.rr.com>, "Brent Whitley (brentwhitley@sierra-properties.com)" <brentwhitley@sierra-properties.com>, "Brockway, Alys (abrockway@co.hernando.fl.us)" <abrockway@co.hernando.fl.us>, "Dennis D. 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Date: 07/27/2012 04:47 PM

Subject: Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Minimum Flows Update

Greetings:

I am writing to inform you that the Southwest Florida Water Management District has developed revised minimum flow recommendations for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa River systems. Minimum flows identify "...the limit at which further withdrawals would be significantly harmful to the water resources or ecology of the area" (Section 373.042, Florida Statutes), are adopted by the District Governing Board into Chapter 40D-8,

Florida Administrative Code, and are used for regulatory purposes, including the review and issuance of water use permits.

The revised, recommended minimum flows for the Chassahowitzka River System are 91% of its natural flow and the revised, recommended minimum flows for the Homosassa River System are 97% of its natural flow. Natural flow is defined as the flow that would exist in the absence of water withdrawals. There are currently no surface-water withdrawals from either system permitted by the District and flow reductions in each that can be attributed to groundwater withdrawals are approximately 1% of the natural flows. When expressed from a water-use perspective, the revised minimum flow recommendations correspond with allowable flow reductions of up to 9% for the Chassahowitzka system and 3% for the Homosassa system. What this means is that compared to the existing conditions, the proposed minimum flows would allow additional reductions of 8% for the Chassahowitzka system and 2% for the Homosassa system.

The currently recommended minimum flows differ from those previously proposed for the river systems and outlined in draft technical reports that were developed in 2010. The previously recommended minimum flows required that 89% of the natural flow in the Chassahowitzka system and 95% of the natural flow in the Homosassa system must be maintained, i.e., not removed as a result of water withdrawals.

Differences between the previously recommended and currently recommended minimum flows for the river systems can be attributed to analyses that were completed based on scientific peer review and stakeholder review of the previously recommended minimum flows. The analyses are summarized in updated technical reports that are posted on the *River Systems and Springs* tab on the *Minimum Flows and Levels (Environmental Flows) Documents and Reports* page of the District web site. Updated appendices for the reports will soon be posted to the same web page. Report titles and a link to the web page are provided below. Major report revisions, including those associated with development of the revised recommended minimum flows are also summarized below.

Report Titles and Link to the Minimum Flows and Levels (Environmental Flows) Documents and Report Page

Recommended Minimum Flows for the Chassahowitzka River System, July 15, 2012

Recommended Minimum Flows for the Homosassa River System, July 15, 2012

http://www.swfwmd.state.fl.us/projects/mfl/mfl_reports.php

Major Report Updates Addressing Changes to Minimum Flow Recommendations for the Chassahowitzka River System

- Recommended changing allowable reductions in natural flow from 11% to 9%.
- Included discussion of independent scientific peer review findings and stakeholder input received through July 15, 2012 (Chapters 9 and Section 11.18).
- Used an adjusted flow record for modeling purposes to account for existing withdrawal impacts (Sections 2.3.1.1.1 and 8.2).
- Evaluated impacts of future sea level change on salinity-based habitats (Sections 3.2 and 8.3).
- Added discussion regarding confidence and use of modeled flow impacts on fish/invertebrate abundance (Section 7.1).
- Added discussion regarding confidence and use of modeled impacts on habitats associated with salinities of 2 or less (Section 7.3).
- Evaluated effects of potential flow reductions on primary productivity (Sections 5.5 and 7.5).
- Added discussion regarding blue crab response to flow (Sections 7.1 and 11.16).
- Revised discussion of water quality issues and expanded discussion of minimum flow impact on water quality (Sections 4.3, 8.4 and 11.17).
- Updated long-term hydrologic statistics that may be used to support minimum flow compliance evaluations (Section 8.2).
- Incorporated and updated additional supporting documents in report appendices (Sections 11.14 through 11.18).
- Added an additional model for predicting submerged aquatic vegetation density as a function of

salinity (Section 7.2).

Major Report Updates Addressing Changes to Minimum Flow Recommendations for the Homosassa River System

- Recommended changing allowable reduction in natural flow from 5% to 3%.
- Included discussion of independent scientific peer review findings and stakeholder input received through July 15, 2012 (Chapter 6 and Appendices S, T, U, V, and W).
- Used an adjusted flow record for modeling purposes to account for existing withdrawal impacts (Section 7.3).
- Evaluated impacts of future sea level change on salinity-based habitats (Section 7.3).
- Enhanced discussion regarding confidence and use of modeled flow impacts on fish/invertebrate abundance (Section 5.5).
- Added discussion regarding confidence and use of modeled impacts on habitats associated with salinities of 2 or less (Sections 5.3.3, 5.5 and 7.3.1).
- Evaluated effects of potential flow reductions on primary productivity (Section 7.2).
- Added discussion regarding blue crab response to flow (Section 6.3).
- Revised discussion of water quality issues and expanded discussion of minimum flow impact on water quality (Sections 2.8.1, 2.8.3, 2.8.10 and 7.4).
- Developed long-term hydrologic statistics that may be used to support minimum flow compliance evaluations (Section 7.4).
- Incorporated and updated additional supporting documents in report appendices (Appendices A, D through Z, AA, and AB)
- Evaluated effects of flow reductions ranging from 1 to 4% on salinity-based habitats; previous lowest evaluated flow reduction was 5% (Section 7.3).

Staff plans to present rule amendments associated with the revised minimum flow recommendations to the District Governing at the Board meeting scheduled to be held on August 28, 2012 at the District Headquarters in Brooksville. Board meetings are open to the public and individuals or group representatives may address the Board concerning any meeting agenda item or other water management issue.

The District has established a web site for accepting comments on the proposed minimum flows at:

WaterMatters.org/SpringsCoastMFL

The District is accepting comments via this web page through **Wednesday, August 15, 2012**, on the revised recommended minimum flows for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa river systems. Comments submitted after this date should be submitted in writing via e-mail or letter, using the following contact information.

Email: executive@watermatters.org

Address: 2379 Broad Street, Brooksville, FL 34604, ATTN: Governing Board

Thanks for your interest and continued support for the development of minimum flows for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa River systems.

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UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 4
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61 FORSYTH STREET
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303-8960

FEB 23 2012

Mr. Mitchell A. Newberger
820 Newberger Road
Lutz, Florida 33549

Dear Mr. Newberger:

Thank you for your patience as we continue to review your concerns regarding the Minimum Flows and Levels (MFL) being set on the Chassahowitzka River. We have discussed this issue with both the Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD) and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP).

It is our understanding that the SWFWMD is revising the proposed MFL for Chassahowitzka River based on concerns expressed at the public hearings, and that the new MFL is scheduled to be released at the end of February. Once it is released, we will follow-up with FDEP to ensure that any Clean Water Act concerns are addressed.

We will contact you after the review of the new MFL is complete. If you have any questions prior to that time, please contact Lisa Perras Gordon of my staff at 404-562-9317 or gordon.lisa-perras@epa.gov.

Again, thank you for your patience.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Joanne Benante".

Joanne Benante, Chief
Water Quality Planning Branch
Water Protection Division

From: WaterMatters.org
To: [Jason A. Drane](#)
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Thursday, August 02, 2012 8:08:00 AM



Hi Jason,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series. Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

From: WaterMatters.org
To: [Jason A. Drane](#)
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Thursday, August 02, 2012 8:24:48 AM



Hi Jason,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series. Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

From: [Brad Rimbey](#)
To: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Fw: Appendices for Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Minimum Flow Reports
Date: Thursday, August 02, 2012 7:24:49 PM

Doug,

Has SWFWMD made a decision regarding the date/location when the Chassahowitzka/Homosassa MFL proposals are to be presented to the GB? Any decision on the suggestion for another Springs Coast workshop to discuss current MFL proposals for Chassahowitzka and Homosassa?

Brad

----- Original Message -----

From: [Brad Rimbey](#)
To: [Doug Leeper](#)
Sent: Monday, July 30, 2012 4:23 PM
Subject: Re: Appendices for Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Minimum Flow Reports

Doug,

Thanks for the phone call earlier today. I have talked to a few people since we spoke and it seems more people are concerned about driving to Tampa for a GB meeting than I thought.

For those of you who are being copied on this, Doug is trying to get a feel for when/where we would prefer to have the MFL proposals for Chassahowitzka and Homosassa presented to SWFWMD's GB. It seems Doug's suggestion that the MFL proposals would be presented to the GB on August 28 in Brooksville was based primarily on SWFWMD's desire to choose a meeting location which would be convenient for Springs Coast residents to attend. Unfortunately, the logistics of this time choice would make it impossible for SWFWMD to receive and reply to the input they will be likely be receiving on these revised proposals. The September and October SWFWMD GB meetings will be held in Tampa. The November SWFWMD GB meeting will be in Haines City. The December SWFWMD GB will be back in Brooksville.

Please take a moment to let Doug know your thoughts on this. His email address is Doug.Leeper@swfwmd.state.fl.us. I hate to put this off until December but perhaps that is the best option to allow local input to be heard by SWFWMD's GB on this important issue. August 28 is off the table.

I would also ask that SWFWMD considers presenting one more MFL public workshop (possibly in Lecanto) to explain the basis for the substantive changes which are being proposed to the previously proposed MFLs for these Outstanding Florida Waters. One workshop for both the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers would be fine.

Brad W. Rimbey, P.E. for the
Chassahowitzka River Restoration Committee

----- Original Message -----

From: [Doug Leeper](#)
To: [Al Grubman \(grubman1@gmail.com\)](mailto:Al_Grubman_grubman1@gmail.com) ; [Bill Geiger \(bgeiger@cityofbrooksville.us\)](mailto:Bill_Geiger_bgeiger@cityofbrooksville.us) ; [Bill Pouder \(bill.pouder@myfwc.com\)](mailto:Bill_Pouder_bill.pouder@myfwc.com) ; [Boyd Blihovde \(Boyd_Blihovde@fws.gov\)](mailto:Boyd_Blihovde_Boyd_Blihovde@fws.gov) ; [Brad Rimbey \(BWR.CRRC@tampabay.rr.com\)](#) ; [Brent Whitley \(brentwhitley@sierra-properties.com\)](mailto:Brent_Whitley_brentwhitley@sierra-properties.com) ; [Brockway Alys \(abrockway@co.hernando.fl.us\)](mailto:Brockway_Alys_abrockway@co.hernando.fl.us) ; [Dennis D. Dutcher \(Dennis3ds@aol.com\)](mailto:Dennis_D._Dutcher_Dennis3ds@aol.com) ; [Frank DiGiovanni \(administration@inverness-fl.gov\)](mailto:Frank_DiGiovanni_administration@inverness-fl.gov) ; [Greenwood, Kathleen](#) ; [Helen Spive](#) ; [Hilliard, Dan](#)

(2buntings@comcast.net) ; [Hoehn, Ted](#) ; [Hope Corona \(hopecorona@tampabay.rr.com\)](mailto:HopeCorona@tampabay.rr.com) ; [Jim Farley \(jfarley682@aol.com\)](#) ; [Katie Tripp \(ktripp@savethemanatee.org\)](mailto:ktripp@savethemanatee.org) ; [Norman Hopkins \(norman@amyhrf.org\)](#) ; [Rebecca Bays \(rebecca.bays@bocc.citrus.fl.us\)](mailto:rebecca.bays@bocc.citrus.fl.us) ; [Richard Kane \(rkane@usgs.gov\)](#) ; [Richard Radacky \(rradacky@cityofbrooksville.us\)](mailto:rradacky@cityofbrooksville.us) ; [Ron Miller \(rmille76@tampabay.rr.com\)](#) ; [Sarah Tenison \(cityofweekiwachee@yahoo.com\)](mailto:cityofweekiwachee@yahoo.com) ; [Sullivan, Jack \(jsullivan@carltonfields.com\)](#) ; [Voyles, Carolyn \(Carolyn.Voyles@dep.state.fl.us\)](mailto:Carolyn.Voyles@dep.state.fl.us) ; [Whitely Markle \(whmarkle@gmail.com\)](#) ; janicehowie@aol.com ; [Abdon Sidibie](#) ; [Alex McPherson \(aamcpherson@msn.com\)](#) ; [Ann - 2 Hodgson \(ahodgson@gmail.com\)](mailto:ahodgson@gmail.com) ; [Ann Hodgson \(ahodgson@audubon.org\)](#) ; [Bernard Berauer \(bfberauer@aol.com\)](mailto:bfberauer@aol.com) ; [Beverly Overa \(boverly@tampabay.rr.com\)](#) ; [Bill Garvin \(wgarvin@tampabay.rr.com\)](mailto:wgarvin@tampabay.rr.com) ; [Bob Caldwell \(Bobcaldwell51@yahoo.com\)](#) ; [Brack Barker \(brack154@msn.com\)](mailto:brack154@msn.com) ; [Carl Matthai \(thebabesmimi@gmail.com\)](#) ; [Casey, Emily \(fcnwr@atlantic.net\)](mailto:fcnwr@atlantic.net) ; [Charles Dean \(dean.charles.web@flsenate.gov\)](#) ; [Charles Stonerock \(katcha.stonerock3@gmail.com\)](mailto:katcha.stonerock3@gmail.com) ; [Chris Safos \(chrissafos@embarqmail.com\)](#) ; [Czerwinski, Mike \(mczerwin@tampabay.rr.com\)](mailto:mczerwin@tampabay.rr.com) ; [Darlene Herth \(2cetechology21@gmail.com\)](#) ; [Darrell Snedecor \(president@citruscountyaudubon.com\)](mailto:president@citruscountyaudubon.com) ; [Don Hiers \(dhiers3@gmail.com\)](#) ; [Douglas Dame \(doug_dame@yahoo.com\)](mailto:doug_dame@yahoo.com) ; [Elaine Luther \(barneyandcap@hotmail.com\)](#) ; [Emily Casey \(ecasey21@hotmail.com\)](mailto:ecasey21@hotmail.com) ; [Emma Knight \(eknight@wetlandsolutionsinc.com\)](#) ; [George Harbin \(gharbin@tampabay.rr.com\)](mailto:gharbin@tampabay.rr.com) ; [George McClog \(classof47@gmail.com\)](#) ; [Gorgon O'Connor \(gorgon_o@yahoo.com\)](mailto:gorgon_o@yahoo.com) ; [Harry Steiner \(harry109@aol.com\)](#) ; [Jack Calbeck \(calbeckj@citrus.k12.fl.us\)](mailto:calbeckj@citrus.k12.fl.us) ; [jane Perrin \(jcpserrinmd@sbcglobal.net\)](#) ; [Jerry Morton \(JerrMorton@aol.com\)](mailto:JerrMorton@aol.com) ; [Jessie Gourlie \(gourliej@thirdplanetwind.com\)](#) ; [Jim Collins \(jimmiekey22@yahoo.com\)](mailto:jimmiekey22@yahoo.com) ; [Jimmie Smith \(Jimmie.Smith@myfloridahouse.gov\)](#) ; [Joe Calamari](#) ; [John Lord \(jlclord109@yahoo.com\)](mailto:jlclord109@yahoo.com) ; [John Mayo \(freedomway1@gmail.com\)](#) ; [Karen Johnstone \(kjohns213@sbcglobal.net\)](mailto:kjohns213@sbcglobal.net) ; [Kim Caldwell \(caldwell.kimberly@yahoo.com\)](#) ; [Kim Dinkins \(kim.dinkins@marioncountyfl.org\)](mailto:kim.dinkins@marioncountyfl.org) ; [Linda Pierce \(tpierce35@tampabay.rr.com\)](#) ; [Linda Vanderveen \(hernandoaudubon@yahoo.com\)](mailto:hernandoaudubon@yahoo.com) ; [Mary Anne Lynn \(mlynn1978@tampabay.rr.com\)](#) ; [Matthew Corona \(mcorona1@tampabay.rr.com\)](mailto:mcorona1@tampabay.rr.com) ; [Max Rhinesmith \(rhinesmith@webtv.net\)](#) ; [Amber Breland](#) ; [Andy Houston \(ahouston@crystalriverfl.org\)](mailto:ahouston@crystalriverfl.org) ; [Art Yerian \(A.Yerian@dep.state.fl.us\)](#) ; [Ben Weiss](#) ; [Beth Hovinde](#) ; [Brad Thorpe \(brad.thorpe@bocc.citrus.fl.us\)](mailto:brad.thorpe@bocc.citrus.fl.us) ; [Courtney Edwards \(cedwards@savethemanatee.org\)](#) ; [Dale Jones \(Jones@MyFWC.com\)](mailto:Jones@MyFWC.com) ; [Dana Bryan \(dana.bryan@dep.state.fl.us\)](#) ; [Darrell Snedecor](#) ; [David Hamilton \(countyadministrator@hernandocounty.us\)](#) ; [David Hankla \(david_hankla@fws.gov\)](mailto:david_hankla@fws.gov) ; [Don Wright \(wright@sura.org\)](#) ; [Dusty McDevitt \(mcdevitt@usgs.gov\)](mailto:mcdevitt@usgs.gov) ; [Ed Call \(marvin.call@MyFWC.com\)](mailto:marvin.call@MyFWC.com) ; [Eric Nagid \(eric.nagid@MyFWC.com\)](#) ; [FFWCC MFLs Review E-Mail Address \(fwcconservationplanningservices@myfwc.com\)](mailto:FFWCC_MFLs_Review_E-Mail_Address@myfwc.com) ; [J. 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Kenney \(jj.kenney@bocc.citrus.fl.us\)](mailto:jj.kenney@bocc.citrus.fl.us) ; [Jennene Norman-Vacha \(jnvacha@ci.brooksville.fl.us\)](#) ; [Joyce Kleen \(Joyce_Kleen@fws.gov\)](mailto:Joyce_Kleen@fws.gov) ; [Kandi Harper \(kandi.harper@bocc.citrus.fl.us\)](#) ; [Keith Ramos \(Keith.Ramos@fws.gov\)](mailto:Keith.Ramos@fws.gov) ; [Kent Smith \(kent.smith2@myfwc.com\)](#) ; [Kevin Grimsley \(kjgrims@usgs.gov\)](mailto:kjgrims@usgs.gov) ; [Michael Lusk \(Michael_Lusk@fws.gov\)](#) ; [Mitchell Newberger \(mnewberger@verizon.net\)](mailto:mnewberger@verizon.net) ; [Nick Robbins \(Nick.Robbins@dep.state.fl.us\)](#) ; [Nicole Adimey \(Nicole_Adimey@fws.gov\)](mailto:Nicole_Adimey@fws.gov) ; [Paul Thomas \(paulw.thomas@MyFWC.com\)](mailto:paulw.thomas@MyFWC.com) ; [Ron Mezich \(ron.mezich@MyFWC.com\)](mailto:ron.mezich@MyFWC.com) ; [Shelly Yaun \(shelly.yaun@dep.state.fl.us\)](#) ; [Toby Brewer \(Toby.Brewer@dep.state.fl.us\)](mailto:Toby.Brewer@dep.state.fl.us) ; [Tracy Colson](#) ; [Wallace, Traci](#) ; [Adkins, Jim](#) ; [Bitter, Jim](#) ; [Bryant, Richard](#) ; [Cantero, Vince](#) ; [Carpenter, Paul](#) ; [Cheek, Ken](#) ; [Daniels, Chase](#) ; [Dueker, Duane](#) ; [Gordon, Lisa-Perras](#) ; [Gramling, Hugh](#) ; [Harrelson, Cathy](#) ; [Hubbell, Pete](#) ; [Johnson, Eric](#) ; [Johnson, Martyn](#) ; [Keim, Robert](#) ; [Kincaid, Todd](#) ; [Kline, Allen](#) ; [Knight, Bob](#) ; [Knudson, Ross](#) ; [Overa, Tom](#) ; [Owen, Rick](#) ; [Parrow, Liz](#) ; [Rolf Auermann \(rauerman@tampabay.rr.com\)](#) ; [Rusnak, Teddi](#) ; [Tarochinoe, Joseph](#) ; [Watkins, Priscilla](#) ; [Watrous, Russell](#) ; [Weber, Ken](#) ; [Wilson, Roger](#) ; [WRWSA](#) ; aquahab@gmail.com ; bocacatlover@gmail.com ; bruceseaman@zoho.com ; btrfly21@msn.com ; casabianca@live.com ; celesteas@gmail.com ; christina.joyinmotion@gmail.com ; citizen@fsmail.net ; dancross@bellsouth.net ; dawnsdusks@bellsouth.net ; dreandvicki@bellsouth.net ; earthy_wolf@hotmail.com ; ecocosm@bellsouth.net ; egarvett@gmail.com ; gmorotti@gmail.com ; gregatourhouse@hotmail.com ; [Gulf Restoration Network](#) ; heylady1948@yahoo.com ; jjinabnw@att.net ; jumby8@yahoo.com ; karensmith187@gmail.com ; licy75@aol.com ; linda@perry.net ; llbalaw@gmail.com ; mccunesfla@aol.com ; mejides@yahoo.com ; mshargel@gmail.com ; mwalker13fr@gmail.com ; pete22roc@aol.com ; prunemstr@aol.com ; rebeccaruby@msn.com ; riverguide2000@yahoo.com ; robertadever@yahoo.com ; robsand@bellsouth.net ; ronm430@aol.com ; rriley71@att.net ;

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treehugger52768@gmail.com ; vinnymullins@live.com

Sent: Monday, July 30, 2012 12:16 PM

Subject: Appendices for Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Minimum Flow Reports

Greetings:

I am writing to inform you that appendices associated with updated Southwest Florida Water Management District reports on proposed minimum flows for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa river systems are now available from the District web site. The appendices are posted under the "Appendix" column for each system on the *Minimum Flows and Levels (Environmental Flows) Documents and Report Page* at:

http://www.swfwmd.state.fl.us/projects/mfl/mfl_reports.php

-

Thank you for your continued interest and support for the development of minimum flows for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa River systems.

Douglas A. Leeper
Chief Environmental Scientist
Water Resources Bureau
Southwest Florida Water Management District
2379 Broad Street
Brooksville, Florida 34604-6899
1-800-423-1476, ext. 4272 (FL only)
352-796-7211, ext. 4272
352-754-6885 (Fax)
doug.leeper@watermatters.org

No virus found in this message.

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Version: 2012.0.2197 / Virus Database: 2437/5160 - Release Date: 07/28/12

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From: [hope](#)
To: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Re: Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Minimum Flows Update
Date: Friday, August 03, 2012 11:42:42 PM

Thank you Doug.

----- Original Message -----

From: [Doug Leeper](#)
To: [hope](#)
Sent: Friday, August 03, 2012 4:56 PM
Subject: RE: Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Minimum Flows Update

Hope –

Sorry to take so long in getting back to you. Just wanted to let you know that we are reviewing options concerning Board meeting schedules and the accommodation of stakeholder desires for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa minimum flows development process. I expect to be able to provide additional information early next week.

Thanks for your patience,

Douglas A. Leeper
Chief Environmental Scientist
Water Resources Bureau
Southwest Florida Water Management District
2379 Broad Street
Brooksville, Florida 34604-6899
1-800-423-1476, ext. 4272 (FL only)
352-796-7211, ext. 4272
352-754-6885 (Fax)
doug.leeper@watermatters.org

From: hope [mailto:hopecorona@tampabay.rr.com]
Sent: Monday, July 30, 2012 1:44 AM
To: Doug Leeper
Subject: Re: Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Minimum Flows Update

Hi Doug,

Could you send me 3 poster-size (large font) Notices (of Governing Board Meeting Date, Time, Location, and phone number / address / email to send comments regarding Chassahowitzka Minimum Flow) to put in the Chassahowitzka Community Bulletin Board for all those citizens in Chassahowitzka who do not have access to internet.

A basic, "what, when, where" type thing that lets the Community know that the District still intends to seriously reduce flow to our already ailing river, by 9%; and the dates/times/places where the meeting will be held, and a phone number for additional questions comments.

Citrus County made me the volunteer "custodian" of the Chassahowitzka community bulletin board at the Fire House, and gave me keys, but no money for ink, paper, printer, etc.....geeze. I don't know your public information officer, but would appreciate it if you ask him/her to please make up some "drive by and read" size notices to send me for the bulletin board.

I think SWFWMD should also post Notices in the Chassahowitzka Boat Ramp and Campground areas (District Owned Parcels where numerous Stakeholders frequent regularly).

My mailing address for the 3 Notices to put in the Chassahowitzka Community Bulletin Board is:

Hope Corona
10024 S. Riviera Pt.
Homosassa, FL 34448

Thank you,
hope

Remainder of e-mail string deleted by D. Leeper on 03 August 2012.

IMPORTANT NOTICE: All E-mail sent to or from this address are public record and archived. The Southwest Florida Water Management District does not allow use of District equipment and E-mail facilities for non-District business purposes.

From: WaterMatters.org
To: RAS0902@AOL.COM
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Sunday, August 05, 2012 5:23:38 PM



Hi Richard,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series. Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

Respectfully, from a 5th generation Floridian, after many, many years of enjoyment of the Chass, as my family before me, it would be wrong to take a chance on any negative thing affecting it such as reducing any of its flow. It needs to be left for future generations as it is. The tests and knowledge of now could be proven wrong in the not so far off future. Think of the damage the Cross Fl. Barge Canal would have done. It was proposed with the knowledge of the day and as time goes, not that long ago. 10 years before reevaluation would let irreversible damage be done, and as we know, could not be undone in our life time, if ever. And, as history proves once a flow reduction is approved, it will and can not be undone. Thank you for reading this, Rick Storman

From: WaterMatters.org
To: RAS0902@AOL.COM
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Sunday, August 05, 2012 5:23:38 PM



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PHONE LOG

Southwest Florida Water Management District

Brooksville, Florida

Issue: Minimum flows development for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa River Systems

Caller: Dan Hilliard, Withlacoochee Area Residents, Inc.

District Representative: Doug Leeper, Chief Environmental Scientist, Water Resources Bureau

Date: August 3, 2012

Notes Prepared by D. Leeper: Dan Hilliard called to discuss the reports/updates to the minimum flows for the Chassahowitzka River and the Homosassa River systems. He noted that the District appears to have put much effort into the development of the reports, and had some questions regarding the measurement of flows in the Chassahowitzka system.

We discussed flow measurement for the system and classification of springs based on the magnitude of flows. I noted that historical flow records for the system included contributions from Crab Creek, while more recent records do not.

From: [Kevin J. Grimsley](#)
To: [Alan Martyn Johnson](#)
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Re: Monthly Discharge Data Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Gage Sites
Date: Monday, August 06, 2012 6:13:58 PM

Martyn,

Sorry it took me a while to get back to you. Daily means are not calculated for days where too much data is erroneous or missing to calculate an accurate mean. That varies depending on how variable the data for each stations is. A tidally influenced station is much more variable than a larger inland stream for example.

When loading the monthly data from NWISWeb, there is check box labeled "Use incomplete data for statistics calculation". If you check that box, it will calculate a monthly mean even if some of the days are missing.

Kevin Grimsley, P.E.
Hydrologic Data Chief, Tampa
USGS, Florida Water Science Center
10500 University Center Drive, Suite 215
Tampa, FL 33612
kjgrims@usgs.gov
813-498-5064

From: Alan Martyn Johnson <martynellijay@hotmail.com>
To: Kevin J Grimsley <kjgrims@usgs.gov>
Cc: Doug Leeper <doug.leeper@swfwmd.state.fl.us>
Date: 07/30/2012 08:28 AM
Subject: Monthly Discharge Data Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Gage Sites

Kevin,
Sorry to trouble you again.

Some months ago I had used Monthly Discharge Data to derive some 5 year moving average discharges. For months where no data had been reported I avergaed between the adjacent months; not exactly scientific but it gave me a general picture. I would now like to better understand the blank fields in the monthly data.

The monthly discharge data shown on the Water Information web site are titled as Daily Mean data. I assume the monthly data is a simple arithmetic mean of the daily data. But, when discharge data missing e.g. for 2 hours, is a daily mean still calculated; or how much missing data before a daily mean is not calculated?

Guess that may not be the best way to ask my question as I am interested in the months that show as blank. So to put it another way, when the monthly data field is blank what are the

criteria for it to be blank?

Kevin,

This is a general question and not associated with the SE Fork during the time velocity meter data has been collected once each hour; but having raised that, how is the data going to be handled at the end of the water year?

Martyn

From: [Alan Martyn Johnson](#)
To: [Kevin J Grimsley](#)
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: RE: Monthly Discharge Data Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Gage Sites
Date: Tuesday, August 07, 2012 8:26:19 AM

Kevin,

Absolutely no problem on the delay, I am not in any rush for such answers and very much appreciate you responding.

I had noted and used the check box regarding incomplete data, it was that which lead me to think there may be some specific 'command line' that resulted in the blank fields i.e. defining 'too much'.

I understand your point about different stations having different characteristics, makes sense; it is a point I had not thought of due to my focus on data from the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka stations.

Is there a specific 'command line' defining "too much" for SE Fork 02310688, Homosassa Springs 02310678 and Chassahowitzka 02310650?

If there is, but it will take a lot of time to specifically identify a simple yes/no answer will be fine.

Thanks again,
Martyn

To: martynellijay@hotmail.com
CC: doug.leeper@swfwmd.state.fl.us
Subject: Re: Monthly Discharge Data Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Gage Sites
From: kjgrims@usgs.gov
Date: Mon, 6 Aug 2012 18:13:55 -0400

Martyn,

Sorry it took me a while to get back to you. Daily means are not calculated for days where too much data is erroneous or missing to calculate an accurate mean. That varies depending on how variable the data for each stations is. A tidally influenced station is much more variable than a larger inland stream for example.

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Kevin Grimsley, P.E.
Hydrologic Data Chief, Tampa
USGS, Florida Water Science Center
10500 University Center Drive, Suite 215
Tampa, FL 33612
kjgrims@usgs.gov
813-498-5064

From: Alan Martyn Johnson <martynellijay@hotmail.com>

To: Kevin J Grimsley <kjgrims@usgs.gov>
Cc: Doug Leeper <doug.leeper@swfwmd.state.fl.us>
Date: 07/30/2012 08:28 AM
Subject: Monthly Discharge Data Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Gage Sites

Kevin,
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Some months ago I had used Monthly Discharge Data to derive some 5 year moving average discharges. For months where no data had been reported I averaged between the adjacent months; not exactly scientific but it gave me a general picture. I would now like to better understand the blank fields in the monthly data.

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This is a general question and not associated with the SE Fork during the time velocity meter data has been collected once each hour; but having raised that, how is the data going to be handled at the end of the water year?

Martyn

From: [Kevin J. Grimsley](mailto:Kevin.J.Grimmsley@usgs.gov)
To: [Alan Martyn Johnson](mailto:Alan.Martyn.Johnson@usgs.gov)
Cc: [Doug Leeper](mailto:Doug.Leeper@usgs.gov)
Subject: Re: Monthly Discharge Data Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Gage Sites
Date: Tuesday, August 07, 2012 9:15:52 AM

Martyn,

No, there's not a hard and fast rule on what is "too much" missing data. The general rule is that they should still have 20 hours worth of valid data, but that can vary depending on what part of the hydrograph that data is missing on.

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I had noted and used the check box regarding incomplete data, it was that which lead me to think there may be some specific 'command line' that resulted in the blank fields i.e. defining 'too much'.

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Is there a specific 'command line' defining "too much" for SE Fork 02310688, Homosassa Springs 02310678 and Chassahowitzka 02310650?

If there is, but it will take a lot of time to specifically identify a simple yes/no answer will be fine.

Thanks again,
Martyn

To: martynellijay@hotmail.com
CC: doug.leeper@swfwmd.state.fl.us
Subject: Re: Monthly Discharge Data Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Gage Sites
From: kjgrims@usgs.gov

Date: Mon, 6 Aug 2012 18:13:55 -0400

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Martyn

From: [2buntings](#)
To: [Doug Leeper](#)
Cc: [Chris Zajac](#); [Christopher Pettit](#); [Darcy A. Brune](#); [Dave Dewitt](#); [Eric DeHaven](#); [Gary E. Williams](#); [Jay Yingling](#); [Jerry Mallams](#); [Karen West](#); [Kenneth R. Herd](#); [Laura Donaldson](#); [Lou Kavouras](#); [Mark Barcelo](#); [Mark Hammond](#); [Michael Molligan](#); [Mike Heyl](#); [Robyn O. Felix](#); [Ron Basso](#); [Sid Flannery](#); [Tammy Hinkle](#); [Veronica Crow](#); [Virginia Singer](#); [Xinjian Chen](#); [Yassert Gonzalez](#)
Subject: Re: Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Minimum Flows Update
Date: Tuesday, August 07, 2012 3:35:27 PM

Doug,

Thanks very much, we do appreciate the schedule change.

Dan

On 8/7/2012 3:30 PM, Doug Leeper wrote:

Greetings:

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Address: 2379 Broad Street, Brooksville, FL 34604, ATTN: Governing Board

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Douglas A. Leeper
Chief Environmental Scientist
Water Resources Bureau
Southwest Florida Water Management District
2379 Broad Street
Brooksville, Florida 34604-6899
1-800-423-1476, ext. 4272 (FL only)
352-796-7211, ext. 4272
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doug.leeper@watermatters.org

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--

Dan Hilliard
Director
W.A.R. Inc. (501.C3)
352/447-5434
www.warinonline.com

From: [Lisa-Perras Gordon](mailto:Lisa-Perras.Gordon)
To: [Doug Leeper](mailto:Doug.Leeper)
Subject: Re: Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Minimum Flows Update
Date: Tuesday, August 07, 2012 3:37:10 PM

Doug,

Can't tell you how happy we are to see this note! We've been scrambling to get the right folks to do a review since we got this last week - and with summer schedules, it was quite challenging. We were just discussing asking for an extension...so thanks for giving everyone time to do a thoughtful review! It is much appreciated!

Lisa Gordon

Lisa Perras Gordon, Environmental Scientist
Water Quality Planning Branch
Water Protection Division
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Atlanta, Georgia
(404) 562-9317

-----Doug Leeper <Doug.Leeper@swfwmd.state.fl.us> wrote: -----

To: Doug Leeper <Doug.Leeper@swfwmd.state.fl.us>
From: Doug Leeper <Doug.Leeper@swfwmd.state.fl.us>
Date: 08/07/2012 03:31PM
Cc: Chris Zajac <Chris.Zajac@swfwmd.state.fl.us>, Christopher Pettit <Christopher.Pettit@swfwmd.state.fl.us>, "Darcy A. Brune" <Darcy.Brune@swfwmd.state.fl.us>, Dave Dewitt <Dave.Dewitt@swfwmd.state.fl.us>, Eric DeHaven <Eric.Dehaven@swfwmd.state.fl.us>, "Gary E. Williams" <Gary.Williams@swfwmd.state.fl.us>, Jay Yingling <Jay.Yingling@swfwmd.state.fl.us>, Jerry Mallams <Jerry.Mallams@swfwmd.state.fl.us>, Karen West <Karen.West@swfwmd.state.fl.us>, "Kenneth R. Herd" <Ken.Herd@swfwmd.state.fl.us>, Laura Donaldson <Laura.Donaldson@swfwmd.state.fl.us>, Lou Kavouras <Lou.Kavouras@swfwmd.state.fl.us>, Mark Barcelo <Mark.Barcelo@swfwmd.state.fl.us>, Mark Hammond <Mark.Hammond@swfwmd.state.fl.us>, Michael Molligan <Michael.Molligan@swfwmd.state.fl.us>, Mike Heyl <Mike.Heyl@swfwmd.state.fl.us>, "Robyn O. Felix" <Robyn.Felix@swfwmd.state.fl.us>, Ron Basso <Ron.Basso@swfwmd.state.fl.us>, Sid Flannery <Sid.Flannery@swfwmd.state.fl.us>, Tammy Hinkle <Tammy.Hinkle@swfwmd.state.fl.us>, Veronica Craw <Veronica.Craw@swfwmd.state.fl.us>, Virginia Singer <Virginia.Singer@swfwmd.state.fl.us>, Xinjian Chen <Xinjian.Chen@swfwmd.state.fl.us>, Yassert Gonzalez <Yassert.Gonzalez@swfwmd.state.fl.us>
Subject: Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Minimum Flows Update

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Douglas A. Leeper

Chief Environmental Scientist

Water Resources Bureau

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From: [Brad Rimbey](#)
To: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Re: Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Minimum Flows Update
Date: Tuesday, August 07, 2012 3:58:35 PM

Thanks Doug. BTW, I am supposed to give a presentation on the Springs Coast MFLs to the Citrus County Council <http://citruscountycouncil.org/> tomorrow morning starting at 9:00 AM. Come up and help keep me honest ;-). I'll try to give an accurate and fair overview of where we are and how we got here the allotted 20 minutes. I will definitely be interested in finding out how many of the attendees bothered to attend any of the eight workshops which SWFWMD sponsored. Brad

----- Original Message -----

From: [Doug Leeper](#)
To: [Doug Leeper](#)
Cc: [Chris Zajac](#) ; [Christopher Pettit](#) ; [Darcy A. Brune](#) ; [Dave Dewitt](#) ; [Eric DeHaven](#) ; [Gary E. Williams](#) ; [Jay Yingling](#) ; [Jerry Mallams](#) ; [Karen West](#) ; [Kenneth R. Herd](#) ; [Laura Donaldson](#) ; [Lou Kavouras](#) ; [Mark Barcelo](#) ; [Mark Hammond](#) ; [Michael Molligan](#) ; [Mike Heyl](#) ; [Robyn O. Felix](#) ; [Ron Basso](#) ; [Sid Flannery](#) ; [Tammy Hinkle](#) ; [Veronica Craw](#) ; [Virginia Singer](#) ; [Xinjian Chen](#) ; [Yassert Gonzalez](#)
Sent: Tuesday, August 07, 2012 3:30 PM
Subject: Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Minimum Flows Update

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No virus found in this message.

Checked by AVG - www.avg.com

Version: 2012.0.2197 / Virus Database: 2437/5176 - Release Date: 08/04/12

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From: [Ron Miller](#)
To: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Re: Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Minimum Flows Update
Date: Tuesday, August 07, 2012 6:41:31 PM

Hi Doug,

Thank you for shifting the Governing Board presentation date.

Ron

From: [Doug Leeper](#)
Sent: Tuesday, August 07, 2012 3:30 PM
Subject: Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Minimum Flows Update

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From: [Alan Martyn Johnson](#)
To: [Kevin J. Grimsley](#)
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: RE: Monthly Discharge Data Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Gage Sites
Date: Wednesday, August 08, 2012 7:20:04 AM

Kevin,
Thanks,
Martyn

To: martynellijay@hotmail.com
Date: Tue, 7 Aug 2012 09:38:45 -0400
From: kjgrims@usgs.gov
Subject: Re: Monthly Discharge Data Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Gage Sites
CC: doug.leeper@swfwmd.state.fl.us

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Martyn

From: [Alan Martyn Johnson](#)
To: [J Weaver](#)
Cc: jdweaver@gsvaresh01.er.usgs.gov; vhines@usgs.gov; [R Rodriguez](#); [Doug Leeper](#); [Ron Basso](#); [Mike Heyl](#)
Subject: Florida Coastal Springs Streamflow Review March 2, 2012 Discharge Accuracy
Date: Wednesday, August 08, 2012 8:10:48 AM

Mr. Weaver,

You may recall my message from March 20, 2012 shown below. You did not acknowledge receipt or choose to answer. There is the possibility you did not receive the e-mail.

The March 2, 2012 memorandum/report from the team has recently been published in both the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Recommended Minimum Flow Reports, in the Sections: Cited Documents. Presumably this is to help justify the accuracy of discharge data in these reports. As the memorandum does not name either of these rivers it appears to fall short of being a valuable document.

Having noted inclusion of the memorandum I thought I would share some Field Measurements from key Gage Sites in the hopes you may see fit to have the team review these and/or provide additional detail from their review regarding;

- Homosassa Springs 02310678,
- Homosassa River at Homosassa 02310700,
- SE Fork Homosassa 02310688 and
- Chassahowitzka 02310650

Discharge data from the 15 minute interval record of calculated discharge does not match the Field Measurement exact times and these have been hand matched; I have double checked to assure the matches are as accurate as possible.

Thanks in anticipation you will have the team look at this and add to the memo.

Homosassa Springs
02310678

Meas. Number	Date	Time	Measuring Agency	Stream flow (ft ³ /s)	Calculated flow (ft ³ /s)	Calculated as % of Measured
201	2012-06-13	09:01	USGS	79.5	63	79%
200	2012-04-10	13:19	USGS	68.0	73	107%
199	2012-02-03	10:07	USGS	101	92	91%
198	2011-12-16	15:29	USGS	83.3	85	102%
197	2011-12-16	15:20	USGS	78.9	84	106%
196	2011-10-05	14:39	USGS	97.0	91	94%

Homosassa River At Homosassa 02310700

Meas. Number	Date	Time	Measuring Agency	Stream flow (ft ³ /s)	Calculated flow (ft ³ /s)	Calculated as % of Measured
424	2012-04-12	08:58	USGS	452	-63	Note 1

423	2012-02-09	10:04	USGS	732	928	127%
422	2012-02-09	09:34	USGS	731	993	136%
421	2012-02-09	09:04	USGS	692	902	130%
420	2012-02-09	08:35	USGS	670	914	136%
419	2012-02-09	08:05	USGS	641	771	120%
418	2012-02-09	07:34	USGS	632	731	116%
417	2012-02-09	07:04	USGS	608	825	136%
416	2012-02-09	06:34	USGS	562	731	130%
415	2012-02-08	18:03	USGS	-459	-369	80%
414	2012-02-08	17:33	USGS	-622	-550	88%
413	2012-02-08	17:05	USGS	-648	-642	99%
412	2012-02-08	17:01	USGS	-601	-642	107%
411	2012-02-08	16:33	USGS	-596	-484	81%
410	2012-02-08	16:04	USGS	-456	-391	86%
409	2012-02-08	15:33	USGS	-378	-339	90%
408	2012-02-08	15:05	USGS	-113	-164	145%
407	2012-02-08	15:00	USGS	3.61	-164	-4543%
406	2012-02-08	14:34	USGS	309	461	149%
405	2012-02-08	14:30	USGS	352	461	131%
404	2012-02-08	14:07	USGS	587	876	149%
403	2012-02-08	13:33	USGS	707	1000	141%
402	2012-02-08	13:01	USGS	713	1100	154%
401	2012-02-08	12:33	USGS	753	1110	147%
400	2012-02-08	12:04	USGS	781	1020	131%
399	2012-02-08	11:34	USGS	785	1090	139%
398	2012-02-08	11:04	USGS	848	1160	137%
397	2012-02-08	10:39	USGS	858	1250	146%
396	2012-02-08	10:04	USGS	854	1120	131%
395	2012-02-08	09:33	USGS	870	1120	129%
394	2012-02-08	09:04	USGS	840	1110	132%
393	2012-02-08	08:33	USGS	793	1110	140%
392	2012-02-08	08:03	USGS	724	1030	142%
391	2012-02-08	07:34	USGS	700	922	132%
390	2012-02-08	07:05	USGS	574	613	107%
389	2011-10-20	12:09	USGS	1080	803	74%
388	2011-10-20	11:44	USGS	1140	810	71%
387	2011-10-20	11:21	USGS	1120	578	52%
386	2011-10-20	10:53	USGS	1100	690	63%
385	2011-10-20	10:46	USGS	1250	875	70%
384	2011-10-20	10:22	USGS	1160	789	68%
383	2011-10-20	09:52	USGS	1250	735	59%
382	2011-10-20	09:20	USGS	1240	707	57%
381	2011-10-20	08:38	USGS	1340	658	49%
380	2011-10-20	08:08	USGS	1400	647	46%
379	2011-10-20	07:46	USGS	1380	838	61%
378	2011-10-20	07:07	USGS	1470	906	62%
377	2011-10-20	06:33	USGS	1420	974	69%
376	2011-10-19	14:03	USGS	1190	894	75%
375	2011-10-19	13:31	USGS	1090	1070	98%
374	2011-10-19	13:22	USGS	1120	949	85%
373	2011-10-19	13:15	USGS	942	949	101%
372	2011-10-19	12:42	USGS	1000	996	100%
371	2011-10-19	12:14	USGS	800	815	102%

Note 1 Problem with no Stream Velocity data collection from Gage Site may be cause

SE Fork Homosassa 02310688

Meas.			Measuring	Stream	Calculated	Calculated
Number	Date	Time	Agency	flow	flow	as % of
				(ft³/s)	(ft³/s)	Measured
228	2012-06-13	12:50	USGS	52	32	62%
227	2012-06-13	12:37	USGS	49.3	28	57%
226	2012-04-10	10:09	USGS	55.1	55	100%
225	2012-02-09	09:08	USGS	58.4	69	118%
224	2012-02-09	08:34	USGS	60	68	113%
223	2012-02-09	08:04	USGS	57.5	63	110%
222	2012-02-09	07:33	USGS	55.9	63	113%
221	2012-02-09	07:21	USGS	55.6	67	121%
220	2012-02-09	06:46	USGS	54.9	66	120%
219	2012-02-09	06:21	USGS	55.7	66	118%
218	2012-02-08	18:06	USGS	40.4	38	94%
217	2012-02-08	18:02	USGS	33.7	38	113%
216	2012-02-08	17:33	USGS	35.9	38	106%
215	2012-02-08	17:05	USGS	31.1	35	113%
214	2012-02-08	17:00	USGS	35.3	35	99%
213	2012-02-08	16:34	USGS	33.4	36	108%
212	2012-02-08	16:04	USGS	38.4	37	96%
211	2012-02-08	15:30	USGS	38.3	42	110%
210	2012-02-08	15:04	USGS	41.4	51	123%
209	2012-02-08	15:02	USGS	46.2	51	110%
208	2012-02-08	14:34	USGS	54.2	64	118%
207	2012-02-08	14:03	USGS	61.4	68	111%
206	2012-02-08	13:30	USGS	60.6	67	111%
205	2012-02-08	13:02	USGS	67	71	106%
204	2012-02-08	12:33	USGS	62.3	70	112%
203	2012-02-08	12:03	USGS	65.7	74	113%
202	2012-02-08	11:32	USGS	64.6	69	107%
201	2012-02-08	11:03	USGS	65.2	68	104%
200	2012-02-08	10:32	USGS	66.3	72	109%
199	2012-02-08	10:05	USGS	65.6	71	108%
198	2012-02-08	09:33	USGS	61.9	70	113%
197	2012-02-08	09:07	USGS	64.9	69	106%
196	2012-02-08	08:33	USGS	61.8	69	112%
195	2012-02-08	08:00	USGS	57.8	64	111%
194	2012-02-08	07:41	USGS	55.5	64	115%
193	2011-12-16	13:07	USGS	58.6	73	125%
192	2011-10-20	11:44	USGS	72	64	89%
191	2011-10-20	10:38	USGS	72	63	88%
190	2011-10-20	09:50	USGS	68	58	85%
189	2011-10-20	09:13	USGS	71.5	62	87%
188	2011-10-20	08:20	USGS	74.5	62	83%
187	2011-10-20	07:45	USGS	76.3	61	80%
186	2011-10-20	07:18	USGS	75.5	65	86%
185	2011-10-20	06:45	USGS	76.4	60	79%
184	2011-10-20	06:18	USGS	79.3	60	76%
183	2011-10-20	05:51	USGS	76.2	64	84%
182	2011-10-20	05:24	USGS	75.4	55	73%
181	2011-10-19	14:46	USGS	68.2	51	75%

180	2011-10-19	14:18	USGS	59	51	86%
179	2011-10-19	13:46	USGS	59.8	55	92%
178	2011-10-19	13:25	USGS	55.8	46	82%
177	2011-10-19	12:54	USGS	50.6	50	99%
176	2011-10-19	12:26	USGS	55.8	49	88%
175	2011-10-19	11:59	USGS	52.9	45	85%
174	2011-10-19	11:25	USGS	49.8	49	98%
173	2011-10-19	10:51	USGS	43.8	44	100%
172	2011-10-19	10:24	USGS	45.2	52	115%

Chassahowitzka 02310650

Meas. Number	Date	Time	Measuring Agency	Stream flow (ft ³ /s)	Calculated flow (ft ³ /s)	Calculated as % of Measured
212	2012-06-19	15:16	USGS	-28.7	21	Difference 49.7cfs
211	2012-04-13	12:35	USGS	49.4	63	128%
210	2012-02-03	12:57	USGS	54.2	50	92%
209	2011-12-21	15:15	USGS	69.3	72	104%
208	2011-12-21	15:08	USGS	62.3	72	116%
207	2011-10-07	11:52	USGS	10.9	No data available	
206	2011-10-07	11:47	USGS	13.4	No data available	
205	2011-10-07	11:42	USGS	8.38	No data available	
204	2011-10-07	11:38	USGS	13.5	No data available	
203	2011-08-10	11:30	USGS	13.4	13	97%
202	2011-08-10	11:25	USGS	11.9	13	109%
201	2011-08-10	11:20	USGS	9.4	-5.3	Difference 14.7cfs
200	2011-08-10	11:15	USGS	12	-5.3	Difference 17.3cfs
199	2011-06-17	13:35	USGS	9.81	-8	Difference 17.81cfs
198	2011-06-17	13:26	USGS	15.3	-8	Difference 23.3cfs
197	2011-06-17	13:19	USGS	17.6	11	63%
196	2011-06-17	13:06	USGS	37.9	20	53%
195	2011-06-17	12:57	USGS	37.7	20	53%
194	2011-04-12	10:09	USGS	-5.02	-7.7	153%
193	2011-02-11	13:33	USGS	60.6	68	112%
192	2010-12-08	12:10	USGS	64	69	108%
191	2010-10-07	13:54	USGS	21.6	-28	-130%
190	2010-10-07	13:49	USGS	30.9	0.61	2%
189	2010-10-07	13:40	USGS	36.9	0.61	2%
188	2010-10-07	13:28	USGS	48.2	28	58%
187	2010-08-17	10:09	USGS	88.9	79	89%
186	2010-06-22	13:25	USGS	59.4	70	118%
185	2010-06-22	13:18	USGS	59.4	60	101%
184	2010-06-22	13:12	USGS	50.8	60	118%
183	2010-06-22	13:06	USGS	65.8	51	78%
182	2010-06-22	12:59	USGS	44.5	51	115%
181	2010-06-22	12:53	USGS	66	51	77%
180	2010-06-22	12:47	USGS	30.3	42	139%
179	2010-06-22	12:40	USGS	47.9	42	88%

From: martynellijay@hotmail.com
To: jdweaver@usgs.gov
CC: jdweaver@gsvaresh01.er.usgs.gov; vhines@usgs.gov; rrodrigu@usgs.gov
Subject: RE: Florida Coastal Springs Streamflow
Date: Tue, 20 Mar 2012 09:24:57 -0400

Mr. Weaver,
Thanks for sharing the memorandum about the review.

This memorandum appears to be an executive summary, there are no details about which gage sites were visited, or about what data was reviewed.

In your October 26 e-mail you indicated that the review would address the questions I had posed.

Quote

Each of these entities is uniquely positioned to provide an unbiased review of the data, consider your concerns and to respond to the questions you are asking. The OSW and OGW provide technical leadership and serve quality assurance and quality control functions for USGS hydrologic science.

The review being undertaken is a big investment of time and effort on our part. As such, I would anticipate it may require a few months to finish. We will share our findings with you and respond to the questions you previously asked as soon as the review is complete.

Unquote

Given this review took 3 days (agreed Jan 22 was a Sunday), and included 1.5 days in the Tampa office in addition to 6 site visits there must be more details in a separate report.

Within the memorandum is the comment:

"The stations under review typically have measurable and significant tidal flow. A tidal signal is prominent in both the water level and flow records."

It is not apparent which stations under review have significant tidal flow other than Homosassa River at Homosassa 02310700, but I am sure this will become clear in the full report, and may serve to add to the understanding of the very general note about "many tidal records".

Rivers fed by significant spring flow (1 st magnitude springs) will naturally show asymmetry between in flow and out flow in the sections that experience tidal flow such as Homosassa River 02310700; spring discharge adds to the outflow. For other sites (presumably) in the review the Homosassa Main Spring 02310678 and SE Fork 02310688 do not have reverse flow and are essentially 'uni-directional'.

Regarding the four stations where discharge is calculated it is not clear which stations these are, but I find it interesting that the review questioned what data was used to regress/develop the equations currently in use "the newer regression equations that are currently in use are not as well documented.

Additional documentation of the data and methods used in developing new regression equations should be included in the station files."

In point 4 of the memorandum comment is made about the installation of velocity measuring equipment. This adds to the comment in point 2 about index velocity measurement. No doubt the reviewers were told about the instrument installed at the SE Fork location that has been operating since last September.

Did they have any comments/suggestions regarding its location (immediately after a bend in the river and possible turbulence at the location) or any 'preliminary' comparison to the calculated

data? As you may recall the SE Fork is the site I was most concerned about, as this site is the main source of better quality water entering the Homosassa River. The relative quantities, and quality, of these waters is critical to the future of the river and to SWFWMD efforts to model/understand the river.

Given the expense of this review, both at 'head office' in reviewing the request and preparing for the on site/office activity in Florida, I trust there is more detail than in this memorandum.

The concerns about updating given all the additional data (from Field Measurements) and accuracy during the high aquifer levels in 2004/5 (for Weeki Wachee Well 22 feet) are laudable, but the major concern is current levels in the aquifer (for Weeki Wachee Well 12 feet) which are approaching record lows. And did the team consider Weeki Wachee Well the best primary predictor of hydraulic head determining the flows at these springs?

Martyn

> To: martynellijay@hotmail.com
> CC: jdweaver@gsvaresh01.er.usgs.gov; vhines@usgs.gov; rrodrigu@usgs.gov
> Subject: Florida Coastal Springs Streamflow
> From: jdweaver@usgs.gov
> Date: Tue, 13 Mar 2012 09:39:11 -0400

>
> Mr. Johnson,
>
> Following my last correspondence with you Oct. 26, I requested an outside
> review of Florida coastal springs streamflow stations and the work being
> done by the USGS Florida Water Science Center. That review, taken on by
> representatives from the USGS Office of Surface Water, Office of
> Groundwater, and the National Research Program, is now complete. The team
> focused on two main topics: handling of tides and calculations of record
> at stations with regression-based rating curves. Their report is attached
> for your reference, but the bottom line is the reviewers expressed
> confidence in the work being done by the Florida Water Science Center, and
> I share their confidence.

>
> I hope the results of this thorough review answer the questions you had
> and close out this issue.

>
>
> Jess D. Weaver

>
> *****
> Jess D. Weaver
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> *****

From: WaterMatters.org
To: bludog@tampabay.rr.com
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Wednesday, August 08, 2012 11:36:58 AM



Hi Terri,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series. Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

We have already surpassed the flow level that would damage the environment. The decline in the water quality over the past few years is proof of that. The Homosassa River in particular, is dead, no vegetation, no fish. I am not overstating this. As a 32 year resident of Homoassa the decline had been slow and steady until about 36 months ago. Since then it has dropped off the ledge. Realizing there has been lower rainfall until very recently, may be a part of problem, but continuing to use more and more water is NOT the answer. There should be a moratorium on new development until a percentage of the vacant homes and retail building in the state are occupied. Example: Dozens of old oak trees were cut on US19 to build a Dollar Store in Homosassa Springs, when just across the street are two large shopping centers with lots of empty square feet. Build, build, build. Pave, pave, pave. I know SWFWMD's goal is to find water for the Governor. But at what risk? What happens when we have a muddy stream left where the rivers used to be? We may as well put up the for sale signs now. Please consider this as an economical disaster if not just an ecological disaster? BEFORE we run out of water.

From: [Brad Rimbey](#)
To: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Additional Springs Coast MFL Workshop in Lecanto
Date: Thursday, August 09, 2012 11:54:21 AM

Doug,

I appreciate your email dated Tuesday (Aug 7, 2012) indicating SWFWMD's decision to postpone its revised Springs Coast MFL recommendations to SWFWMD's Governing Board. The decision to present the revised Springs Coast MFL recommendations at the October 30 SWFWMD GB meeting in Brooksville is much more reasonable and we appreciate your efforts to make that happen.

At yesterday's Citrus County Council meeting, I was asked if SWFWMD intended to hold another Springs Coast MFL meeting to explain the basis for the revised Springs Coast MFLs. I had requested this workshop in my email below, but your email on Tuesday did not address this.

For those of you who are being copied on this, please take a moment to let Doug know your thoughts on this. His email address is Doug.Leeper@swfwmd.state.fl.us.

Brad W. Rimbey, P.E. for the
Chassahowitzka River Restoration Committee

----- Original Message -----

From: [Brad Rimbey](#)
To: [Doug Leeper](#)
Sent: Monday, July 30, 2012 4:23 PM
Subject: Re: Appendices for Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Minimum Flow Reports

Doug,

Thanks for the phone call earlier today. I have talked to a few people since we spoke and it seems more people are concerned about driving to Tampa for a GB meeting than I thought.

For those of you who are being copied on this, Doug is trying to get a feel for when/where we would prefer to have the MFL proposals for Chassahowitzka and Homosassa presented to SWFWMD's GB. It seems Doug's suggestion that the MFL proposals would be presented to the GB on August 28 in Brooksville was based primarily on SWFWMD's desire to choose a meeting location which would be convenient for Springs Coast residents to attend. Unfortunately, the logistics of this time choice would make it impossible for SWFWMD to receive and reply to the input they will be likely be receiving on these revised proposals. The September and October SWFWMD GB meetings will be held in Tampa. The November SWFWMD GB meeting will be in Haines City. The December SWFWMD GB will be back in Brooksville.

Please take a moment to let Doug know your thoughts on this. His email address is Doug.Leeper@swfwmd.state.fl.us. I hate to put this off until December but perhaps that is the best option to allow local input to be heard by SWFWMD's GB on this important issue. August 28 is off the table.

I would also ask that SWFWMD considers presenting one more MFL public workshop (possibly in Lecanto) to explain the basis for the substantive changes which are being proposed to the previously proposed MFLs for these Outstanding Florida Waters. One workshop for both the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers would be fine.

Brad W. Rimbey, P.E. for the
Chassahowitzka River Restoration Committee

----- Original Message -----

From: [Doug Leeper](#)

To: [Al Grubman \(grubman1@gmail.com\)](#) ; [Bill Geiger \(bgeiger@cityofbrooksville.us\)](#) ; [Bill Pouder \(bill.pouder@myfwc.com\)](#) ; [Boyd Blihovde \(Boyd_Blihovde@fws.gov\)](#) ; [Brad Rimbey \(BWR.CRRC@tampabay.rr.com\)](#) ; [Brent Whitley \(brentwhitley@sierra-properties.com\)](#) ; [Brockway. Alys \(abrockway@co.hernando.fl.us\)](#) ; [Dennis D. 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Sent: Monday, July 30, 2012 12:16 PM

Subject: Appendices for Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Minimum Flow Reports

Greetings:

I am writing to inform you that appendices associated with updated Southwest Florida Water Management District reports on proposed minimum flows for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa river systems are now available from the District web site. The appendices are posted under the "Appendix" column for each system on the *Minimum Flows and Levels (Environmental Flows) Documents and Report Page* at:

http://www.swfwmd.state.fl.us/projects/mfl/mfl_reports.php

-

Thank you for your continued interest and support for the development of minimum flows for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa River systems.

Douglas A. Leeper
Chief Environmental Scientist
Water Resources Bureau

Southwest Florida Water Management District

2379 Broad Street

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From: [Beverly Overa](#)
To: [Doug Leeper](#)
Cc: [Brad Rimbey@CRRC](#)
Subject: Springs MFL's
Date: Thursday, August 09, 2012 12:25:56 PM

Mr. Leeper,

We would appreciate another look at the science behind the proposed MFL's for Chassahowitzka and the Homosassa River here in Citrus County. While many of us are dismayed at the proposed MFL's, a presentation explaining these positions could be helpful to us all.

[Beverly Overa](#)

boverly@tampabay.rr.com

From: JaniceHowie@aol.com
To: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: (no subject)
Date: Thursday, August 09, 2012 1:13:30 PM

Dear Mr. Leeper:

We appreciate your efforts to keep the public informed so far of your work in determining the MFL levels for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers, but we would like to have one more meeting to discuss your revised MFL proposals. Thank you for your consideration. Jan Howie, Conservation Chairman of the Nature Coast Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society.

From: [Ron Miller](#)
To: [Doug Leeper](#)
Cc: [Brad Rimbey](#)
Subject: Fw: Additional Springs Coast MFL Workshop in Lecanto
Date: Thursday, August 09, 2012 2:49:28 PM

Hi Doug,

I agree with Brad. A workshop to explain to the public how you came to your final conclusions would be useful.

Ron

From: [Brad Rimbey](#)
Sent: Thursday, August 09, 2012 11:54 AM
To: Doug.Leeper@swfwmd.state.fl.us
Subject: Additional Springs Coast MFL Workshop in Lecanto

Doug,

I appreciate your email dated Tuesday (Aug 7, 2012) indicating SWFWMD's decision to postpone its revised Springs Coast MFL recommendations to SWFWMD's Governing Board. The decision to present the revised Springs Coast MFL recommendations at the October 30 SWFWMD GB meeting in Brooksville is much more reasonable and we appreciate your efforts to make that happen.

At yesterday's Citrus County Council meeting, I was asked if SWFWMD intended to hold another Springs Coast MFL meeting to explain the basis for the revised Springs Coast MFLs. I had requested this workshop in my email below, but your email on Tuesday did not address this.

For those of you who are being copied on this, please take a moment to let Doug know your thoughts on this. His email address is Doug.Leeper@swfwmd.state.fl.us .

Brad W. Rimbey, P.E. for the
Chassahowitzka River Restoration Committee

----- Original Message -----

From: [Brad Rimbey](#)
To: [Doug Leeper](#)
Sent: Monday, July 30, 2012 4:23 PM
Subject: Re: Appendices for Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Minimum Flow Reports

Doug,

Thanks for the phone call earlier today. I have talked to a few people since we spoke and it seems more people are concerned about driving to Tampa for a GB meeting than I thought.

For those of you who are being copied on this, Doug is trying to get a feel for when/where we would

prefer to have the MFL proposals for Chassahowitzka and Homosassa presented to SWFWMD's GB. It seems Doug's suggestion that the MFL proposals would be presented to the GB on August 28 in Brooksville was based primarily on SWFWMD's desire to choose a meeting location which would be convenient for Springs Coast residents to attend. Unfortunately, the logistics of this time choice would make it impossible for SWFWMD to receive and reply to the input they will be likely be receiving on these revised proposals. The September and October SWFWMD GB meetings will be held in Tampa. The November SWFWMD GB meeting will be in Haines City. The December SWFWMD GB will be back in Brooksville.

Please take a moment to let Doug know your thoughts on this. His email address is Doug.Leeper@swfwmd.state.fl.us. I hate to put this off until December but perhaps that is the best option to allow local input to be heard by SWFWMD's GB on this important issue. August 28 is off the table.

I would also ask that SWFWMD considers presenting one more MFL public workshop (possibly in Lecanto) to explain the basis for the substantive changes which are being proposed to the previously proposed MFLs for these Outstanding Florida Waters. One workshop for both the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers would be fine.

Brad W. Rimbey, P.E. for the
Chassahowitzka River Restoration Committee

----- Original Message -----

From: [Doug Leeper](mailto:Doug.Leeper@swfwmd.state.fl.us)

To: [Al Grubman \(grubman1@gmail.com\)](mailto:Al.Grubman@gmail.com) ; [Bill Geiger \(bgeiger@cityofbrooksville.us\)](mailto:Bill.Geiger@cityofbrooksville.us) ; [Bill Pouder \(bill.pouder@myfwc.com\)](mailto:Bill.Pouder@myfwc.com) ; [Boyd Blihovde \(Boyd_Blihovde@fws.gov\)](mailto:Boyd.Blihovde@fws.gov) ; [Brad Rimbey \(BWR.CRRRC@tampabay.rr.com\)](mailto:Brad.Rimbey@BWR.CRRRC@tampabay.rr.com) ; [Brent Whitley \(brentwhitley@sierra-properties.com\)](mailto:Brent.Whitley@sierra-properties.com) ; [Brockway Alys \(abrockway@co.hernando.fl.us\)](mailto:Brockway.Alys@abrockway@co.hernando.fl.us) ; [Dennis D. 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Sent: Monday, July 30, 2012 12:16 PM

Subject: Appendices for Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Minimum Flow Reports

Greetings:

I am writing to inform you that appendices associated with updated Southwest Florida Water Management District reports on proposed minimum flows for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa river systems are now available from the District web site. The appendices are posted under the "Appendix" column for each system on the *Minimum Flows and Levels (Environmental Flows) Documents and Report Page* at:

http://www.swfwmd.state.fl.us/projects/mfl/mfl_reports.php

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Thank you for your continued interest and support for the development of minimum flows for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa River systems.

Douglas A. Leeper
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From: [Andy & Terri Auner](#)
To: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Comment about MFLs
Date: Thursday, August 09, 2012 4:39:17 PM

Mr. Leeper,

We have already surpassed the flow level that would damage the environment. The decline in the water quality over the past few years is proof of that. The Homosassa River in particular, is dead, no vegetation, no fish. I am not overstating this.

As a 32 year resident of Homosassa the decline had been slow and steady until about 36 months ago. Since then it has dropped off the ledge. Realizing there has been lower rainfall until very recently, may be a part of problem, but continuing to use more and more water is NOT the answer. There should be a moratorium on new development until a percentage of the vacant homes and retail building in the state are occupied.

Example: Dozens of old oak trees were cut on US19 to build a Dollar Store in Homosassa Springs, when just across the street are two large shopping centers with lots of empty square feet. Build, build, build. Pave, pave, pave.

We know SWFWMD's goal is to find water for the Governor. But at what risk? What happens when we have a muddy stream left where the rivers used to be? We may as well put up the for sale signs now. Please consider this as an economical disaster if not just an ecological disaster?

Andy & Terri Auner
Old Homosassa
352 628 7969

From: [hope](#)
To: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Additional Springs Coast MFL Workshop in Lecanto
Date: Thursday, August 09, 2012 4:54:06 PM

Hello Doug,

Great idea! Some of the new data is pretty complex. We, the lay public, and the Governing Board (I'm sure, who may similarly not be professional biologists, hydrologists, climatologists, etc.), would appreciate hearing the experts who did the new research and drafted the reports explain their findings.

Blue Crab life cycle, the interdependence of multiple (and imperiled) species on fresh water and low salinity habitat, the seemingly accelerated loss of forested wetlands, and succession to marsh.....there's a lot going on in our complex Chassahowitzka spring to estuary ecosystem, and the surrounding forested wetland communities. How many keystone species can we "afford" to lose before the entire system collapses functionally as a true spring-fed freshwater system? 15% loss may not really be "acceptable" if our system is as close to a tipping point as it seems.

Did you by any chance read the reprint of Fred Guterl's "Climate Change's Tipping Point" article in the Tampa Bay Times last weekend (July 29)? (Here's the link to its original publication in the New York Times July 20, 2012

http://www.nytimes.com/2012/07/21/opinion/the-climate-change-tipping-point.html?_r=3) It discussed, among other things, Marten Scheffer's "dynamical systems" theory, and his work restoring lowland ponds in the Netherlands. His observation that natural systems often have difficulty recovering from sudden changes, and that "once you've reached a tipping point, it's very difficult to return things to how they used to be" seemed eerily relevant.

It certainly feels like our Nature Coast spring-fed systems are nearing a tipping point, and locals worry and wonder why the "scientists" at the Water Management District can't likewise see the rapid changes taking place that are obvious to those living in the ecosystem. (Perhaps, we conclude, because one cannot SEE them from a desktop in Brooksville, or accurately "predict" them with an algorithm).

In addition to a Public Workshop to discuss findings in the new report, could we possibly schedule a "ground truthing" site visit to Chassahowitzka so that SWFWMD staff and interested Governing Board Members could come out and SEE some of the observations that Public keeps bringing up at the Workshops and Meetings? Not just a cruise straight down the channel, but one that would also afford some time to travel up one of the spring runs presently showing signs of rapid succession to higher salinity, marsh-like (not freshwater forested wetland or hydric hammock) conditions. Potter Creek to Ruth Springs, for example.

How many staff members and Governing Board Members do you think would attend? It would be ideal if we could all go out on one pontoon or one large, broad skiff, but if we need a small flotilla, I'm sure we could find Chassahowitzka residents with boats who would be happy to volunteer "captain."

Your thoughts?

I met an empathetic District scientist at a recent Native Plant Society meeting who

assured me that there were still some staff at SWFWMD that cared as much about preserving Florida's last remaining natural habitats as we (the public living in and around the endangered resources and imperiled habitats) do. That was reassuring, and I hope it is true. If true, I am hoping that a ground-truthing site visit, and direct observation will help District scientists to take another look at the MFL data, and compare it to what they observe in "real life."

That's my two cents.

Thanks again for all of your diligence and for keeping all of us up to date on new developments in the continuing MFL saga.

Hope

----- Original Message -----

From: [Brad Rimbey](mailto:Brad.Rimbey@swfwmd.state.fl.us)

To: Doug.Leeper@swfwmd.state.fl.us

Sent: Thursday, August 09, 2012 11:54 AM

Subject: Additional Springs Coast MFL Workshop in Lecanto

Doug,

I appreciate your email dated Tuesday (Aug 7, 2012) indicating SWFWMD's decision to postpone its revised Springs Coast MFL recommendations to SWFWMD's Governing Board. The decision to present the revised Springs Coast MFL recommendations at the October 30 SWFWMD GB meeting in Brooksville is much more reasonable and we appreciate your efforts to make that happen.

At yesterday's Citrus County Council meeting, I was asked if SWFWMD intended to hold another Springs Coast MFL meeting to explain the basis for the revised Springs Coast MFLs. I had requested this workshop in my email below, but your email on Tuesday did not address this.

For those of you who are being copied on this, please take a moment to let Doug know your thoughts on this. His email address is Doug.Leeper@swfwmd.state.fl.us .

Brad W. Rimbey, P.E. for the
Chassahowitzka River Restoration Committee

----- Original Message -----

From: [Brad Rimbey](mailto:Brad.Rimbey@swfwmd.state.fl.us)

To: [Doug Leeper](mailto:Doug.Leeper@swfwmd.state.fl.us)

Sent: Monday, July 30, 2012 4:23 PM

Subject: Re: Appendices for Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Minimum Flow Reports

Doug,

Thanks for the phone call earlier today. I have talked to a few people since we spoke and it seems more people are concerned about driving to Tampa for a GB meeting than I thought.

For those of you who are being copied on this, Doug is trying to get a feel for when/where we would prefer to have the MFL proposals for Chassahowitzka and Homosassa presented to SWFWMD's GB. It seems Doug's suggestion that the MFL proposals would be presented to the GB on August

28 in Brooksville was based primarily on SWFWMD's desire to choose a meeting location which would be convenient for Springs Coast residents to attend. Unfortunately, the logistics of this time choice would make it impossible for SWFWMD to receive and reply to the input they will be likely be receiving on these revised proposals. The September and October SWFWMD GB meetings will be held in Tampa. The November SWFWMD GB meeting will be in Haines City. The December SWFWMD GB will be back in Brooksville.

Please take a moment to let Doug know your thoughts on this. His email address is Doug.Leeper@swfwmd.state.fl.us. I hate to put this off until December but perhaps that is the best option to allow local input to be heard by SWFWMD's GB on this important issue. August 28 is off the table.

I would also ask that SWFWMD considers presenting one more MFL public workshop (possibly in Lecanto) to explain the basis for the substantive changes which are being proposed to the previously proposed MFLs for these Outstanding Florida Waters. One workshop for both the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers would be fine.

Brad W. Rimbey, P.E. for the
Chassahowitzka River Restoration Committee

----- Original Message -----

From: [Doug Leeper](mailto:Doug.Leeper@swfwmd.state.fl.us)

To: [Al Grubman \(grubman1@gmail.com\)](mailto:Al.Grubman@gmail.com) ; [Bill Geiger \(bgeiger@cityofbrooksville.us\)](mailto:bgeiger@cityofbrooksville.us) ; [Bill Pouder \(bill.pouder@myfwc.com\)](mailto:bill.pouder@myfwc.com) ; [Boyd Blihovde \(Boyd_Blihovde@fws.gov\)](mailto:Boyd_Blihovde@fws.gov) ; [Brad Rimbey \(BWR.CRRC@tampabay.rr.com\)](mailto:Brad.Rimbey@BWR.CRRC@tampabay.rr.com) ; [Brent Whitley \(brentwhitley@sierra-properties.com\)](mailto:brentwhitley@sierra-properties.com) ; [Brockway. Alys \(abrockway@co.hernando.fl.us\)](mailto:Alys.abrockway@co.hernando.fl.us) ; [Dennis D. Dutcher \(Dennis3ds@aol.com\)](mailto:Dennis3ds@aol.com) ; [Frank DiGiovanni \(administration@inverness-fl.gov\)](mailto:administration@inverness-fl.gov) ; [Greenwood. Kathleen](mailto:Greenwood.Kathleen) ; [Helen Spive](mailto:Helen.Spive) ; [Hilliard. Dan \(2buntings@comcast.net\)](mailto:Hilliard.Dan) ; [Hoehn. 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Sent: Monday, July 30, 2012 12:16 PM

Subject: Appendices for Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Minimum Flow Reports

Greetings:

I am writing to inform you that appendices associated with updated Southwest Florida Water

Management District reports on proposed minimum flows for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa river systems are now available from the District web site. The appendices are posted under the "Appendix" column for each system on the *Minimum Flows and Levels (Environmental Flows) Documents and Report Page* at:

http://www.swfwmd.state.fl.us/projects/mfl/mfl_reports.php

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Thank you for your continued interest and support for the development of minimum flows for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa River systems.

Douglas A. Leeper
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From: [Nancy](#)
To: [Doug Leeper](#)
Cc: [Darrell; bjhurley@comcast.net](mailto:bjhurley@comcast.net)
Subject: GB Meeting-Brooksville and Additional Springs Coast MFL Workshop in Lecanto
Date: Saturday, August 11, 2012 5:17:31 PM

Per Brad Rimbey's request, this is to advise you that Citrus County Audubon Society agrees that the revised Springs Coast MFL recommendations be presented during the October 30th SWFWMD Governing Board meeting in Brooksville. Please let us know the date and details of the proposed MFL public workshop in Lecanto. Thanks! Nancy Kost for Citrus County Audubon Society

From: Brad Rimbey [mailto:BWR.CRRC@tampabay.rr.com]
Sent: Thursday, August 09, 2012 11:54 AM
To: Doug.Leeper@swfwmd.state.fl.us
Subject: Additional Springs Coast MFL Workshop in Lecanto

Doug,

I appreciate your email dated Tuesday (Aug 7, 2012) indicating SWFWMD's decision to postpone its revised Springs Coast MFL recommendations to SWFWMD's Governing Board. The decision to present the revised Springs Coast MFL recommendations at the October 30 SWFWMD GB meeting in Brooksville is much more reasonable and we appreciate your efforts to make that happen.

At yesterday's Citrus County Council meeting, I was asked if SWFWMD intended to hold another Springs Coast MFL meeting to explain the basis for the revised Springs Coast MFLs. I had requested this workshop in my email below, but your email on Tuesday did not address this.

For those of you who are being copied on this, please take a moment to let Doug know your thoughts on this. His email address is Doug.Leeper@swfwmd.state.fl.us.

Brad W. Rimbey, P.E. for the
Chassahowitzka River Restoration Committee

----- Original Message -----

From: [Brad Rimbey](#)
To: [Doug Leeper](#)
Sent: Monday, July 30, 2012 4:23 PM
Subject: Re: Appendices for Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Minimum Flow Reports

Doug,

Thanks for the phone call earlier today. I have talked to a few people since we spoke and it seems more people are concerned about driving to Tampa for a GB meeting than I thought.

For those of you who are being copied on this, Doug is trying to get a feel for when/where we would prefer to have the MFL proposals for Chassahowitzka and Homosassa presented to SWFWMD's GB. It seems Doug's suggestion that the MFL proposals would be presented to the GB on August 28 in Brooksville was based primarily on SWFWMD's desire to choose a meeting location which would be convenient for Springs Coast residents to attend. Unfortunately, the logistics of this time choice would make it impossible for SWFWMD to receive and reply to the input they will be likely be receiving on these revised proposals. The September and October SWFWMD GB meetings will be

held in Tampa. The November SWFWMD GB meeting will be in Haines City. The December SWFWMD GB will be back in Brooksville.

Please take a moment to let Doug know your thoughts on this. His email address is Doug.Leeper@swfwmd.state.fl.us. I hate to put this off until December but perhaps that is the best option to allow local input to be heard by SWFWMD's GB on this important issue. August 28 is off the table.

I would also ask that SWFWMD considers presenting one more MFL public workshop (possibly in Lecanto) to explain the basis for the substantive changes which are being proposed to the previously proposed MFLs for these Outstanding Florida Waters. One workshop for both the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers would be fine.

Brad W. Rimbey, P.E. for the
Chassahowitzka River Restoration Committee

----- Original Message -----

From: [Doug Leeper](mailto:Doug.Leeper@swfwmd.state.fl.us)

To: [Al Grubman \(grubman1@gmail.com\)](mailto:Al.Grubman@gmail.com) ; [Bill Geiger \(bgeiger@cityofbrooksville.us\)](mailto:bgeiger@cityofbrooksville.us) ; [Bill Pouder \(bill.pouder@myfwc.com\)](mailto:Bill.Pouder@myfwc.com) ; [Boyd Blihovde \(Boyd_Blihovde@fws.gov\)](mailto:Boyd.Blihovde@fws.gov) ; [Brad Rimbey \(BWR.CRRC@tampabay.rr.com\)](mailto:Brad.Rimbey@BWR.CRRC@tampabay.rr.com) ; [Brent Whitley \(brentwhitley@sierra-properties.com\)](mailto:brentwhitley@sierra-properties.com) ; [Brockway, Alys \(abrockway@co.hernando.fl.us\)](mailto:Alys.abrockway@co.hernando.fl.us) ; [Dennis D. 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Sent: Monday, July 30, 2012 12:16 PM

Subject: Appendices for Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Minimum Flow Reports

Greetings:

I am writing to inform you that appendices associated with updated Southwest Florida Water Management District reports on proposed minimum flows for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa river systems are now available from the District web site. The appendices are posted under the "Appendix" column for each system on the *Minimum Flows and Levels (Environmental Flows) Documents and Report Page* at:

http://www.swfwmd.state.fl.us/projects/mfl/mfl_reports.php

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Thank you for your continued interest and support for the development of minimum flows for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa River systems.

Douglas A. Leeper
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Southwest Florida Water Management District
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PHONE LOG

Southwest Florida Water Management District

Brooksville, Florida

Issue: Minimum flows development for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa River Systems.

Caller: Hope Corona, 10024 South Rivieria Point, Homosassa, FL 34448

District Representative: Doug Leeper, Chief Environmental Scientist, Water Resources Bureau

Date: August 13, 2012

Notes:

1. Hope Corona called Doug Leeper to request a printed copy of the District's minimum flows report for the Weeki Wachee River system. Mr. Leeper offered to send Ms. Corona a copy of the document via the U.S. Mail.
2. Ms. Corona asked questions about the methods used to establish minimum flows for freshwater and estuarine portions of the Weeki Wachee River system. Mr. Leeper explained how the methods used by the District for establishing minimum flows for freshwater river segments may not be used for tidally influenced rivers such as the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa systems.
3. Ms. Corona asked about a column included in one of the tables in the District report addressing proposed minimum flows for the Chassahowitzka River system, and Mr. Leeper was able to address her question.

From: [L.Ness](#)
To: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: October 30 SWFWMD GB meeting in Brooksville
Date: Monday, August 13, 2012 10:36:21 PM

Dear Doug Leeper,
I don't think it is fair to have a meeting about the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka rivers in Tampa, and it certainly makes it harder for working folks like myself to take a day off to attend. Thank you for motioning to have a meeting in Brooksville, which is closer. Is there any way to hold the meeting in a Citrus County venue, since they are Citrus County rivers? It would be even better for Citrus folks to be involved. I agree that one meeting for both rivers would be fine, but if that meeting is held on a work day, working folks may not get to attend if it is held in another county. Just feedback from a citizen on the Chassahowitzka. Thanks for all you are doing to allow us to be involved in the decisions made about our own back yards.
~Laura Nessola, ffl.ness@gmail.com

From: [Brad Rimbey](#)
To: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Fw: Additional Springs Coast MFL Workshop in Lecanto
Date: Wednesday, August 15, 2012 2:51:15 PM

Doug,

I did not receive a reply to this email. Are you thinking about it or just ignoring me ;-). Is SWFWMD intending to hold another Springs Coast MFL meeting to explain the basis for the revised Springs Coast MFLs?

Brad

----- Original Message -----

From: [Brad Rimbey](#)
To: Doug.Leeper@swfwmd.state.fl.us
Sent: Thursday, August 09, 2012 11:54 AM
Subject: Additional Springs Coast MFL Workshop in Lecanto

Doug,

I appreciate your email dated Tuesday (Aug 7, 2012) indicating SWFWMD's decision to postpone its revised Springs Coast MFL recommendations to SWFWMD's Governing Board. The decision to present the revised Springs Coast MFL recommendations at the October 30 SWFWMD GB meeting in Brooksville is much more reasonable and we appreciate your efforts to make that happen.

At yesterday's Citrus County Council meeting, I was asked if SWFWMD intended to hold another Springs Coast MFL meeting to explain the basis for the revised Springs Coast MFLs. I had requested this workshop in my email below, but your email on Tuesday did not address this.

For those of you who are being copied on this, please take a moment to let Doug know your thoughts on this. His email address is Doug.Leeper@swfwmd.state.fl.us .

Brad W. Rimbey, P.E. for the
Chassahowitzka River Restoration Committee

----- Original Message -----

From: [Brad Rimbey](#)
To: [Doug Leeper](#)
Sent: Monday, July 30, 2012 4:23 PM
Subject: Re: Appendices for Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Minimum Flow Reports

Doug,

Thanks for the phone call earlier today. I have talked to a few people since we spoke and it seems more people are concerned about driving to Tampa for a GB meeting than I thought.

For those of you who are being copied on this, Doug is trying to get a feel for when/where we would prefer to have the MFL proposals for Chassahowitzka and Homosassa presented to SWFWMD's GB. It seems Doug's suggestion that the MFL proposals would be presented to the GB on August

28 in Brooksville was based primarily on SWFWMD's desire to choose a meeting location which would be convenient for Springs Coast residents to attend. Unfortunately, the logistics of this time choice would make it impossible for SWFWMD to receive and reply to the input they will be likely be receiving on these revised proposals. The September and October SWFWMD GB meetings will be held in Tampa. The November SWFWMD GB meeting will be in Haines City. The December SWFWMD GB will be back in Brooksville.

Please take a moment to let Doug know your thoughts on this. His email address is Doug.Leeper@swfwmd.state.fl.us. I hate to put this off until December but perhaps that is the best option to allow local input to be heard by SWFWMD's GB on this important issue. August 28 is off the table.

I would also ask that SWFWMD considers presenting one more MFL public workshop (possibly in Lecanto) to explain the basis for the substantive changes which are being proposed to the previously proposed MFLs for these Outstanding Florida Waters. One workshop for both the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers would be fine.

Brad W. Rimbey, P.E. for the
Chassahowitzka River Restoration Committee

----- Original Message -----

From: [Doug Leeper](mailto:Doug.Leeper@swfwmd.state.fl.us)

To: [Al Grubman \(grubman1@gmail.com\)](mailto:Al.Grubman@gmail.com) ; [Bill Geiger \(bgeiger@cityofbrooksville.us\)](mailto:bgeiger@cityofbrooksville.us) ; [Bill Pouder \(bill.pouder@myfwc.com\)](mailto:bill.pouder@myfwc.com) ; [Boyd Blihovde \(Boyd_Blihovde@fws.gov\)](mailto:Boyd_Blihovde@fws.gov) ; [Brad Rimbey \(BWR.CRRC@tampabay.rr.com\)](mailto:Brad.Rimbey@BWR.CRRC@tampabay.rr.com) ; [Brent Whitley \(brentwhitley@sierra-properties.com\)](mailto:brentwhitley@sierra-properties.com) ; [Brockway. Alys \(abrockway@co.hernando.fl.us\)](mailto:abrockway@co.hernando.fl.us) ; [Dennis D. 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[Rusnak Teddi](mailto:Rusnak.Teddi) ; [Tarochinoe Joseph](mailto:Tarochinoe.Joseph) ; [Watkins Priscilla](mailto:Watkins.Priscilla) ; [Watrous Russell](mailto:Watrous.Russell) ; [Weber Ken](mailto>Weber.Ken) ; [Wilson Roger](mailto:Wilson.Roger) ; WRWSA ; aquahab@gmail.com ; bocacatlover@gmail.com ; bruceseaman@zoho.com ; btrfly21@msn.com ; casabianca@live.com ; celesteas@gmail.com ; christina.joyinmotion@gmail.com ; citizen@fsmail.net ; dancross@bellsouth.net ; dawnsdusks@bellsouth.net ; dreandvicki@bellsouth.net ; earthy_wolf@hotmail.com ; ecocosm@bellsouth.net ; egarvett@gmail.com ; gmorotti@gmail.com ; gregatourhouse@hotmail.com ; [Gulf Restoration Network](mailto:Gulf.Restoration.Network) ; heylady1948@yahoo.com ; jjinabnw@att.net ; jumby8@yahoo.com ; karensmith187@gmail.com ; licy75@aol.com ; linda@perry.net ; llbalaw@gmail.com ; mccunesfla@aol.com ; mejides@yahoo.com ; mshargel@gmail.com ; mwalker13fr@gmail.com ; pete22roc@aol.com ; prunemstr@aol.com ; rebeccaruby@msn.com ; riverguide2000@yahoo.com ; 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Sent: Monday, July 30, 2012 12:16 PM

Subject: Appendices for Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Minimum Flow Reports

Greetings:

I am writing to inform you that appendices associated with updated Southwest Florida Water

Management District reports on proposed minimum flows for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa river systems are now available from the District web site. The appendices are posted under the "Appendix" column for each system on the *Minimum Flows and Levels (Environmental Flows) Documents and Report Page* at:

http://www.swfwmd.state.fl.us/projects/mfl/mfl_reports.php

-

Thank you for your continued interest and support for the development of minimum flows for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa River systems.

Douglas A. Leeper
Chief Environmental Scientist
Water Resources Bureau
Southwest Florida Water Management District
2379 Broad Street
Brooksville, Florida 34604-6899
1-800-423-1476, ext. 4272 (FL only)
352-796-7211, ext. 4272
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doug.leeper@watermatters.org

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From: [Alan Martyn Johnson](#)
To: [Ron Basso](#); [Doug Leeper](#); [Mike Heyl](#)
Subject: Where would all the water flow according to the NDM
Date: Thursday, August 16, 2012 8:05:05 AM

I have diligently been reading the Revised Reports for both Chassahowitzka and Homosassa. Overall I note the change of focus to natural flow, a term which does not appear in the Statute. I have pages of questions and comments, so many, I thought it best to take a step back for a moment and look at the big picture.

I came up with this question.

Where would all the water flow with no pumping of groundwater (the non pumping scenario)?

Two Memorandums focused my attention;

- December 1, 2008 from Ron Basso - Predicted Groundwater Withdrawal Impacts to Chassahowitzka Springs based on Numerical Model Results
- February 15, 2010 from Ron Basso - Predicted Groundwater Withdrawal Impacts to Homosassa Springs based on Numerical Model Results

Both predict a decrease of spring flow of 0.7 cfs for the respective springs. But the big picture is the 438.1 mgd pumping for 2005 referenced in the Homosassa memo for the entire NDM and/or the 458 mgd in the Chassahowitzka memo. I suspect the difference is simply a typographical error; so assuming the figure is 450 mgd, this is about 670 cfs. That is six first magnitude springs.

So in the NDM non pumping scenario where would all this water go?

Would the Peace River still be flowing; just a thought.

As I read these memos, they very specifically identify 'groundwater pumping' not surface water.

If you have time I would be interested to see the big picture of where all this water would go in the non pumping scenario, and you may be able to update it for 2011 pumpage.

Just as a commentary: I am pleased to see how the recent rains have improved the waters entering both these rivers;

- *Specific Conductance readings are lower, presumably due to either less seawater ingress, or higher discharge of the better quality water from the aquifer,*
- *Discharge cfs increased immediately Weeki Wachee Well levels increased, according to the calculated discharge data, which implies pumpage in the Weeki Wachee locale does influence the two referenced rivers.*

Weeki Wachee MFL report includes comment about the 450 mgd reducing discharge from the spring by 9.7 cfs; not much of the 670 cfs.

Martyn

From: [Brad Rimbey](#)
To: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Fw: FY 2014 Cooperative Funding Initiative Webinar
Date: Thursday, August 16, 2012 5:04:07 PM
Attachments: [ATT00001.png](#)

Doug,

This is the email that I was referencing during our telephone conversation today. Since an ADVN was previously funded and installed at Chassahowitzka Main, maybe it should get some priority for reinstallation. I think it could yield some useful information during the Chassahowitzka Main Spring Restoration Project. If you can think of a way I can help make this happen, please let me know.

Brad

----- Original Message -----

From: [Kevin J Grimsley](#)
To: [Brad Rimbey](#)
Cc: Chris.Zajac@swfwmd.state.fl.us ; Martyn.Johnson ; Veronica.Craw@swfwmd.state.fl.us
Sent: Monday, August 13, 2012 4:35 PM
Subject: Re: FY 2014 Cooperative Funding Initiative Webinar

Hi Brad,

I'm sorry, but I can't really answer your immediate question about whether the CFI workshop is the proper forum for this or not. Someone from SWFWMD would have to address that. You are correct that it would probably take up to a year to "calibrate" the velocity meter after installation in order to produce discharge. However, once the rating is developed the resulting discharge is available back to the date of installation of the velocity meter.

Kevin Grimsley, P.E.
Hydrologic Data Chief, Tampa
USGS, Florida Water Science Center
10500 University Center Drive, Suite 215
Tampa, FL 33612
kjgrims@usgs.gov
813-498-5064

From: "Brad Rimbey" <BWR.CRRC@tampabay.fl.us>
To: <Veronica.Craw@swfwmd.state.fl.us>, <kjgrims@usgs.gov>
Cc: "Martyn Johnson" <martynellijay@hotmail.com>, <Chris.Zajac@swfwmd.state.fl.us>
Date: 08/13/2012 11:31 AM
Subject: FY 2014 Cooperative Funding Initiative Webinar

Hi Kevin,

Some time ago, we had discussed the potential of installing an Acoustic Doppler Velocity Meter at Chassahowitzka Main (USGS 02310650). Is SWFWMD's Cooperative Funding Initiative workshop the appropriate forum to present such a proposal (see email below)?

As you may know, SWFWMD has been trying to launch the Chassahowitzka Headspring Restoration Project for several years. There are multiple spring vents in the headspring area which have silted in over the years and they no longer flow. Also, the main spring has accumulated several logs down in the crevice. As the restoration project proceeds and spring vents are cleared of muck and logs, it would be helpful to see if there is a net increase in flow coming from the Chassahowitzka Main Spring group.

It seems an ADVN would be the preferred tool for detecting any net increase in spring flow. The pressure transducer currently being used to gather data for stage-based calculated flows really needs to be replaced with modern technology. Based on the installation of ADVN's at Homosassa's SE Fork and Halls River, it takes quite awhile to get the ADVN's calibrated. Assuming you agree with my assessment, an ADVN really needs to be installed at Chassahowitzka Main now so that it will be ready to report changes in flow when the headspring restoration project begins next spring/summer.

Please let me know your thoughts on this. Thanks.

Brad Rimbey

----- Original Message -----

From: [Chris Zajac](#)
Sent: Thursday, August 02, 2012 2:42 PM
Subject: FY 2014 Cooperative Funding Initiative Webinar

Please feel free to contact me should you have any questions/concerns about the application due dates.



**Fiscal Year 2014
Cooperative Funding Initiative
Upcoming Workshop**

The Southwest Florida Water Management District (District) will be accepting applications for fiscal year 2014 funding by the District's Governing Board. District staff will host a workshop to review the application process, discuss program updates and answer specific project-related questions.

The workshop will be on August 17 from 10 a.m. to 12 noon at:
District Headquarters, 2379 Broad Street, Brooksville, FL 34604

Visit WaterMatters.org/CFI to view a live video stream of this meeting or to participate in the webinar. The meeting will also be taped for viewing at a later date. **Application deadline is Friday, October 5, 2012, at 5 p.m.**

**Southwest Florida
Water Management District**
WATERMATTERS.ORG • 1-800-423-1476

**Fiscal Year 2014
Cooperative Funding Initiative**

Application deadline is October 5, 2012, at 5 p.m.
Visit WaterMatters.org/CFI for more information.

Contact Information:

Projects in Citrus, Hernando, Lake, Levy, Marion and Sumter counties:
Brooksville Headquarters
Chris Zajac, (352) 796-7211, ext. 4413
Chris.Zajac@WaterMatters.org

Projects in Hardee, Highlands and Polk counties:
Bartow Service Office
Danny Kushmer, (863) 534-1448, ext. 6000
Danny.Kushmer@WaterMatters.org

Projects in Charlotte, DeSoto, Manatee and Sarasota counties:
Sarasota Service Office
Terri Behling, APR, (941) 377-3722, ext. 6528
Terri.Behling@WaterMatters.org

Projects in Hillsborough, Pasco and Pinellas counties:
Tampa Service Office
Cara Martin, (813) 985-7481, ext. 4636
Cara.Martin@WaterMatters.org

During the webinar District staff will discuss changes in the application deadline (**October 5, 2012 at 5 p.m.**) and project guidelines. Please make plans to join us in Brooksville or online on August 17, 2012 from 10 a.m. to 12 noon.

Chris Zajac
Government Affairs Manager
Northern Planning Region
Southwest Florida Water Management District
2379 Broad Street
Brooksville, Florida 34604
(352) 796-7211 ext. 4413
Cell # 352-299-5538
chris.zajac@swfwmd.state.fl.us

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From: [Veronica Craw](#)
To: [Brad Rimbey](#); kjgrims@usgs.gov
Cc: [Martyn Johnson](#); [Chris Zajac](#)
Subject: RE: FY 2014 Cooperative Funding Initiative Webinar
Date: Tuesday, August 21, 2012 4:23:23 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Hello all,
I'd like to chime in a bit on this topic.

The Cooperative Funding Program was established to assist local governments to implement projects they would otherwise not be able to fund themselves. Typically, the District and USGS partner outside of that program.

District staff are currently examining the potential to fund this ADVm at Chassahowitzka using existing funds. This would allow us to proceed with this project as soon as an agreement with USGS is executed. We'll let you know the outcome of our examination of remaining available funds.

Sincerely,
Veronica Craw

Veronica Craw
Environmental Section Manager
Southwest Florida Water Management District
2379 Broad Street
Brooksville, FL 34604
352-796-7211 ext. 4267
veronica.craw@swfwmd.state.fl.us

From: Brad Rimbey [<mailto:BWR.CRRRC@tampabay.rr.com>]
Sent: Monday, August 13, 2012 11:31 AM
To: Veronica Craw; kjgrims@usgs.gov
Cc: Martyn Johnson; Chris Zajac
Subject: FY 2014 Cooperative Funding Initiative Webinar

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Please let me know your thoughts on this. Thanks.

Brad Rimbey

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During the webinar District staff will discuss changes in the application deadline (**October 5, 2012 at 5 p.m.**) and project guidelines. Please make plans to join us in Brooksville or online on August 17, 2012 from 10 a.m. to 12 noon.

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From: [Ron Miller](#)
To: [Doug Leeper](#)
Cc: [Brad Rimbey](#); [Jim Bitter](#); [Al Grubman](#)
Subject: Re: Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Minimum Flows Update
Date: Sunday, August 26, 2012 9:37:10 PM

Hi Doug,

What time & where does the Gov Board meet on Oct 30?

If we want to have the stakeholders attend the MFL discussion can it be made "time certain" on the agenda?

Ron

From: [Doug Leeper](#)
Sent: Tuesday, August 07, 2012 3:30 PM
To: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Minimum Flows Update

Greetings:

We had originally planned to present our revised minimum flow recommendations for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa river systems to our Governing Board this month. However, multiple public participants requested more time to review our recommendations and backup materials, including the additional analyses completed in response to public comment.

To accommodate these requests, we are delaying our Governing Board presentation until the October 30 meeting. This change will provide the additional time requested to review the materials and provide comment to the District.

Also, the October 30 Governing Board meeting location has been changed to Brooksville for the convenience of those who may wish to travel to the Board meeting to provide comment. Board meetings are open to the public and individuals or group representatives may address the Board concerning any meeting agenda item or other water management issue.

As a reminder, the District has established a web site for accepting comments on the proposed minimum flows at:

WaterMatters.org/SpringsCoastMFL

Please submit all comments on the revised recommended minimum flows for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa river systems through this web page. The District is accepting comments via this web page through **Wednesday, October 17, 2012**. Comments submitted after this date should be submitted in writing via e-mail or letter, using the following contact information.

Email: executive@watermatters.org

Address: 2379 Broad Street, Brooksville, FL 34604, ATTN: Governing Board

Thanks for your interest and continued support for the development of minimum flows for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa River systems.

Douglas A. Leeper
Chief Environmental Scientist
Water Resources Bureau
Southwest Florida Water Management District
2379 Broad Street
Brooksville, Florida 34604-6899
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doug.leeper@watermatters.org

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From: Doug Leeper
To: ["Ron Miller"](#)
Bcc: [Jerry Mallams](#); [Veronica Crow](#); [Eric DeHaven](#); [Kenneth R. Herd](#); [Mike Heyl](#); [Ron Basso](#); [Sid Flannery](#); [Lou Kavouras](#)
Subject: RE: Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Minimum Flows Update
Date: Monday, August 27, 2012 5:26:00 AM

Hi Ron –

The District Governing Board meeting on October 30, 2012 will be held in the Board Room of the District Headquarters at 2379 Broad Street, Brooksville, FL 34604.

The meeting will start at 9:00 a.m. I'll have to check with other staff regarding your inquiry about "time-certain" scheduling for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa minimum flows and levels agenda item. I'll get back to you on this issue.

Douglas A. Leeper
Chief Environmental Scientist
Water Resources Bureau
Southwest Florida Water Management District
2379 Broad Street
Brooksville, Florida 34604-6899
1-800-423-1476, ext. 4272 (FL only)
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doug.leeper@watermatters.org

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Sent: Sunday, August 26, 2012 9:37 PM
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Cc: Brad Rimbey; Jim Bitter; Al Grubman
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Thanks for your interest and continued support for the development of minimum flows for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa River systems.

Douglas A. Leeper
Chief Environmental Scientist
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doug.leeper@watermatters.org

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From: WaterMatters.org
To: rdugek@vcykrx.com
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Monday, August 27, 2012 7:45:57 AM



Hi izxkpoff,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series. Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

89Gc52 [wpvkfvllqrs](#), [[url=http://pjweobwqjgn.com/](http://pjweobwqjgn.com/)][pjweobwqjgn](#)[/url],
[[link=http://pzwlusioqtzz.com/](http://pzwlusioqtzz.com/)][pzwlusioqtzz](#)[/link], <http://zzfeyvveuwew.com/>

From: [Ron Basso](#)
To: [Alan Martyn Johnson](#)
Cc: [Jerry Mallams](#); [Doug Leeper](#); [Mike Heyl](#)
Subject: RE: Where would all the water flow according to the NDM
Date: Monday, August 27, 2012 9:51:12 AM

Mr. Johnson:

Thank you for your interest and continued support for the development of minimum flows for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa River systems.

The revised minimum flow recommendations for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa river systems are scheduled to be presented to the Southwest Florida Water Management District's (District) Governing Board **9 a.m., Tuesday, October 30, 2012**. The meeting will be held at the District Headquarters in Brooksville. Click [here](#) for directions.

Board meetings are open to the public and individuals or group representatives may address the Board concerning any meeting agenda item or other water management issue.

A webpage is established at WaterMatters.org/SpringsCoastMFL to accept public comments on the proposed minimum flow recommendations for these river systems. The District is accepting comments via this webpage through **Wednesday, October 17, 2012**. After this date, comments may be submitted in writing via email at executive@watermatters.org or by mail to:

ATTN: Governing Board
2379 Broad Street
Brooksville, FL 34604

Ron Basso, P.G.
Senior Professional Geologist
Resource Evaluation Section
Southwest Florida Water Management District
ph 1-800-423-1476 (in state)
ph 352-796-7211, ext. 4291 (outside state)
FAX 352-797-5799

The man who removes a mountain begins by carrying away small stones. - William Faulkner

From: Alan Martyn Johnson [mailto:martynellijay@hotmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, August 16, 2012 8:05 AM
To: Ron Basso; Doug Leeper; Mike Heyl
Subject: Where would all the water flow according to the NDM

I have diligently been reading the Revised Reports for both Chassahowitzka and Homosassa. Overall I note the change of focus to natural flow, a term which does not appear in the Statute. I have pages of questions and comments, so many, I thought it best to take a step back for a moment and look at the big picture.

I came up with this question.

Where would all the water flow with no pumping of groundwater (the non pumping scenario)?

Two Memorandums focused my attention;

- December 1, 2008 from Ron Basso - Predicted Groundwater Withdrawal Impacts to Chassahowitzka Springs based on Numerical Model Results
- February 15, 2010 from Ron Basso - Predicted Groundwater Withdrawal Impacts to Homosassa Springs based on Numerical Model Results

Both predict a decrease of spring flow of 0.7 cfs for the respective springs. But the big picture is the 438.1 mgd pumping for 2005 referenced in the Homosassa memo for the entire NDM and/or the 458 mgd in the Chassahowitzka memo. I suspect the difference is simply a typographical error; so assuming the figure is 450 mgd, this is about 670 cfs. That is six first magnitude springs.

So in the NDM non pumping scenario where would all this water go?

Would the Peace River still be flowing; just a thought.

As I read these memos, they very specifically identify 'groundwater pumping' not surface water.

If you have time I would be interested to see the big picture of where all this water would go in the non pumping scenario, and you may be able to update it for 2011 pumpage.

Just as a commentary: I am pleased to see how the recent rains have improved the waters entering both these rivers;

- *Specific Conductance readings are lower, presumably due to either less seawater ingress, or higher discharge of the better quality water from the aquifer,*
- *Discharge cfs increased immediately Weeki Wachee Well levels increased, according to the calculated discharge data, which implies pumpage in the Weeki Wachee locale does influence the two referenced rivers.*

Weeki Wachee MFL report includes comment about the 450 mgd reducing discharge from the spring by 9.7 cfs; not much of the 670 cfs.

Martyn

From: Doug Leeper
To: ["Ron Miller"](#)
Bcc: [Jerry Mallams](#); [Veronica Crow](#); [Eric DeHaven](#); [Kenneth R. Herd](#); [Mike Heyl](#); [Ron Basso](#); [Sid Flannery](#); [Robyn O. Felix](#); [Virginia Singer](#); [Lou Kavouras](#)
Subject: RE: Time-Certain Request
Date: Monday, August 27, 2012 3:56:00 PM

Ron –

I'm following up on the e-mail you sent yesterday and the reply I sent this morning.

I spoke with Lou Kavouras, our Board & Executive Services Bureaus Chief about your "time-certain" request and she indicated that staff will ask the Governing Board Chair to make the Resource Management Committee, which is the committee that will be discussing the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa MFLs agenda item, the first committee meeting of the day.

If the Chair agrees to this request, the Resource Management Committee will follow the Convene Public Hearing and Meeting items (call to order, employee recognition, etc.) and the Consent Agenda items, and will likely begin within the first half-hour or so of the Board meeting.

Douglas A. Leeper
Chief Environmental Scientist
Water Resources Bureau
Southwest Florida Water Management District
2379 Broad Street
Brooksville, Florida 34604-6899
1-800-423-1476, ext. 4272 (FL only)
352-796-7211, ext. 4272
352-754-6885 (Fax)
doug.leeper@watermatters.org

From: Ron Miller [<mailto:rmille76@tampabay.rr.com>]
Sent: Sunday, August 26, 2012 9:37 PM
To: Doug Leeper
Cc: Brad Rimbey; Jim Bitter; Al Grubman
Subject: Re: Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Minimum Flows Update

Hi Doug,

What time & where does the Gov Board meet on Oct 30?

If we want to have the stakeholders attend the MFL discussion can it be made "time certain" on the agenda?

Ron

Remainder of e-mail string deleted by D. Leeper

From: [Ron Miller](#)
To: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Re: Time-Certain Request
Date: Monday, August 27, 2012 9:38:04 PM

That sounds good.

Thank You,

Ron

From: [Doug Leeper](#)
Sent: Monday, August 27, 2012 3:56 PM
To: [Ron Miller](#)
Subject: RE: Time-Certain Request

Ron –

I'm following up on the e-mail you sent yesterday and the reply I sent this morning.

I spoke with Lou Kavourus, our Board & Executive Services Bureau's Chief about your "time-certain" request and she indicated that staff will ask the Governing Board Chair to make the Resource Management Committee, which is the committee that will be discussing the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa MFLs agenda item, the first committee meeting of the day.

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From: [Alan Martyn Johnson](#)
To: [Ron Basso](#)
Cc: [Jerry Mallams](#); [Doug Leeper](#); [Mike Heyl](#)
Subject: RE: Where would all the water flow according to the NDM
Date: Tuesday, August 28, 2012 8:37:07 AM

Ron and 'Staff',

Thanks for the e-mail. Reading between the lines it sounds like there is a SWFWMD policy to not respond to questions regarding the Revised MFL Reports; and allow public comment to accumulate on the web site.

You have to admit it was an interesting question I asked and I a feeling you did discuss it some!

I have read the reports in detail out of concern for the future of these Outstanding Florida Waters and given the relentless pursuit by SWFWMD (the total entity) to justify sucking more water from the aquifer. Given the present and planned withdrawals there is only a legal perception for 'natural flow' to become so important in the revised reports. 'Natural flow' was mentioned twice in the original report for Chassahowitzka and 11 times in the Revised Report; for Homosassa it went from 4 to 16.

Let me point to a few of the many questions/comments, but there is no need to reply. Chassahowitzka (only because it was the most recent read)

I note on page xviii reference to Section 3.1.3; I am not able to find this, possibly the intended reference was to Chapter 3.2. On the same page there is reference to Section 1.4.3; again I am not able to find this.

On the same subject, correcting the flow record (mentioned on that same page) I am not able to find the origin of the correction factors of 1.011 for the gage site, 1.0147 for Crab Creek, 1.0073 for Potter etc as presented specifically on page 18: Where did these originate? Basso 2008 Section 11.2 (in the appendices) does not include these figures. Comment: If there is an impact by groundwater withdrawals on the considerably more saline springs such as Crab and Potter I would have thought it much different to the springs yielding lower salinity water such as in the unnamed tributary Bubba Spring. These correction factors give the impression of accuracy that appears to be scientifically lacking validity.

Martyn

From: Ron.Basso@swfwmd.state.fl.us
To: martynellijay@hotmail.com
CC: Jerry.Mallams@swfwmd.state.fl.us; Doug.Leeper@swfwmd.state.fl.us; Mike.Heyl@swfwmd.state.fl.us
Date: Mon, 27 Aug 2012 09:51:10 -0400
Subject: RE: Where would all the water flow according to the NDM

Mr. Johnson:

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Ron Basso, P.G.
Senior Professional Geologist
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ph 1-800-423-1476 (in state)
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the figure is 450 mgd, this is about 670 cfs. That is six first magnitude springs.

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Weeki Wachee MFL report includes comment about the 450 mgd reducing discharge from the spring by 9.7 cfs; not much of the 670 cfs.

Martyn

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From: WaterMatters.org
To: martynellijay@hotmail.com
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Tuesday, August 28, 2012 5:40:22 PM



Hi Martyn,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series. Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

SUBJECT: ACCURACY OF DISCHARGE DATA HOMOSASSA RIVER 18 months ago I raised questions regarding the accuracy of discharge data calculated for the USGS stations on the Homosassa River. Most specifically I expressed interest in the SE Fork gage station 02310688, somehow this resulted in a velocity meter being installed at considerable expense. Data from the meter has been collected every hour since installation September 9, 2011. USGS and SWFWMD senior executives should be asking why this data is not available to either confirm or correct the 'calculated' discharge data which is directly related to the level in the Weeki Wachee Well. If the calculated discharge data is correct (or close) when averaged over a meaningful timeframe, this adds credibility to the argument that withdrawals in the Weeki Wachee area do influence flow at the Homosassa Springs. The Revised MFL Report appears to argue only local withdrawals are changing the flow from the springs. The arguments appear to lack consistency. So when will the data be available. A USGS head office review conducted in January 2012 recommended the equations be updated (this could also mean reviewed) given all the data since the equations were implemented.

From: Doug Leeper
To: [Ron Basso](#); [Mike Heyl](#)
Cc: [Jerry Mallams](#); [Veronica Crow](#)
Subject: FW: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Tuesday, August 28, 2012 6:02:00 PM

From: WaterMatters.org [mailto:info@WaterMatters.org]
Sent: Tuesday, August 28, 2012 5:35 PM
To: martynellijay@hotmail.com
Cc: Doug Leeper
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments



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From: [Alan Martyn Johnson](#)
To: [Doug Leeper](#)
Cc: [Ron Basso](#); [Mike Heyl](#)
Subject: Timeframe for Velocity data from investments at SE Fork and Halls River
Date: Thursday, August 30, 2012 7:34:31 AM

Doug,

I was pleased to receive a confirmation and Thank You e-mail, regarding comment I posted on the web site; and noted that you are copied. Good job by whoever organized this; I was concerned comments were going to accumulate both unread as well as unanswered.

This e-mail is not directly about the MFL Reports, but about funding/investments.

We are within 10 days of the anniversary of the start of operation of the velocity meter at the SE Fork station (September 9 @ 12:15 hour). The most recent Field Measurements only add to the concerns I have previously expressed. I have copied the specific data below for ease of reference, but my concern is data collected from these investments, SE Fork and Halls River Velocity Meters, is not being made available. This is troubling as USGS is going to discontinue monitoring of some wells in the area due to lack of sponsorship, yet data from these recently funded projects is 'intentionally' hidden. I am sure you are aware that velocity data from the Halls River 'new' site (installed March 2012) was on line for a few months before being 'hidden'. What is the sense in spending these scarce resources and not getting any value from them?

I would appreciate if you can share the timeframe for velocity data to be made available from these two sites in the Homosassa River. I appreciate there is more involved in converting velocity to discharge (determining stage area and how it changes with stage, plus verification by field measurements), but velocity as seen by the instrument is raw data and meaningful raw data.

FYI I have spoken to the manufacturer's technical personnel regarding location of these meters and how quickly meaning full data can be obtained, both velocity and discharge. Let's just say one year is difficult to understand and the SE Fork location is not ideal as it is at a location where flow direction changes significantly.

On a more positive note, the delay has at least given the chance to observe a range of conditions with Weeki Wachee Well starting around 15 ft. last September/October, dropping to a low of 10.86 ft. in May, and to the high of 18.84 ft. in July.

On a personal note I am pleased to see the significant increase in levels in the aquifer, due to tropical storm Debby, have resulted in improved quality of water emanating both the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs. I will be in Homosassa the next two weeks and plan on monitoring the springs as I have in the past. Really interested to see if strong flow has reestablished at some of the smaller vents.

Doug, SWFWMD and us folks that pay the taxes which make all this possible need a timeframe for data from these investments with USGS.

Martyn

Recent Field Measurements Stream flow and 'as close as possible time' Calculated flow from USGS 02310688 SE Fork.

Meas. Number	Date	Time	Stream flow (ft ³ /s)	Calculated flow (ft ³ /s)
234	2012-08-16	14:49:08	74.3	37
233	2012-08-16	14:40:53	78.4	37
232	2012-08-16	14:23:38	78.7	
231	2012-08-16	14:16:06	70.7	
230	2012-08-16	14:09:03	77.8	43
229	2012-08-16	10:30:23	90.7	76

Time series observations from USGS 02310688 SE Fork

08/16/2012 10:15 EST	1.17 ^P	76 ^P	960 ^P	24.5 ^P	0.55 ^P
08/16/2012 10:30 EST	1.15 ^P	76 ^P	970 ^P	24.4 ^P	0.53 ^P
08/16/2012 10:45 EST	1.13 ^P	76 ^P	950 ^P	24.3 ^P	0.51 ^P
08/16/2012 11:00 EST	1.11 ^P	77 ^P	930 ^P	24.1 ^P	0.49 ^P
08/16/2012 11:15 EST	P	P	980 ^P	24.3 ^P	P
08/16/2012 11:30 EST	1.12 ^P	64 ^P	980 ^P	24.4 ^P	0.50 ^P
08/16/2012 11:45 EST	1.15 ^P	55 ^P	980 ^P	24.5 ^P	0.53 ^P
08/16/2012 12:00 EST	1.21 ^P	42 ^P	970 ^P	24.5 ^P	0.59 ^P
08/16/2012 12:15 EST	P	P	1,040 ^P	24.5 ^P	P
08/16/2012 12:30 EST	1.28 ^P	37 ^P	960 ^P	24.7 ^P	0.66 ^P
08/16/2012 12:45 EST	1.34 ^P	41 ^P	1,240 ^P	24.3 ^P	0.72 ^P
08/16/2012 13:00 EST	1.37 ^P	53 ^P	1,130 ^P	24.4 ^P	0.75 ^P
08/16/2012 13:15 EST	P	P	1,330 ^P	24.5 ^P	P
08/16/2012 13:30 EST	1.47 ^P	23 ^P	1,300 ^P	24.5 ^P	0.85 ^P
08/16/2012 13:45 EST	1.52 ^P	43 ^P	1,180 ^P	24.6 ^P	0.90 ^P
08/16/2012 14:00 EST	1.57 ^P	43 ^P	1,100 ^P	24.5 ^P	0.95 ^P
08/16/2012 14:15 EST	P	P	950 ^P	24.8 ^P	P
08/16/2012 14:30 EST	1.68 ^P	16 ^P	1,250 ^P	24.6 ^P	1.06 ^P
08/16/2012 14:45 EST	1.74 ^P	37 ^P	1,050 ^P	24.7 ^P	1.12 ^P
08/16/2012 15:00 EST	1.79 ^P	40 ^P	1,210 ^P	24.6 ^P	1.17 ^P

Blue colored data is using a 30 minute stage change and is not comparable.

From: [Veronica Crow](#)
To: [Mike Heyl](#); [Philip Rhinesmith](#); [Sid Flannery](#)
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: FW: FY 2014 Cooperative Funding Initiative Webinar
Date: Wednesday, August 22, 2012 5:24:06 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Veronica Crow
Environmental Section Manager
Southwest Florida Water Management District
2379 Broad Street
Brooksville, FL 34604
352-796-7211 ext. 4267
veronica.crow@swfwmd.state.fl.us

From: Brad Rimbey [mailto:BWR.CRRC@tampabay.rr.com]
Sent: Tuesday, August 21, 2012 7:00 PM
To: Veronica Crow; kjgrims@usgs.gov
Cc: Martyn Johnson; Chris Zajac
Subject: Re: FY 2014 Cooperative Funding Initiative Webinar

Thanks Veronica. I'm not sure if you are aware that an ADVN was installed at Chassahowitzka Main sometime in the past. Reportedly, aquatic vegetation caused it to malfunction and it was subsequently removed. Since an ADVN was previously funded and installed at Chassahowitzka Main, maybe it could get some priority for reinstallation. The aquatic vegetation should no longer be an issue. I think it could yield some useful information during the Chassahowitzka Main Spring Restoration Project. If you can think of a way I can help make this happen, please let me know.

Brad W. Rimbey

----- Original Message -----

From: [Veronica Crow](#)
To: [Brad Rimbey](#) ; kjgrims@usgs.gov
Cc: [Martyn Johnson](#) ; [Chris Zajac](#)
Sent: Tuesday, August 21, 2012 4:23 PM
Subject: RE: FY 2014 Cooperative Funding Initiative Webinar

Hello all,
I'd like to chime in a bit on this topic.

The Cooperative Funding Program was established to assist local governments to implement projects they would otherwise not be able to fund themselves. Typically, the District and USGS partner outside of that program.

District staff are currently examining the potential to fund this ADVN at Chassahowitzka using existing funds. This would allow us to proceed with this project as soon as an agreement with USGS is executed. We'll let you know the outcome of our examination of remaining available funds.

Sincerely,
Veronica Crow

Veronica Crow
Environmental Section Manager
Southwest Florida Water Management District
2379 Broad Street
Brooksville, FL 34604
352-796-7211 ext. 4267
veronica.crow@swfwmd.state.fl.us

From: Brad Rimbey [mailto:BWR.CRRC@tampabay.rr.com]
Sent: Monday, August 13, 2012 11:31 AM
To: Veronica Crow; kjgrims@usgs.gov
Cc: Martyn Johnson; Chris Zajac
Subject: FY 2014 Cooperative Funding Initiative Webinar

Hi Kevin,

Some time ago, we had discussed the potential of installing an Acoustic Doppler Velocity Meter at Chassahowitzka Main (USGS 02310650). Is

SWFWMD's Cooperative Funding Initiative workshop the appropriate forum to present such a proposal (see email below)?

As you may know, SWFWMD has been trying to launch the Chassahowitzka Headspring Restoration Project for several years. There are multiple spring vents in the headspring area which have silted in over the years and they no longer flow. Also, the main spring has accumulated several logs down in the crevice. As the restoration project proceeds and spring vents are cleared of muck and logs, it would be helpful to see if there is a net increase in flow coming from the Chassahowitzka Main Spring group.

It seems an ADVM would be the preferred tool for detecting any net increase in spring flow. The pressure transducer currently being used to gather data for stage-based calculated flows really needs to be replaced with modern technology. Based on the installation of ADVM's at Homosassa's SE Fork and Halls River, it takes quite awhile to get the ADVM's calibrated. Assuming you agree with my assessment, an ADVM really needs to be installed at Chassahowitzka Main now so that it will be ready to report changes in flow when the headspring restoration project begins next spring/summer.

Please let me know your thoughts on this. Thanks.

Brad Rimbey

----- Original Message -----

From: [Chris Zajac](mailto:Chris.Zajac@swfwmd.state.fl.us)

Sent: Thursday, August 02, 2012 2:42 PM

Subject: FY 2014 Cooperative Funding Initiative Webinar

Please feel free to contact me should you have any questions/concerns about the application due dates.

**Fiscal Year 2014
Cooperative Funding Initiative
Upcoming Workshop**

The Southwest Florida Water Management District (District) will be accepting applications for fiscal year 2014 funding by the District's Governing Board. District staff will host a workshop to review the application process, discuss program updates and answer specific project-related questions.

The workshop will be on August 17 from 10 a.m. to 12 noon at:
District Headquarters, 2379 Broad Street, Brooksville, FL 34604

Visit WaterMatters.org/CFI to view a live video stream of this meeting or to participate in the webinar. The meeting will also be taped for viewing at a later date. **Application deadline is Friday, October 5, 2012, at 5 p.m.**

Southwest Florida
Water Management District
WATERMATTERS.ORG-1-800-423-1476

**Fiscal Year 2014
Cooperative Funding Initiative**

Application deadline is October 5, 2012, at 5 p.m.
Visit WaterMatters.org/CFI for more information.

Contact Information:

Projects in Citrus, Hernando, Lake, Levy, Marion and Sumter counties:
Brooksville Headquarters
Chris Zajac, (352) 796-7211, ext. 4413
Chris.Zajac@WaterMatters.org

Projects in Hardee, Highlands and Polk counties:
Bartow Service Office
Danny Kushmer, (863) 534-1448, ext. 6000
Danny.Kushmer@WaterMatters.org

Projects in Charlotte, DeSoto, Manatee and Sarasota counties:
Sarasota Service Office
Terri Behling, APR, (941) 377-3722, ext. 6528
Terri.Behling@WaterMatters.org

Projects in Hillsborough, Pasco and Pinellas counties:
Tampa Service Office
Cara Martin, (813) 985-7481, ext. 4636
Cara.Martin@WaterMatters.org

During the webinar District staff will discuss changes in the application deadline (**October 5, 2012 at 5 p.m.**) and project guidelines. Please make plans to join us in Brooksville or online on August 17, 2012 from 10 a.m. to 12 noon.

Chris Zajac
Government Affairs Manager
Northern Planning Region
Southwest Florida Water Management District
2379 Broad Street
Brooksville, Florida 34604
(352) 796-7211 ext. 4413
Cell # 352-299-5538
chris.zajac@swfwmd.state.fl.us

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Checked by AVG - www.avg.com

Version: 2012.0.2197 / Virus Database: 2437/5160 - Release Date: 07/28/12

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No virus found in this message.

Checked by AVG - www.avg.com

Version: 2012.0.2197 / Virus Database: 2437/5207 - Release Date: 08/18/12

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From: [Brad Rimbey](#)
To: [Ralph Kerr](#); [Mark Hammond](#); [Ron Basso](#); [Doug Leeper](#)
Cc: [Brent Whitley](#)
Subject: Fw: SLR v. Groundwater pumping
Date: Wednesday, September 05, 2012 7:03:14 AM
Attachments: [Pokhrel et al sealevel rise paper12.pdf](#)

All,

Dan Hilliard with W.A.R., Inc. recently forwarded the attached paper which relates groundwater withdrawals to sealevel rise. I thought you guys might find it interesting.

Brad Rimbey

From: Doug Leeper
To: [Mike Heyl](#); kwatson@hsweng.com; [Jerry Mallams](#); [Sid Flannery](#)
Subject: FW: SLR v. Groundwater pumping
Date: Wednesday, September 05, 2012 7:41:00 AM
Attachments: [Pokhrel et al sealevel rise paper12.pdf](#)

-----Original Message-----

From: Brad Rimbey [<mailto:BWR.CRRC@tampabay.rr.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, September 05, 2012 7:03 AM
To: Ralph Kerr; Mark Hammond; Ron Basso; Doug Leeper
Cc: Brent Whitley
Subject: Fw: SLR v. Groundwater pumping

All,

Dan Hilliard with W.A.R., Inc. recently forwarded the attached paper which relates groundwater withdrawals to sealevel rise. I thought you guys might find it interesting.

Brad Rimbey

From: Doug Leeper
To: "[Brad Rimbey](#)"
Subject: RE: SLR v. Groundwater pumping
Date: Wednesday, September 05, 2012 7:43:00 AM

Thanks Brad.

Douglas A. Leeper
Chief Environmental Scientist
Water Resources Bureau
Southwest Florida Water Management District
2379 Broad Street
Brooksville, Florida 34604-6899
1-800-423-1476, ext. 4272 (FL only)
352-796-7211, ext. 4272
352-754-6885 (Fax)
doug.leeper@watermatters.org

-----Original Message-----

From: Brad Rimbey [<mailto:BWR.CRRC@tampabay.rr.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, September 05, 2012 7:03 AM
To: Ralph Kerr; Mark Hammond; Ron Basso; Doug Leeper
Cc: Brent Whitley
Subject: Fw: SLR v. Groundwater pumping

All,

Dan Hilliard with W.A.R., Inc. recently forwarded the attached paper which relates groundwater withdrawals to sealevel rise. I thought you guys might find it interesting.

Brad Rimbey

From: [Ron Basso](#)
To: [Doug Leeper](#); [Mike Heyl](#)
Cc: [Jerry Mallams](#)
Subject: FW: SLR v. Groundwater pumping
Date: Wednesday, September 05, 2012 8:30:24 AM
Attachments: [Pokhrel et al sealevel rise paper12.pdf](#)
[ATT00001.htm](#)

FYI

From: Brent Whitley [mailto:BrentWhitley@Sierra-Properties.com]
Sent: Wednesday, September 05, 2012 7:55 AM
To: Ron Basso
Subject: Fwd: SLR v. Groundwater pumping

Ron,

See the attachment. Just curious but isn't this study a bunch of BS? It seems to assume that withdrawals are never fully replaced by any source.

.77 mm a year. Is that even measurable with any degree of certainty?

Hope things are well with you.

Brent

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Brad Rimbey" <BWR.CRRC@tampabay.rr.com>
To: "Ralph.Kerr@swfwmd.state.fl.us" <Ralph.Kerr@swfwmd.state.fl.us>, "Mark.Hammond@swfwmd.state.fl.us" <Mark.Hammond@swfwmd.state.fl.us>, "Ron.Basso@swfwmd.state.fl.us" <Ron.Basso@swfwmd.state.fl.us>, "Doug.Leeper@swfwmd.state.fl.us" <Doug.Leeper@swfwmd.state.fl.us>
Cc: "Brent Whitley" <BrentWhitley@Sierra-Properties.com>
Subject: **Fw: SLR v. Groundwater pumping**

All,

Dan Hilliard with W.A.R., Inc. recently forwarded the attached paper which relates groundwater withdrawals to sealevel rise. I thought you guys might find it interesting.

Brad Rimbey

From: WaterMatters.org
To: udawcn@wrgnur.com
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Saturday, September 08, 2012 9:47:49 PM



Hi qzmcue,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series. Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

*nxsNY3 [efxinlvcvfns](#), [[url=http://hdzlxshthdq.com/](http://hdzlxshthdq.com/)]/[hdzlxshthdq](#)[/[url](#)],
[[link=http://imkwzufjefxp.com/](http://imkwzufjefxp.com/)]/[imkwzufjefxp](#)[/[link](#)], <http://hkxgegsfdkuw.com/>*

From: [Bryan, Dana](#)
To: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: MFL question
Date: Thursday, September 13, 2012 4:05:33 PM

Hi, Doug!

I was doing fine understanding the technical document until I got to the end. Table 7-6 shows 131 cfs as the moving 5-year median value for Homosassa Spring and the NW Fork combined, and this is supposed to represent 97% of the natural flow. But on pp. 49-50, the combined mean daily discharges from HS and the NW Branch equaled 150 cfs (89 cfs plus 61 cfs). Thus this proposed 131 cfs is a 9% reduction, not a 3% reduction.

What am I not seeing right?

Dana C. Bryan
Environmental Policy Coordinator
Bureau of Natural and Cultural Resources
Florida Park Service
Florida Department of Environmental Protection
Douglas Building - MS 530
3900 Commonwealth Blvd.
Tallahassee, FL 32399-3000
850-245-3104; inter. ext. 53612; dana.bryan@dep.state.fl.us

Visit *The Real Florida*sm at <http://www.floridastateparks.org>

Please take a few minutes to share your comments on the service you received from the department by clicking on this link. [DEP Customer Survey](#).

From: Doug Leeper
To: ["Bryan, Dana"](#)
Cc: [Mike Heyl](#); [Ron Basso](#); [Jerry Mallams](#); [Veronica Crow](#)
Subject: RE: MFL question
Date: Friday, September 14, 2012 3:46:00 PM

Hi Dana –

The long-term hydrologic statistics presented in Table 7-6 of the draft, revised Homosassa MFLs report are based on an allowable three percent reduction in a long-term synthetic flow record that was created by combining flow estimates for the Homosassa Main Springs and SE Fork of the Homosassa River. The long-term flow estimates for the Homosassa Main Springs and SE Fork gage sites were developed for the period from 6/15/1966 through 2/6/2012 based on recent flow records reported by the USGS and historical values predicted for each gage using linear regressions between measured flows and Weeki Wachee Well stage. Note that the synthetic record only includes values for days with measured data and days with well data that could be used to predicted flows.

The long-term estimates were developed for calculating five and ten-year mean and median values that could then be used to identify the *lowest* five or ten-year values that would have been expected if a three percent reduction in natural flows were to have occurred for the entire period of record in the Homosassa Main Springs run and the SE Fork. So, given this “historical” look at low five and ten-year hydrologic statistics, we may expect that future five and ten-year flow statistics should not be any lower than the values reported in Table 7-6, if natural flows are not reduced by more than three percent. The occurrence of lower five and ten-year values would be expected to prompt a look at factors such as rainfall and water use that could account for the occurrence of such low values.

Hope this helps. If you have additional questions, please call.

Douglas A. Leeper
Chief Environmental Scientist
Water Resources Bureau
Southwest Florida Water Management District
2379 Broad Street
Brooksville, Florida 34604-6899
1-800-423-1476, ext. 4272 (FL only)
352-796-7211, ext. 4272
352-754-6885 (Fax)
doug.leeper@watermatters.org

From: Bryan, Dana [<mailto:Dana.Bryan@dep.state.fl.us>]
Sent: Thursday, September 13, 2012 4:05 PM
To: Doug Leeper
Subject: MFL question

Hi, Doug!

I was doing fine understanding the technical document until I got to the end. Table 7-6 shows 131 cfs as the moving 5-year median value for Homosassa Spring and the NW Fork combined, and this is supposed to represent 97% of the natural flow. But on pp. 49-50, the combined mean daily discharges from HS and the NW Branch equaled 150 cfs (89 cfs plus 61 cfs). Thus this proposed 131 cfs is a 9% reduction, not a 3% reduction.

What am I not seeing right?

Dana C. Bryan
Environmental Policy Coordinator
Bureau of Natural and Cultural Resources
Florida Park Service
Florida Department of Environmental Protection
Douglas Building - MS 530
3900 Commonwealth Blvd.
Tallahassee, FL 32399-3000
850-245-3104; inter. ext. 53612; dana.bryan@dep.state.fl.us

Visit *The Real Florida*sm at <http://www.floridastateparks.org>

Please take a few minutes to share your comments on the service you received from the department by clicking on this link. [DEP Customer Survey](#).

From: [SWFWMD Daily Media Report](#)
To: [All Users](#)
Subject: SWFWMD Daily Media Report
Date: Friday, September 14, 2012 3:22:23 PM

**SOUTHWEST FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
DAILY MEDIA CONTACTS
9/14/2012
As of 3:30 p.m.**

Reporter's Name: Peter Linton-Smith

Media Outlet: WTVT-TV FOX 13

Reason for Call: Prescribed Burns

Agency's Response: Reporter visited a prescribed burn today at Starkey Wilderness Park. Reporter learned about the District's prescribed burning program and interviewed staff. Story is scheduled to air tonight at 6 p.m.

Reporter's Name: Prakash Gandhi

Media Outlet: The Florida Specifier

Reason for Call: Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Revised Minimum Flows

Agency's Response: Reporter contacted staff yesterday to get information and quotes on the revised minimum flows for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa river systems. Staff provided the information today.

Reporter's Name: Kevin Wiatrowski

Media Outlet: Tampa Tribune

Reason for Call: Lower Hillsborough River

Agency's Response: Reporter contacted staff yesterday to find out if the District has done any scientific studies on the lower Hillsborough River. Yesterday staff provided the reporter with basic information on the minimum flows for the lower Hillsborough River. Reporter also wanted to know whether the District takes sediment samples of the river. Reporter was referred to the Hillsborough County Environmental Protection Commission, which takes water quality and sediment samples of the river.

From: WaterMatters.org
To: Mcwethy37818@gmail.com
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Saturday, September 15, 2012 7:44:30 PM



Hi xNWnhBKVwYUO,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series. Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

[buy viagra](#) *viagra from india fake - can you buy viagra in qatar*

From: WaterMatters.org
To: bfwzo@kgtfq.com
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Sunday, September 16, 2012 12:02:57 AM



Hi htsrwtekkx,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series. Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

WJPPTU [txgoqsahmmfw](#), [[url=http://hlorksrqmpxv.com/](http://hlorksrqmpxv.com/)]/hlorksrqmpxv[/url],
[[link=http://yyywygbehtam.com/](http://yyywygbehtam.com/)]/yyywygbehtam[/link], <http://xdtmaufijzru.com/>

From: WaterMatters.org
To: godcvc@xethlx.com
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Sunday, September 16, 2012 4:15:46 AM



Hi vbkbinrgss,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series. Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

A7kr5G [daeqvtwopesz](#), [url=<http://gexskiyefrjv.com/>]/gexskiyefrjv[/url],
[link=<http://lhggeukqgef1.com/>]/lhggeukqgef1[/link], <http://gubvtpjnlqxn.com/>

From: WaterMatters.org
To: drs@ymail.com
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Monday, September 17, 2012 8:10:40 AM



Hi susan,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series. Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

I strongly urge NO reduction in the current flows and levels in order to help restore the health of these Outstanding Florida Waters, and not cause them further harm. Both rivers and their springs are seriously impaired from pollution from leaking septic tanks, direct discharge of sewerage, run-off from roads and parking lots, fertilizer and lawn chemicals, loss of native sea grasses and fish, proliferation of lyngbya, and salt water intrusion, etc. We should be working toward restoring these rivers, not reducing their flow! PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDAR! Two very

From: Doug Leeper
To: [Mike Heyl](#); [Ron Basso](#); [Jerry Mallams](#); [Veronica Crow](#)
Subject: FW: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Wednesday, September 19, 2012 2:49:00 PM

FYI – comment from the web page.

Douglas A. Leeper
Chief Environmental Scientist
Water Resources Bureau
Southwest Florida Water Management District
2379 Broad Street
Brooksville, Florida 34604-6899
1-800-423-1476, ext. 4272 (FL only)
352-796-7211, ext. 4272
352-754-6885 (Fax)
doug.leeper@watermatters.org

From: WaterMatters.org [mailto:info@WaterMatters.org]
Sent: Monday, September 17, 2012 7:48 AM
To: drsu@ymail.com
Cc: Doug Leeper
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments



Hi susan,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series. Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

I strongly urge NO reduction in the current flows and levels in order to help restore the health of these Outstanding Florida Waters, and not cause them further harm. Both rivers and their springs are seriously impaired from pollution from leaking septic tanks, direct discharge of sewerage, run-off from roads and parking lots, fertilizer and lawn chemicals, loss of native sea grasses and fish, proliferation of lyngbya, and salt water intrusion, etc. We should be working toward restoring these rivers, not reducing their flow! PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDAR! Two very

From: WaterMatters.org
To: boverly@tampabay.rr.com
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Thursday, September 20, 2012 10:26:40 AM



Hi Beverly,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series. Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

(Submitted by M.Heyl on behalf of Beverly Overa) From: Beverly Overa [mailto:boverly@tampabay.rr.com] Sent: Tuesday, September 18, 2012 4:52 PM To: Executive Subject: MFL's Dear Executive Members: I am totally against any drawdown of water from our spring fed OFW's. The degradation of these rivers is obvious to any observer from even a short 10 years ago, not to mention folks who have lived here all their lives. MFL's should be set at 'ZERO', no more, no less, since the 'science' of the MFL's is so recent. ZERO MFL's. Beverly Overa, Florida Master Naturalist boverly@tampabay.rr.com

From: [Mike Heyl](mailto:Mike.Heyl)
To: boverly@tampabay.rr.com
Date: Thursday, September 20, 2012 10:23:37 AM

Ms. Overa -

Thank you for your interest in development of the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa minimum flows. Your email dated September 18 was forwarded to me, and I want to make you aware of several upcoming meetings pertinent to the minimum flows for these two systems.

On October 2, 2012 the District will be holding a public meeting to discuss development of minimum flows. The location is the Citrus County Lecanto Government Center (Room 166) located at 3600 W. Sovereign Path in Lecanto (34461). The meeting will be held from 5:30 until 7:30 pm.

On October 30, 2012, the District Governing Board will consider establishment of minimum flows for these two systems. The meeting will be held at the District Headquarters at 2379 Broad Street in Brooksville, Florida. The Governing Board meetings are open to the public and brief oral comments are permitted on meeting agenda items.

Earlier this year, the District held a series of stakeholder workshops. Agendas, presentations and minutes of those meetings may be viewed at <http://www.swfwmd.state.fl.us/projects/mfl/springs-coast-mfl.php> This site also provides an avenue to submit comments to the Governing Board regarding the proposed minimum flows. All comments submitted will be made available to the Governing Board members. In order to ensure that the content of your September 18 email is included, I took the liberty of submitting the email text as a comment and asked that you be notified of any further activities related to these minimum flows.

The respective technical reports for these two systems can be downloaded from the same site. If you have additional comments after review of the reports or the results of the stakeholder meetings, I encourage you to submit those comments through the url previously listed.

MGH

=====
Michael G. Heyl - Chief Environmental Scientist
Mike.Heyl@SWFWMD.state.fl.us or Mike.Heyl@WaterMatters.org
=====
Natural Systems and Restoration Bureau / SWFWMD (7:00 am - 3:30 pm)
7601 U.S. Highway 301 1-813-985-7481 Ext 2211
Tampa, Fl. 33637-6759 1-813-987-6747 (Fax)
----- *Note : District Limit for Incoming Email is 5 Megabytes* -----
An ftp site is available for larger attachments : http://ftp.swfwmd.state.fl.us/
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=====
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for records retention purposes in accordance with Florida's Public Records laws
and is available for inspection by the public upon request.

From: Doug Leeper
To: [Mike Heyl](#); [Ron Basso](#); [Jerry Mallams](#); [Veronica Crow](#)
Subject: FW: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Wednesday, September 19, 2012 2:49:00 PM

FYI – comment from the web page.

Douglas A. Leeper
Chief Environmental Scientist
Water Resources Bureau
Southwest Florida Water Management District
2379 Broad Street
Brooksville, Florida 34604-6899
1-800-423-1476, ext. 4272 (FL only)
352-796-7211, ext. 4272
352-754-6885 (Fax)
doug.leeper@watermatters.org

From: WaterMatters.org [mailto:info@WaterMatters.org]
Sent: Monday, September 17, 2012 7:48 AM
To: drsu@ymail.com
Cc: Doug Leeper
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments



Hi susan,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series. Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

I strongly urge NO reduction in the current flows and levels in order to help restore the health of these Outstanding Florida Waters, and not cause them further harm. Both rivers and their springs are seriously impaired from pollution from leaking septic tanks, direct discharge of sewerage, run-off from roads and parking lots, fertilizer and lawn chemicals, loss of native sea grasses and fish, proliferation of lyngbya, and salt water intrusion, etc. We should be working toward restoring these rivers, not reducing their flow! PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDAR! Two very

From: [Gwen Brown](#)
To: [Mike Heyl](#)
Cc: [Jerry Mallams](#); [Veronica Crow](#); [Jet Houser](#); [Jennifer D. Noland](#); [Doug Leeper](#); [Darcy A. Brune](#)
Subject: FW: Comments on Revised MFL Proposals for Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers
Date: Monday, September 24, 2012 9:42:50 AM
Attachments: [Comments on revised MFL proposals for Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.docx](#)

Mike,

Please respond as appropriate and cc: Dianna Brass.

Marcy,

FYI---See email below regarding the SWFWMD on-line form space restrictions.

Thank you,

Gwen

From: Executive
Sent: Monday, September 24, 2012 9:30 AM
To: Gwen Brown
Cc: Jet Houser; Lou Kavouras
Subject: FW: Comments on Revised MFL Proposals for Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

For your information and appropriate handling. Thank you.

Dianna Brass, Adm. Spvr.
SWFWMD Board & Exec. Svcs.
352-796-7211, Ext.4604

From: Nancy [<mailto:nkost@tampabay.rr.com>]
Sent: Friday, September 21, 2012 9:01 PM
To: Executive
Subject: Comments on Revised MFL Proposals for Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Citrus County Audubon Society respectfully submits comments (attached) on your revised MFL proposals for the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers. We were unable to submit these comments via your on-line form due to space restrictions. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Nancy Kost for
Citrus County Audubon Society
11851 W. Waterway Dr.
Homosassa FL 34448
352/628-0698



Date: October 18, 2012
To: SWFWMD
From: Citrus County Audubon Society Board of Directors
RE: COMMENTS ON SWFWMD REVISED MFL PROPOSALS FOR CHASSAHOWITZKA
AND HOMOSASSA RIVERS

The SWFWMD Governing Board will soon be considering approval of revised recommendations for Minimum Flows and Levels (MFLs) for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers in Citrus County.

The Board of Directors, Officers and members of Citrus County Audubon Society strongly urge you to not reduce the current flows and levels and thereby help restore the health of these Outstanding Florida Waters and not cause them further harm.

Once crystal-clear, these two rivers are now seriously impaired by pollution from leaking septic tanks, direct discharge of sewerage, run-off from roads and parking lots, fertilizer and lawn chemicals, loss of native sea grasses, proliferation of lyngbya, and salt water intrusion, etc.

Aquatic life of these river ecosystems is clearly endangered. In far too many locations, the flow of the springs in these rivers is gravely reduced or stopped altogether, and in some areas the river bottoms, devoid of grasses and covered by smothering layers of slime, cannot even hold an anchor. Trees are dead or dying along the rivers, and barnacles well upstream from the gulf are proof of salinity. Fresh water bass, once prolific, are now rarely seen.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers were both designated as Outstanding Florida Waters and Special Waters on January 5, 1993 when they each met the necessary water quality standards. They are now both listed as "impaired" on the State's Integrated Water Quality Assessment and an enormous amount of work needs to be done in order to bring them back.

You may not be fully aware of the seriousness of the situation; therefore, we again offer to arrange for a tour so you can see first-hand the serious impairments to these rivers. As the decision makers for SWFWMD, we feel a personal awareness of this situation is essential prior to your decision on MFL of our rivers.

Sincerely,

CCAS Directors

Jean Freidner
Thomas Gulley
Nancy Kost
Diane Moseley

CCAS Officers

Darrell Snedecor, President
Ginger Privat, Vice President
Fred Hileman, Secretary
Sue Albertson, Treasurer

From: [Mike Heyl](mailto:Mike.Heyl)
To: nkost@tampabay.rr.com
Cc: [Dianna Brass](mailto:Dianna.Brass); [Lou Kavouras](mailto:Lou.Kavouras)
Subject: Comments on Revised MFL Proposals for Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers
Date: Monday, September 24, 2012 10:55:39 AM

Dear Ms. Kost,

Thank you for your interest in development of the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa minimum flows. Your email dated September 21 was forwarded to me, and I want to make you aware of several upcoming meetings pertinent to the minimum flows for these two systems.

On October 2, 2012, the District will be holding a public meeting to discuss development of minimum flows. The location is the Citrus County Lecanto Government Center (Room 166) located at 3600 W. Sovereign Path in Lecanto (34461). The meeting will be held from 5:30 until 7:30 pm.

On October 30, 2012, the District Governing Board will consider establishment of minimum flows for these two systems. The meeting will be held at the District Headquarters at 2379 Broad Street in Brooksville, Florida. The Governing Board meetings are open to the public and brief oral comments are permitted on meeting agenda items. Please make the other members of the Citrus County Audubon Society aware of these meetings.

Earlier this year, the District held a series of stakeholder workshops. Agendas, presentations and minutes of those meetings may be viewed at <http://www.swfwmd.state.fl.us/projects/mfl/springs-coast-mfl.php>. This site also provides an avenue to submit comments to the Governing Board regarding the proposed minimum flows, but as you have noted in your email, comments submitted via this site are limited to 1,500 characters. All comments submitted will be made available to the Governing Board members and I will see that members of the Governing Board have a copy of the letter attached to your September 21 email.

The respective technical reports for these two systems can be downloaded from the same site. If you have additional comments after review of the reports or the results of the stakeholder meetings, I encourage you to submit those comments through the URL previously listed.

MGH

=====

Michael G. Heyl - Chief Environmental Scientist

Mike.Heyl@SWFWMD.state.fl.us or Mike.Heyl@WaterMatters.org

=====

*Natural Systems and Restoration Bureau / SWFWMD (7:00 am - 3:30 pm)
7601 U.S. Highway 301 1-813-985-7481 Ext 2211
Tampa, Fl. 33637-6759 1-813-987-6747 (Fax)*

----- Note : District Limit for Incoming Email is 5 Megabytes -----

An ftp site is available for larger attachments : <http://ftp.swfwmd.state.fl.us/>

This email consists of 100% recycled electrons. Consider the environment before printing

=====

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From: WaterMatters.org
To: cknight@tampabay.rr.com
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Sunday, September 30, 2012 10:34:20 PM



Hi Cathy,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series. Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

I am against the MF's proposed by SWFWMD for the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers. Additional withdraws from these rivers cannot bring any benefit to them. Florida needs to quit treating water like an infinite resource and make due with levels that are in use now.

From: Doug Leeper
To: [Adrienne Vining](#); [Chris Zajac](#); [Christopher Pettit](#); [Darcy A. Brune](#); [Dave Dewitt](#); [Doug Leeper](#); [Eric DeHaven](#); [Gary E. Williams](#); [Jay Yingling](#); [Jerry Mallams](#); [Karen West](#); [Kenneth R. Herd](#); [Laura Donaldson](#); [Lou Kavouras](#); [Mark Barcelo](#); [Mark Hammond](#); [Michael Molligan](#); [Mike Heyl](#); [Robyn O. Felix](#); [Ron Basso](#); [Sid Flannery](#); [Tammy Hinkle](#); [Veronica Crow](#); [Virginia Singer](#); [Xinjian Chen](#); [Yassert Gonzalez](#)
Subject: FW: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Monday, October 01, 2012 8:06:00 AM

From: WaterMatters.org [mailto:info@WaterMatters.org]
Sent: Sunday, September 30, 2012 10:34 PM
To: cknight@tampabay.rr.com
Cc: Doug Leeper
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments



Hi Cathy,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series. Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

I am against the MF's proposed by SWFWMD for the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers. Additional withdraws from these rivers cannot bring any benefit to them. Florida needs to quit treating water like an infinite resource and make due with levels that are in use now.

From: [Alan Martyn Johnson](#)
To: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: MFL Meeting
Date: Monday, October 01, 2012 8:11:28 AM

Doug,

I hope to be at the meeting tomorrow evening and intent to raise a number of questions. No doubt the number of loopholes to defining a specific minimum flow will be center stage. But, I have some specific questions and thought it fair to give you a heads up so you are able to provide thoughtful answers and not be relying totally on memory/immediate thoughts. The questions are regarding the validity of HWS Engineering's work/report and the USGS calculated discharges.

HSW

1. **Please explain why HSW ignored the flow from Halls River when running the salinity regression analyses.**

The reason I ask this question is in Table 2-1 and the explanation "Based on the average daily data, spring flow and Halls River flow are about 53 and 47 percent of the total flow at the Homosassa gauge." (page 2-7 Appendix A...both original and revised). And in the main report Table 2-4 (adapted from Basso 2010 on page 66) the flow from Halls River represents 50% of the total springs flow.

2. **Please explain on why HSW have different summary results regarding the salinity RKM, Volume and Area as presented in the revised report Tables 4-2, 4-3, 4-4, 4-5 (Appendix A). However, the regression analyses presented in Table 2-3, 2-4, 2-4, 2-5 are the same in both the original and revised reports.**

3. In the main report Tables 5-2 thru 5-10 address the same salinity changes with flow reductions (some described as adapted from HSW Engineering (2011)). **Please explain why and who made these changes/adaptations.** Particularly consider some of these Tables are titled as benchmark period 2007, others as benchmark period 1995 to 2009 based on modeling daily values. Regression coefficients shown in Tables 2-10 indicates the regression analyses were done with **70 observations or less** and Table 2-3 in Appendix A for the 2000-2009 has observations from **625-1389 observation**. It is not clear where these observations for the regression analyses originate from (it may be the random sampling of the 15 minute data or the synoptic survey by USF (look carefully at the median Figure 2-42)).

To highlight the concerns with HSW's work I would point to a correlation Appendix A on page 2-15 and Figure 2-23 concluding levels in Weeki Wachee Well lag rainfall in Inglis by 40-70 days. The logic for HWS linking rainfall in Inglis to the level in the Weeki Wachee Well is difficult to find. This conclusion is so far off it was not used in the main report. Rainfall and its influence on the level in Weeki Wachee Well, not Lecanto as presented in the main report, is a concern as Weeki Wachee Well level is the predominate factor in the calculated discharge for Homosassa Main and the SE Fork.

Note: Water levels at the observation well in Inglis are typically about 10 feet lower than the Weeki Wachee well, water does not flow uphill. Data shows Weeki Wachee Well reacts very quickly to rainfall (the data regarding rainfall, Brooksville Station, from recent tropical storms show Weeki Wachee Well level increased 4 feet in 6 days).

USGS

There are concerns about the calculated discharge data for a number of the USGS Gage Sites. I have shared with USGS and SWFWMD differences between calculated and Field Measurements to support the concerns. Accuracy of the tidal filtered data from Homosassa River presumably is of so much concern, HSW and SWFWMD have ignored Halls River flow in the regression analyses. **It is incomprehensible how it has taken over a year for any data to come from the velocity meter installed at the SE Fork and nearly 6 months from the velocity meter installed in Halls River.** I would have thought everyone would want to verify the basis of all this work urgently. The Governing Board should not make any decision on these MFL's before these investments bear some fruit to indicate the accuracy of the calculated discharge. Recent Field Measurements (particularly February 8 and 9) at the Homosassa R at Homosassa gage do tend to support accuracy concerns I raised well over a year ago about the bias resulting from squaring of the velocity (during inflow squaring the negative velocity results in an addition).

I look forward to an interesting and productive meetin.

Martyn.

Finally, I will ask again the question about where the NDM predicts the 438.1 mgd would go if not withdrawn by mechanical pumping? The predicted 2.3 cfs for the Homosassa represents only about 0.33% of 438.1 mgd.

From: [Ron Miller](#)
To: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Re: Time-Certain Request
Date: Thursday, September 27, 2012 2:02:01 PM

Hi Doug,

Hope all is well with you.

Has the Chass/Homosassa MFL discussion been set as 9 am time certain (or close to it) for the Oct 30 Governing Board meeting?

Ron

From: [Doug Leeper](#)
Sent: Monday, August 27, 2012 3:56 PM
To: [Ron Miller](#)
Subject: RE: Time-Certain Request

Ron –

I'm following up on the e-mail you sent yesterday and the reply I sent this morning.

I spoke with Lou Kavourus, our Board & Executive Services Bureaus Chief about your "time-certain" request and she indicated that staff will ask the Governing Board Chair to make the Resource Management Committee, which is the committee that will be discussing the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa MFLs agenda item, the first committee meeting of the day.

If the Chair agrees to this request, the Resource Management Committee will follow the Convene Public Hearing and Meeting items (call to order, employee recognition, etc.) and the Consent Agenda items, and will likely begin within the first half-hour or so of the Board meeting.

Douglas A. Leeper
Chief Environmental Scientist
Water Resources Bureau
Southwest Florida Water Management District
2379 Broad Street
Brooksville, Florida 34604-6899
1-800-423-1476, ext. 4272 (FL only)
352-796-7211, ext. 4272
352-754-6885 (Fax)
doug.leeper@watermatters.org

From: Ron Miller [<mailto:rmille76@tampabay.rr.com>]
Sent: Sunday, August 26, 2012 9:37 PM
To: Doug Leeper
Cc: Brad Rimbey; Jim Bitter; Al Grubman
Subject: Re: Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Minimum Flows Update

Hi Doug,

What time & where does the Gov Board meet on Oct 30?

If we want to have the stakeholders attend the MFL discussion can it be made "time certain" on the agenda?

Ron

Remainder of e-mail string deleted by D. Leeper

IMPORTANT NOTICE: All E-mail sent to or from this address are public record and archived. The Southwest Florida Water Management District does not allow use of District equipment and E-mail facilities for non-District business purposes.

From: Doug Leeper
To: ["Ron Miller"](#)
Bcc: [Jerry Mallams](#); [Veronica Crow](#); [Lou Kavouras](#)
Subject: RE: Time-Certain Request
Date: Monday, October 01, 2012 8:52:00 AM

Hi Ron:

The agenda for the October Governing Board meeting has not yet been finalized. Staff is developing a draft agenda for the meeting, with the Resource Management Committee being the first committee meeting of the day. The final decision regarding the meeting schedule will be made by our Executive Director and the Board Chairperson. Once finalized, the agenda will be posted on our web site at:

<http://www.swfwmd.state.fl.us/calendar/calendar.php>

Douglas A. Leeper
Chief Environmental Scientist
Water Resources Bureau
Southwest Florida Water Management District
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Brooksville, Florida 34604-6899
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352-796-7211, ext. 4272
352-754-6885 (Fax)
doug.leeper@watermatters.org

From: Ron Miller [<mailto:rmille76@tampabay.rr.com>]
Sent: Thursday, September 27, 2012 2:02 PM
To: Doug Leeper
Subject: Re: Time-Certain Request

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Has the Chass/Homosassa MFL discussion been set as 9 am time certain (or close to it) for the Oct 30 Governing Board meeting?

Ron

From: [Doug Leeper](#)
Sent: Monday, August 27, 2012 3:56 PM
To: [Ron Miller](#)
Subject: RE: Time-Certain Request

Ron –

I'm following up on the e-mail you sent yesterday and the reply I sent this morning.

I spoke with Lou Kavourus, our Board & Executive Services Bureau Chief about your "time-certain" request and she indicated that staff will ask the Governing Board Chair to make the Resource Management Committee, which is the committee that will be discussing the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa MFLs agenda item, the first committee meeting of the day.

If the Chair agrees to this request, the Resource Management Committee will follow the Convene Public Hearing and Meeting items (call to order, employee recognition, etc.) and the Consent Agenda items, and will likely begin within the first half-hour or so of the Board meeting.

Douglas A. Leeper
Chief Environmental Scientist
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Sent: Sunday, August 26, 2012 9:37 PM
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Hi Doug,

What time & where does the Gov Board meet on Oct 30?

If we want to have the stakeholders attend the MFL discussion can it be made "time certain" on the agenda?

Ron

Remainder of e-mail string deleted by D. Leeper

IMPORTANT NOTICE: All E-mail sent to or from this address are public record and archived. The Southwest Florida Water Management District does not allow use of District equipment and E-mail facilities for non-District business purposes.

From: WaterMatters.org
To: catja_cat@yahoo.com
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Monday, October 01, 2012 9:32:53 AM



Hi Judy,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series. Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

It is not in our citizens best interests to ignore water quality or to let rivers die. They are our future. We must have quantity, yes, but if it is not potable, we and our wildlife are in bad shape. Our springs and rivers are a huge tourist attraction, also. Without water, we have very little to attract tourists or provide citizens recreation. It is unexcusable to even consider sending our water (remember all your restrictions we have had to endure) to a bottler to make private money. Many people are upset about all aspects of this potential decision. I hope you are smart enough to make some changes and good decisions for the public.

From: WaterMatters.org
To: info@riversafaris.com
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Monday, October 01, 2012 8:37:27 PM



Hi Alicia,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series. Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

*I had hoped to attend the meeting tomorrow at the Citrus County Government Building in Lecanto but will be unable to. Being a business owner that relies on the health and well being of the Homosassa River is cause enough for me to comment but I am also a Florida native who moved to this area as a teenager and spend countless hours on the river system. What we have noticed the most is the intrusion of salt water. It is seen in the barnacles we have to scrape off of our rental and tour boats constantly even though we are only 2 miles from the spring head. The mangroves that have taken hold just one mile west of us heading towards the Gulf is another sure sign. We are very concerned that any draw down of any river along the Gulf coast is setting up our fresh water aquifer for disaster. Please know that we rely on you, the supposed caretakers of our waters, to do the right thing and DO NOT allow any additional drawdown of the Homosassa River. The only solution we can suggest to keep the freshwater and maintain the integrity of the springs and river systems is to get desalination processers up and running as soon as possible.
Sincerely, Dennis and Alicia Lowe River Safaris & Gulf Charters, Inc.*

From: WaterMatters.org
To: chrislaughlin@tampabayl.rr.com
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Wednesday, October 03, 2012 11:15:10 AM



Hi chris,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series. Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

Interpretation of collected data in relation to living things requires direct observation for accurate interpretation. The observation need not just be subjective, it can also be objective. Drastically decreased fish counts, the presence of barnacles in a first magnitude spring, and the presence of only algae and muck where there was once sandy bottom and abundant river grasses constitutes factual, hard evidence and is more informative of the state of the river and easier to defend than complex mathematical theories. It is obvious that the Homosassa River has already suffered significant harm and can not tolerate any more reduction of its flow.

From: WaterMatters.org
To: cclaughlin@tampabay.rr.com
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Wednesday, October 03, 2012 11:47:59 AM



Hi Charles,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series. Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

*I attended the meeting at the Citrus County government center last night (10/2) with my wife. Thank you for having this public forum. Thank you for presenting the rationale for your recommendations related to MFL's for the Chass and Homosassa Rivers. Thank you for making the data available online for review. And thank you for being willing to sit and listen to our comments, some which were more pointed than others, yet you listened, took notes, answered questions, and demonstrated that you were there not to arrogantly tell us what is best for us, but you were there to gauge the hearts of those who will actually be impacted by the decisions you make. From speaking with others who live along the Homosassa River, I can tell you that you heard an excellent representation of the passion we have for this part of God's creation. My wife, Chris Laughlin, rather than speak to the data directly - which she did carefully read prior to writing her "speech" - decided to speak from her heart related to her history with the River. Her family purchased property on the river for weekend getaways in the early 50's then built a retirement home on that property in the mid-70's. We inherited that home in the early 90's making it our primary residence two years ago. In other words, we have almost 60 years of experience with this river. **THE DECLINE IS EMOTIONALLY & PHYSICALLY DISTRESSING. PLEASE Protect this River.***

From: WaterMatters.org
To: bfbauer@aol.com
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Wednesday, October 03, 2012 12:36:05 PM



Hi Bernard,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series. Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

I have had a home in the village of Chassahowitzka since 2004, and have seen changes on the river, and heard about much greater change that has occurred over the past several decades from the old timers that have lived, recreated, fished here. We know that there has already been great decline in the ecology of both the Chass and Homosassa Rivers and their springs and creeks. These are Outstanding Florida Waters, which we are supposed to be protecting. I have yet to see that change analyzed and quantified, but I believe it would be greater than a 50% loss of habitat, species, or other. And that is with just 1% flow reduction, water pollution due to nutrient loading, and severe climate/drought. How can we "plan" for the taking of up to 8% more under the current river conditions? Given what has already occurred, and with no remediation or analysis of how to stem the trends in decline, I find it unbelievable, despite the data and science put into SWFWMD studies and reports, that we will not see 15% further reduction well before we withdraw another 8%. My fear is that we will withdraw much less and see much greater than a 15% reduction in environmental factors. I see no evidence that we have in place the needed recovery plans, science, instrumentation, etc. to do so. The only plan I would support is a plan for recovery that does not include further flow reductions, but first determines how to stop current degradations, and puts into place a plan for recovery.

From: WaterMatters.org
To: krantz@mindspring.com
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Thursday, October 04, 2012 10:59:38 AM



Hi Nancy,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

I oppose the proposed MFLs for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers and believe that no further flow reduction should be allowed. The MFLs should be set at current flows (0% flow reduction). Please manage Florida's water more wisely and do more to cut back on wasteful water use in our state. Thank you for your consideration.

From: Doug Leeper
To: [Adrienne Vining](#); [Chris Zajac](#); [Christopher Pettit](#); [Darcy A. Brune](#); [Dave Dewitt](#); [Doug Leeper](#); [Eric DeHaven](#); [Gary E. Williams](#); [Jay Yingling](#); [Jerry Mallams](#); [Karen West](#); [Kenneth R. Herd](#); [Laura Donaldson](#); [Lou Kavouras](#); [Mark Barcelo](#); [Mark Hammond](#); [Michael Molligan](#); [Mike Heyl](#); [Robyn O. Felix](#); [Ron Basso](#); [Sid Flannery](#); [Tammy Hinkle](#); [Veronica Crow](#); [Virginia Singer](#); [Xinjian Chen](#); [Yassert Gonzalez](#)
Subject: FW: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Thursday, October 04, 2012 11:03:00 AM

From: WaterMatters.org [mailto:info@WaterMatters.org]
Sent: Thursday, October 04, 2012 10:59 AM
To: krantz@mindspring.com
Cc: Doug Leeper
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments



Hi Nancy,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

I oppose the proposed MFLs for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers and believe that no further flow reduction should be allowed. The MFLs should be set at current flows (0% flow reduction). Please manage Florida's water more wisely and do more to cut back on wasteful water use in our state. Thank you for your consideration.

October 4, 2012

MEMORANDUM

TO: File

FROM: Douglas A. Leeper, Chief Environmental Scientist, Ecologic Evaluation Section,
Southwest Florida Water Management District

SUBJECT: Documentation of October 4, 2012 telephone conversation with Norman Hopkins
regarding minimum flows development for Chassahowitzka/Homosassa/Crystal systems

This memorandum documents an October 4, 2012 telephone conversation between Mr. Norman Hopkins and Mr. Doug Leeper, the Southwest Florida Water Management District, concerning development of minimum flows for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa River systems and the planned minimum flows work for the Crystal River/Kings Bay system.

Phone Log

Who called: Mr. Norman Hopkins
e-mail: norman@amyhrf.org
Phone: 352-795-9517

Staff contact: Doug Leeper, Water Resources Bureau, SWFWMD

Issue: Chassahowitzka/Homosassa/Crystal River/Kings Bay minimum flows

Date: October 4, 2012

Notes:

Questions/comments

1. Are you confident that you have established a cause and effect relationship between changes in flows and changes in the environment?
2. If the environmental change that has occurred is associated with a 1% change in flows what effects will 2 or 3% or higher percentage changes have?
3. Change in salinity in the rivers is a function of changes in incursion of Gulf water and changes in salinity of water coming from the springs.
4. Have seen substantial changes in vegetation and fish over the past 15 years at Kings Bay.
5. Ecosystems are too complex to try to make predictions based on a single parameter.
6. Relationships of pollutants and toxics to flows in the rivers have not been well studied and integrated into the minimum flows work.
7. Should implement a hiatus on withdrawals unless it can be determined that a withdrawal will benefit a water resource. This can be accomplished given the economic downturn.
8. The implementation/development of MFLs has been "corrupted" from its original intent.
9. Economy of Springs Coast region will not support funding requirements for future needed recovery projects.
10. Must consider economic effects of setting MFLs.
11. Must consider the effects of pollutants when setting MFLs.

DAL

From: WaterMatters.org
To: auwerter@gmail.com
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Thursday, October 04, 2012 11:04:09 AM



Hi Deborah,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

I oppose the proposed MFLs for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers and believe that no further flow reduction should be allowed. The MFLs should be set at current flows (0% flow reduction). I also wish to see you manage our water more wisely and do more to cut back on wasteful water use in our state. Water is our most valuable resource in Citrus County and should be protected at all costs.

From: WaterMatters.org
To: lilaanded@gmail.com
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Thursday, October 04, 2012 11:05:13 AM



Hi Lila,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

I oppose the proposed MFLs for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers and believe that no further flow reduction should be allowed. The MFLs should be set at current flows (0% flow reduction). I also wish to see you manage our water more wisely and do more to cut back on wasteful water use in our state.

From: WaterMatters.org
To: joemoye@gmail.com
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Thursday, October 04, 2012 11:05:18 AM



Hi Joe,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

From: WaterMatters.org
To: johnromer@mac.com
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Thursday, October 04, 2012 11:12:17 AM



Hi John,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

Please do not allow any more reductions in flow to the Homossassa or Chashowitzka Rivers. These rivers are already stressed as seen by increasing numbers of dead trees and reduction of aquatic plants due to salt water intrusion and these plants are essential for the manatees survival.

From: WaterMatters.org
To: Davidmiannotti@hotmail.com
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Thursday, October 04, 2012 11:14:26 AM



Hi David,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers MFL's should be set at 0% (no further reduction from current level). At what point does it end? Little by little we imperil our way of life. Do more to reduce water waste and we don't need to damage our waterways. Thank you, David

From: WaterMatters.org
To: joyrabon@embarqmail.com
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Thursday, October 04, 2012 11:15:34 AM



Hi Joyce,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

From: WaterMatters.org
To: CPANNELLI@HOTMAIL.COM
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Thursday, October 04, 2012 11:16:06 AM



Hi Cheryl,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

I oppose the proposed MFLs for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers and believe that no further flow reduction should be allowed; that the MFLs should be set at current flows (0% flow reduction). I wish to see them manage our water more wisely and do more to cut back on wasteful water use in our state.

From: WaterMatters.org
To: elise.isaacson@gmail.com
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Thursday, October 04, 2012 11:21:11 AM



Hi Elise,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

Dear Sirs, I oppose the proposed MFLs for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers and believe that no further flow reduction should be allowed; that the MFLs should be set at current flows (0% flow reduction). I wish to see you manage our water more wisely and do more to cut back on wasteful water use in our state. Best regards, Elise Isaacson

From: WaterMatters.org
To: cdb69@gmail.com
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Thursday, October 04, 2012 11:17:00 AM



Hi Carole,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

From: WaterMatters.org
To: oldcrow35@gmail.com
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Thursday, October 04, 2012 11:22:09 AM



Hi shirley,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

All waters frequented by the manatees should be protected and any methods necessary to insure this should be taken. I think the manatees were here long before man and his "toys" and are being exploited for man's pleasure. Their decline in many area are a testimony to this. Please consider the manatees first in any of your decisions. Thank you, shirley walter

From: WaterMatters.org
To: melissa@fcreporting.com
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Thursday, October 04, 2012 11:20:04 AM



Hi Melissa,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

I oppose the proposed MFLs for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers and believe that no further flow reduction should be allowed; that the MFLs should be set at current flows (0% flow reduction). Also tell SWFWMD that you wish to see them manage our water more wisely and do more to cut back on wasteful water use in our state.

From: WaterMatters.org
To: professorshiggins@gmail.com
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Thursday, October 04, 2012 11:22:30 AM



Hi Stephanie,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

No flow reduction should be allowed. Please.

From: WaterMatters.org
To: gurl_vena@yahoo.com
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Thursday, October 04, 2012 11:23:42 AM



Hi jessica,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

From: WaterMatters.org
To: dhiggins@golfchannel.com
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Thursday, October 04, 2012 11:23:56 AM



Hi dan,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

0% MFL

From: WaterMatters.org
To: ThePlantGoddess@gmail.com
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Thursday, October 04, 2012 11:26:09 AM



Hi Patricia,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

I would like you to know that I oppose the proposed MFLs for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers and believe that no further flow reduction should be allowed; that the MFLs should be set at current flows (0% flow reduction). I wish to see you manage our water more wisely and do more to cut back on wasteful water use in our state. It is practices like these that are ruining Florida and it has got to stop!

From: WaterMatters.org
To: painterbob@mac.com
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Thursday, October 04, 2012 11:27:05 AM



Hi rob,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

I am opposed to any tampering to the water flow of these rivers. We humans have done enough to suck the springs dry in this state. Seeing how much water is wasted daily with our use of this precious resource tells me that we must do more to conserve and find better ways to reuse the amount we currently use. The ecology that thrives from these rivers should not be the victims of our greed by taking more than what nature provides.

From: WaterMatters.org
To: jdimercurio@trcww.com
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Thursday, October 04, 2012 11:27:11 AM



Hi Jerome,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

I oppose the proposed MFLs for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers and believe that no further flow reduction should be allowed; that the MFLs should be set at current flows (0% flow reduction). SWFWMD should manage our water more wisely and do more to cut back on wasteful water use in our state

From: WaterMatters.org
To: Bicyclecowboy@yahoo.com
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Thursday, October 04, 2012 11:28:10 AM



Hi Ronald,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

I oppose the proposed MFLs for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers and believe that no further flow reduction should be allowed; that the MFLs should be set at current flows (0% flow reduction).

From: WaterMatters.org
To: fbwagner9@gmail.com
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Thursday, October 04, 2012 11:28:21 AM



Hi Fran,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

I oppose the proposed MFLs for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers and believe that no further flow reduction should be allowed; that the MFLs should be set at current flows (0% flow reduction). I would like to see our waters managed more wisely and do more to cut back on wasteful water use in our state. Thank You

From: WaterMatters.org
To: Bevo.and@comcast.net
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Thursday, October 04, 2012 11:30:29 AM



Hi Bev,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

Please do not change mfls.

From: WaterMatters.org
To: organicgardens@hotmail.com
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Thursday, October 04, 2012 11:31:47 AM



Hi kelly,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

I strongly oppose the proposed MFLs for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers and believe that no further flow reduction should be allowed; that the MFLs should be set at current flows (0% flow reduction). I wish to see you manage our water more wisely and do more to cut back on wasteful water use in our state. The springs are one of the most special things about Florida. We should be doing everything in our power to protect them for future generations of humans and wildlife. Thank you for your attention to this pressing matter, Kelly Johnson

From: WaterMatters.org
To: marissa@garonegroup.com
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Thursday, October 04, 2012 11:33:58 AM



Hi marissa,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

Please help protect manatees. I oppose the proposed MFLs for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers and believe that no further flow reduction should be allowed; that the MFLs should be set at current flows (0% flow reduction). We wish to see management of our water more wisely for manatees and wildlife and do more to cut back on wasteful water use in our state

From: WaterMatters.org
To: butta2329pd@gmail.com
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Thursday, October 04, 2012 11:35:46 AM



Hi Amanda,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

I am writing to express that I oppose the proposed MFLs for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers and believe that no further flow reduction should be allowed; that the MFLs should be set at current flows (0% flow reduction). Also I wish to see management of our water more wisely and more done to cut back on wasteful water use in our state.

From: WaterMatters.org
To: JKeller411@msn.com
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Thursday, October 04, 2012 11:38:35 AM



Hi Judy,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

Dear sir/madam - I oppose the proposed MFLs for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers and believe that no further flow reduction should be allowed. MFLs should be set at current flows (0% flow reduction). Also I would like to see your organization manage our water more wisely and do more to cut back on wasteful water use in our state. Thank you - Judy Keller

From: WaterMatters.org
To: kbdempsey@yahoo.com
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Thursday, October 04, 2012 11:40:38 AM



Hi Kathleen,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

I oppose the proposed MFLs for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers and believe that no further flow reduction should be allowed; that the MFLs should be set at current flows (0% flow reduction). Also I would very much like to see SFWMD manage our water more wisely and do more to cut back on wasteful water use in our state. Thank you!

From: WaterMatters.org
To: stef51@tampabay.rr.com
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Thursday, October 04, 2012 11:42:50 AM



Hi Steffi,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

I oppose the proposed MFLs for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers and believe that no further flow reduction should be allowed; that the MFLs should be set at current flows (0% flow reduction). I would to see you manage our water more wisely and do more to cut back on wasteful water use in our state.

From: WaterMatters.org
To: amlinlans@yahoo.com
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Thursday, October 04, 2012 11:43:07 AM



Hi Linda,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

Please do whatever you can to support and aid the habitats of manatee. Please do not adopt or support any proposals or actions that will endanger manatee or infringe upon their habitats. Thank you very much.

From: WaterMatters.org
To: pegandrews12@comcast.net
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Thursday, October 04, 2012 11:43:41 AM



Hi Peggy,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

I oppose the proposed MFLs for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers. I believe there should be no flow reduction which harms the health of the rivers and therefore the manatees as well as other wildlife and vegetation. Please manage our water more wisely and do more to cut back on wasteful water use in our state. Thank you.

From: WaterMatters.org
To: laylasmom@cfl.rr.com
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Thursday, October 04, 2012 11:44:27 AM



Hi Shirley,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

(oppose the proposed MFLs for the Chassahowitzka & Homosassa river system.

From: WaterMatters.org
To: lrccaldwell@hotmail.com
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Thursday, October 04, 2012 11:46:38 AM



Hi Lisa,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

Please reconsider the proposed changes for water flow on these rivers. the water flow has to remain as is to protect the environment of these waters. Manatees rely on the vegetation as their only food source and decreased flow will result in inadequate amounts of vegetation. It will also make the water more brackish resulting in more harm to fresh-water vegetation.

From: WaterMatters.org
To: ariel66@aol.com
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Thursday, October 04, 2012 11:47:59 AM



Hi Angela,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

I oppose the proposed MFLs for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers and believe that no further flow reduction should be allowed; that the MFLs should be set at current flows (0% flow reduction). Also tell SWFWMD that you wish to see them manage our water more wisely and do more to cut back on wasteful water use in our state

From: WaterMatters.org
To: donnasym@yahoo.com
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Thursday, October 04, 2012 11:51:27 AM



Hi Donna,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

I oppose the proposed MFLs for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers and believe that no further flow reduction should be allowed; that the MFLs should be set at current flows (0% flow reduction). I also wish to see SFWMD manage our water more wisely and do more to cut back on wasteful water use in our state! The SFWMD could use community service hours to educate schoolchildren and their households.

From: WaterMatters.org
To: dnh103@yahoo.com
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Thursday, October 04, 2012 11:53:17 AM



Hi Darci,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

I oppose the proposed MFLs for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers and believe that no further flow reduction should be allowed; that the MFLs should be set at current flows (0% flow reduction). Please help the manatees and other aquatic species by not allowing further flow reduction.

From: WaterMatters.org
To: skipmax1999@yahoo.com
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Thursday, October 04, 2012 11:53:32 AM



Hi crystal,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

Please do not allow the proposed revised MFL's. There is already too much stress on our aquatic animals and plants. These precious resources cannot and should not be threatened because of human expansion. Just because you can do it, doesn't mean you should. Leave our waters alone!!

From: WaterMatters.org
To: ali1011@tampabay.rr.com
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Thursday, October 04, 2012 11:56:24 AM



Hi Alicia,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

I do not support anything that may cause harm to Manatees!

From: WaterMatters.org
To: ed_olafolson@bellsouth.net
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Thursday, October 04, 2012 11:56:38 AM



Hi Edward,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

I oppose the proposed MFLs for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers and believe that no further flow reduction should be allowed; that the MFLs should be set at current flows (0% flow reduction). Also tell SWFWMD that you wish to see them manage our water more wisely and do more to cut back on wasteful water use in our state

From: WaterMatters.org
To: bibbity@earthlink.net
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Thursday, October 04, 2012 11:58:02 AM



Hi Toni,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

I understand the Southwest Florida Water Management District is implementing Minimum Flows and Levels for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers on Florida's west coast. In so doing, ecological damage could occur significantly impacting wildlife, etc. Both rivers already exhibit signs of environmental stress, including dead trees in the Chassahowitzka killed by encroaching salt water, and a loss of aquatic plants in the Homosassa River. A steady progression of barnacles further inland, a sign of the water becoming more saline, has also been observed. Any further reduction of groundwater flows would only exacerbate existing problems. Manatees rely on healthy aquatic ecosystems to survive and utilize both the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers year round. Both provide critical winter warm water habitat. Environmental changes that negatively affect food supply and water quality threaten manatee habitat and manatees themselves. Manatees, as well as other wildlife, are not expendable - they are not tradeable commodities - i.e., I'll trade a pod of manatees, three pairs of osprey, a piesir of nesting eagles for water to a new housing development or marina. This is acceptable. I thought the water districts in the State of Florida were supposed to be be the guardians of our water and our environment. Perhaps I misunderstood.

From: WaterMatters.org
To: vakelly1@cfl.rr.com
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Thursday, October 04, 2012 12:04:19 PM



Hi Virginia,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

From: WaterMatters.org
To: lynnegoodman@yahoo.com
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Thursday, October 04, 2012 12:06:51 PM



Hi Lynne,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

I oppose MFLs for Chassahowitzka & Homosassa rivers. No further flow reductions should be allowed...it should remain @ the current rate of 0%. SWFWMD must create better standards and criteria to ensure better management of water and reduce waste of the current water supply. Thank you.

From: WaterMatters.org
To: mdlovesanimals@yahoo.com
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Thursday, October 04, 2012 12:07:08 PM



Hi Marisol,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

Hi I wanted to say I oppose the proposed MFLs for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers and believe that no further flow reduction should be allowed. Also the the MFLs should be set at current flows (0% flow reduction). And that I wish to see you manage our water more wisely and do more to cut back on wasteful water use in our state. Thank you

From: WaterMatters.org
To: betonylauren@yahoo.com
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Thursday, October 04, 2012 12:08:25 PM



Hi Betony,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

I oppose the proposed MFLs for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers and believe that no further flow reduction should be allowed; that the MFLs should be set at current flows (0% flow reduction). I also would like to see you manage our water more wisely and do more to cut back on wasteful water use in our state.

From: WaterMatters.org
To: tomhsouthern@gmail.com
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Thursday, October 04, 2012 12:09:56 PM



Hi Tom H,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

From: WaterMatters.org
To: bbowen32@verizon.net
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Thursday, October 04, 2012 12:11:21 PM



Hi Barbara,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

As an avid paddler, I have noticed environmental stress on the Chassahowizka River/spring system. When water flows are low the brown algae covers the aquatic plants choking them from valuable sunlight. SWFTMD Engineers/permitting agents should be using the minimum flow rates of the Springs during our winter dry season as a reference point. When we use peak or avg flows, we stress the rivers and aquatic plants to the point of loss and the systems do not seem to recover during the rainy season. Anymore it takes and El nino summer like this year and 2004 before the springs are back looking healthy again. Big business needs to put up funds for a desalinization plant or look for ways to conserve water.

From: WaterMatters.org
To: chanell222@aol.com
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Thursday, October 04, 2012 12:19:08 PM



Hi Chanell,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

Good afternoon, I'm writing to let you know that I oppose the proposed MFLs for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers and believe that no further flow reduction should be allowed; that the MFLs should be set at current flows (0% flow reduction). Also I wish to see them manage our water more wisely and do more to cut back on wasteful water use in our state. Thank you for your time

From: WaterMatters.org
To: cveaux@aol.com
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Thursday, October 04, 2012 12:19:26 PM



Hi Carl,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

We need mininum flows to protect the Manatees

From: WaterMatters.org
To: lbaldwin76@yahoo.com
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Thursday, October 04, 2012 12:20:20 PM



Hi Lindsay,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

I oppose the proposed MFLs for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers and believe that no further flow reduction should be allowed; that the MFLs should be set at current flows (0% flow reduction). I wish to see you manage our water more wisely and do more to cut back on wasteful water use in our state.

From: WaterMatters.org
To: manatee1944@yahoo.com
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Thursday, October 04, 2012 12:21:57 PM



Hi Leora,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

It is very important to set MFLs and protect our water bodies from harm, but we can only ensure protection when appropriate MFLs are set. Manatees rely on healthy aquatic ecosystems to survive and utilize both the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers year round. Both provide critical winter warm water habitat. Environmental changes that negatively affect food supply and water quality threaten manatee habitat and manatees themselves.

From: WaterMatters.org
To: AngelSchae@aol.com
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Thursday, October 04, 2012 12:23:11 PM



Hi Barbara and John R,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

We are writing to respectfully request that you allow no further flow reduction in either the Homosassa or Chassahowitzka Rivers. To do so would impact on the health and welfare of the Manatees who have such limited habitat left in Florida. We also urge you to regulate our waters wisely and keep within the ecological standards of our Florida waters. Thank you very much for your assistance in this matter.

From: WaterMatters.org
To: lynnmariewest@aol.com
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Thursday, October 04, 2012 12:23:39 PM



Hi Lynn,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

I oppose the proposed MFLs for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers and believe that no further flow reduction should be allowed; that the MFLs should be set at current flows (0% flow reduction). I wish to see you manage our water more wisely and do more to cut back on wasteful water use in our state.

From: WaterMatters.org
To: Skimokis32@yahoo.com
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Thursday, October 04, 2012 12:27:35 PM



Hi Krista,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

I oppose the proposed MFLs for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers and believe that no further flow reduction should be allowed; that the MFLs should be set at current flows (0% flow reduction). Also i wish to see you manage our water more wisely and do more to cut back on wasteful water use in our state

From: WaterMatters.org
To: drtoots@rocketmail.com
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Thursday, October 04, 2012 12:31:06 PM



Hi Dr. E,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

Any reduction in the level of water flow on these river systems will negatively affect not only the wildlife, but also the integrity of the rivers. Think of the tourist dollars that would be lost if we lose the largest attraction in this part of the state - our waterways with the ability to see abundant wildlife close up and not behind a glass wall.

From: WaterMatters.org
To: dennige@ufl.edu
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Thursday, October 04, 2012 12:32:39 PM



Hi Gudrun,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

I oppose the proposed MFLs for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers and believe that no further flow reduction should be allowed; that the MFLs should be set at current flows (0% flow reduction). WFWMD please manage our water more wisely and do more to cut back on wasteful water use in our state. In recent decades, both rivers have shown signs of environmental stress. Among the observed changes are dead trees in the Chassahowitzka killed by encroaching salt water, and a loss of aquatic plants in the Homosassa River. Residents in both rivers have observed a steady progression of barnacles further inland, a sign of the water becoming more saline. Even though SWFWMD's models have indicated that the proposed MFLs will not cause significant ecological harm, logic suggests that any further reduction of groundwater flows would only exacerbate existing problems. Manatees rely on healthy aquatic ecosystems to survive and utilize both the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers year round. Both provide critical winter warm water habitat. Environmental changes that negatively affect food supply and water quality threaten manatee habitat and manatees themselves. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to comment on this matter. Best regards, Gudrun Dennis

From: WaterMatters.org
To: saljones57@gmail.com
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Thursday, October 04, 2012 12:37:56 PM



Hi Sarah,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

From: WaterMatters.org
To: majjapedro@hotmail.com
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Thursday, October 04, 2012 12:39:29 PM



Hi maija,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

please don't lower the level of the rivers. I'm a great manatee lover and protector . I hope you will help them to surviveeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeee. thank you maija gadiant

From: WaterMatters.org
To: basketcase7232@yahoo.com
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Thursday, October 04, 2012 12:41:19 PM



Hi Ssue,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

FIRST OF ALL STAY OUT OF THE MANATEES HABITAT! IF YOU THINK YOUR GREED AND POOR ACTIONS ARE GOING TO DESTROY NATURE,... THINK AGAIN... WE HAVE ALL HAD IT. WAKE-UP & GET THE BLINDERS OFF. IF YOU THINK MONEY & THE SO CALL ...POWER... YOU ..THINK... YOU...HAVE.... THINK AGAIN.

From: WaterMatters.org
To: dmixon01@tampabay.rr.com
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Thursday, October 04, 2012 12:43:05 PM



Hi Debra,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

I am a resident of Homosassa and operate a charter tour business on the Homosassa River. The rivers in the area are not only dear to me for their intrinsic value, but my business depends them. The springs and rivers in Florida may be in better shape than they were in, say, 1985 - but we all know they are suffering and that includes the Chass and the Homosassa. I agree with the argument from Save the Manatee Club that, "In recent decades, both rivers have shown signs of environmental stress. Among the observed changes are dead trees in the Chassahowitzka killed by encroaching salt water, and a loss of aquatic plants in the Homosassa River. Residents in both rivers have observed a steady progression of barnacles further inland, a sign of the water becoming more saline." My boats are docked in the Old Homosassa area and barnacles are indeed an issue. We need to protect our resources. MFLs changes are not necessary. I strongly oppose the proposed MFLs for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers and believe that no further flow reduction should be allowed; that the MFLs should be set at current flows (0% flow reduction). Rather, SWFMD should be spending time and resources on managing our water more wisely and doing more to cut back on wasteful water use in our state.

From: WaterMatters.org
To: mommacass3@msn.com
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Thursday, October 04, 2012 12:46:12 PM



Hi Katherine,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

From: WaterMatters.org
To: crholmes@hotmail.com
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Thursday, October 04, 2012 12:47:13 PM



Hi Craig,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

From: WaterMatters.org
To: 2kbeach@comcast.net
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Thursday, October 04, 2012 12:47:20 PM



Hi Kathleen,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

We oppose the MFL's for Homosassa and Chassahowitzka rivers. No further flow reduction should be allowed. Please manage our water wisely and do all you can to cut back on wasteful water use in Florida. Thank you

From: WaterMatters.org
To: patriotpets@yahoo.com
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Thursday, October 04, 2012 12:50:40 PM



Hi Dawn,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

As a resident of Florida, I believe the conservation and preservation of manatees and their habitat is a plus for this great state of ours. Please do not impose any regulations that may harm the manatees! Thank you.

From: WaterMatters.org
To: ybhagwan@fau.edu
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Thursday, October 04, 2012 12:54:39 PM



Hi Yash,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

Dear SWFWMD and Governing Board Members: I am writing to express my opposition to the proposed MFLs for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers. I believe that no further flow reduction should be allowed, and that the MFLs should be set at current flows (0% flow reduction). It is critical to manage our water resources more wisely and do more to cut back on wasteful water use in our state. Thank you, Yash A concerned citizen

From: WaterMatters.org
To: marie_pisani@att.net
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Thursday, October 04, 2012 12:57:14 PM



Hi Marie,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

I oppose the proposed MFLs for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers and believe that no further flow reduction should be allowed. The MFLs should be set at current flows (0% flow reduction). I want to see you manage our water more wisely and do more to cut back on wasteful water use in our state.

From: WaterMatters.org
To: knoxberries@msn.com
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Thursday, October 04, 2012 1:03:26 PM



Hi knox,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

The "science-baised" knowldge of continuing dead water tree along the Chaz and changing make up of water plants along the Homo, tells knowledgeable scientist that "sigificant harm" has already occurred and water levels/flows must be raised to "bring back a level" of nature that has already been destroyed by inadequate protections by the State. Just as other Districts choose to ignore obvious signs of sound science from over water use/pumping...the same has already taken place on these water bodies. When IT'S GONE...IT'S GONE !!!

From: WaterMatters.org
To: julieeee@comcast.net
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Thursday, October 04, 2012 1:06:12 PM



Hi Julie,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

*I oppose the proposed MFLs for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers and believe that no further flow reduction should be allowed; that the MFLs should be set at current flows (0% flow reduction). I would like to see SWFWMD manage our water more wisely and do more to cut back on wasteful water use in our state.
Thank you for your*

From: WaterMatters.org
To: EDJCUBERO@LIVE.COM
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Thursday, October 04, 2012 1:07:39 PM



Hi EDWARD,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

*DO ALL YOU CAN TO KEEP THESE CREATIONS ALIVE FOR YEARS TO COME.
SAVE MANATEES NOW..*

From: WaterMatters.org
To: singer90@hotmail.com
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Thursday, October 04, 2012 1:12:12 PM



Hi Lynne,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

I oppose your proposed MFL's for the Chassahowitzka & Homosassa rivers and believe that no further flow reduction should be allowed. The MFL's should be set at current flows (0% flow reduction). I wish to see you manage out water more wisely and do more to cut back on wasteful water use in Florida.

From: WaterMatters.org
To: dzigatoo@aol.com
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Thursday, October 04, 2012 1:14:47 PM



Hi Sarah,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

Please take into consideration that thriving manatees and other wildlife and plenty of flowing, clear water makes economic sense and is therefore good for Florida.

From: WaterMatters.org
To: jjinabnw@att.net
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Thursday, October 04, 2012 1:15:17 PM



Hi Andrea,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

I oppose the proposed MFLs for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers and believe that no further flow reduction should be allowed; that the MFLs should be set at current flows (0% flow reduction). Also I wish to see our water managed more wisely and more done to cut back on wasteful water use in our state.

From: WaterMatters.org
To: ahooper56@hotmail.com
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Thursday, October 04, 2012 1:22:36 PM



Hi Audrey,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

I oppose the proposed MFLs for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers and believe that no further flow reduction should be allowed. The MFLs should be set at current flows (0% flow reduction). I would like to see the SWFWMD manage our water more wisely and do more to cut back on wasteful water use in our state.

From: WaterMatters.org
To: mitch.whiskers@gmail.com
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Thursday, October 04, 2012 1:28:21 PM



Hi Tracy,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

I oppose the proposed MFLs for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers and believe that no further flow reduction should be allowed. The MFLs should be set at current flows (0% flow reduction). I wish to see our water managed more wisely and for more to be done to cut back on wasteful water use in our state. Please be aware that Manatees rely on healthy aquatic ecosystems to survive and utilize both the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers year round. Both provide critical winter warm water habitat. Environmental changes that negatively affect food supply and water quality threaten manatee habitat and manatees themselves.

From: WaterMatters.org
To: cadillac9@aol.com
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Thursday, October 04, 2012 1:33:04 PM



Hi Marlynn,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

There are dead trees in the Chassahowitzka killed by encroaching salt water, and a loss of aquatic plants in the Homosassa River. There is also steady progression of barnacles further inland, a sign of the water becoming more saline. Any further reduction of groundwater flows would only exacerbate existing problems. Manatees rely on healthy aquatic ecosystems to survive and utilize both the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers year round. Both provide critical winter warm water habitat. Environmental changes that negatively affect food supply and water quality threaten manatee habitat and manatees themselves.

From: WaterMatters.org
To: mmsearch@midasmgt.com
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Thursday, October 04, 2012 1:33:15 PM



Hi Elaine & Joel,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

We strongly oppose the proposed MFLs for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers and believe that no further flow reduction should be allowed; that the MFLs should be set at current flows (0% flow reduction). We would also like to see SWFWMD manage our water more wisely and do more to cut back on wasteful water use in our state.

From: WaterMatters.org
To: cmerkey@gmail.com
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Thursday, October 04, 2012 1:34:20 PM



Hi Cynthia,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

I oppose any reduction of flows for either the Homosassa or Chassahowitzka Rivers to accomodate more water for people. If we can't begin to conserve our resources what will be left in this state for people to enjoy. This is the way the states of the West took, and we are going down the same road. Do some critical thinking.

From: WaterMatters.org
To: moostradamoose@aol.com
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Thursday, October 04, 2012 1:34:33 PM



Hi Joseph,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

There are dead trees in the Chassahowitzka killed by encroaching salt water, and a loss of aquatic plants in the Homosassa River. There is also steady progression of barnacles further inland, a sign of the water becoming more saline. Any further reduction of groundwater flows would only exacerbate existing problems. Manatees rely on healthy aquatic ecosystems to survive and utilize both the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers year round. Both provide critical winter warm water habitat. Environmental changes that negatively affect food supply and water quality threaten manatee habitat and manatees themselves.

From: WaterMatters.org
To: skyblu@cfl.rr.com
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Thursday, October 04, 2012 1:35:20 PM



Hi John,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

Please oppose the proposed MFLs for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers, and allow no further flow reductions. Also, please manage our water resources more wisely and do more to cut back on wasteful water use in our state.

From: WaterMatters.org
To: amberleigh131@yahoo.com
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Thursday, October 04, 2012 1:35:48 PM



Hi Amber,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

I oppose the proposed MFLs for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers and believe that no further flow reduction should be allowed. The MFLs should be set at current flows (0% flow reduction). I wish to see the SWFWMD manage our water more wisely and do more to cut back on wasteful water use in our state of Florida. By proposing a 9% flow reduction for the Chassahowitzka River and a 3% reduction for the Homosassa River, manatee habitat and manatees themselves will be threatened. Both rivers provide refuge to the manatees year round with critical warm water during the winter months. Environmental changes such as flow reduction will negatively affect their food supply and water quality. Protecting manatee habitat helps to ensure that my children and someday their children, will have the chance to enjoy these magnificent creatures that we are so fortunate to co-exist with. Thank you.

From: WaterMatters.org
To: just_ticketyboo@comcast.net
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Thursday, October 04, 2012 1:36:00 PM



Hi Rita and Steve,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

We oppose the proposed MFLs for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers and believe that no further flow reduction should be allowed. The MFLs should be set at current flows (0% flow reduction). We want you to manage our water more wisely and do more to cut back on wasteful water use in our state. People travel to our state to see places like the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers and you should do everything in your power to keep these rivers healthy. Manatees rely on healthy aquatic ecosystems to survive and they utilize both of these rivers year round. Florida relies on tourism. People will not travel here to see concrete buildings. Please, we need your help to keep Florida beautiful. Thank you.

October 4, 2012

MEMORANDUM

TO: File

FROM: Douglas A. Leeper, Chief Environmental Scientist, Ecologic Evaluation Section,
Southwest Florida Water Management District

SUBJECT: Documentation of October 4, 2012 telephone conversation with Norman Hopkins
regarding minimum flows development for Chassahowitzka/Homosassa/Crystal systems

This memorandum documents an October 4, 2012 telephone conversation between Mr. Norman Hopkins and Mr. Doug Leeper, the Southwest Florida Water Management District, concerning development of minimum flows for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa River systems and the planned minimum flows work for the Crystal River/Kings Bay system.

Phone Log

Who called: Mr. Norman Hopkins
e-mail: norman@amyhrf.org
Phone: 352-795-9517

Staff contact: Doug Leeper, Water Resources Bureau, SWFWMD

Issue: Chassahowitzka/Homosassa/Crystal River/Kings Bay minimum flows

Date: October 4, 2012

Notes:

Questions/comments

1. Are you confident that you have established a cause and effect relationship between changes in flows and changes in the environment?
2. If the environmental change that has occurred is associated with a 1% change in flows what effects will 2 or 3% or higher percentage changes have?
3. Change in salinity in the rivers is a function of changes in incursion of Gulf water and changes in salinity of water coming from the springs.
4. Have seen substantial changes in vegetation and fish over the past 15 years at Kings Bay.
5. Ecosystems are too complex to try to make predictions based on a single parameter.
6. Relationships of pollutants and toxics to flows in the rivers have not been well studied and integrated into the minimum flows work.
7. Should implement a hiatus on withdrawals unless it can be determined that a withdrawal will benefit a water resource. This can be accomplished given the economic downturn.
8. The implementation/development of MFLs has been "corrupted" from its original intent.
9. Economy of Springs Coast region will not support funding requirements for future needed recovery projects.
10. Must consider economic effects of setting MFLs.
11. Must consider the effects of pollutants when setting MFLs.

DAL

From: WaterMatters.org
To: dward2236@tampabay.rr.com
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Thursday, October 04, 2012 1:41:41 PM



Hi Diana,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

From: WaterMatters.org
To: jimloveland52@yahoo.com
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Thursday, October 04, 2012 2:02:43 PM



Hi Jim,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

From: WaterMatters.org
To: biagvela@verizon.net
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Thursday, October 04, 2012 2:04:34 PM



Hi lori,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

I oppose the proposed MFL's for the Chassahowitzka and the Homasassa rivers and believe no further flow reduction should be allowed. Lori Biagini

From: WaterMatters.org
To: gomerlu@yahoo.com
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Thursday, October 04, 2012 2:06:24 PM



Hi Elsy,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

Dear Sir/Madadm: I oppose the proposed MFLs for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers and believe that no further flow reduction should be allowed; that the MFLs should be set at current flows (0% flow reduction). Also I wish to see you manage our water more wisely and do more to cut back on wasteful water use in our state. Thank you,

From: WaterMatters.org
To: mari471@aol.com
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Thursday, October 04, 2012 2:08:42 PM



Hi Mari,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

I oppose the proposed MFLs for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers and believe that no further flow reduction should be allowed; that the MFLs should be set at current flows (0% flow reduction). I would also to see you manage our water more wisely and do more to cut back on wasteful water use in our state!

From: WaterMatters.org
To: bwatkin4@tampabay.rr.com
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Thursday, October 04, 2012 2:12:56 PM



Hi Bill,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

If you could see the loss of vegetation and wild birds, the severe drop in the numbers of fish you would vote to reject any further change to the MFL as now assessed, one percent for the Homosassa and 0,07 percent for the Chassahowitzka.

From: WaterMatters.org
To: barbaramuzeni@yahoo.com
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Thursday, October 04, 2012 2:14:18 PM



Hi Barbara,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

Please protect the manatee and enact legislation that will provide them with the required MFL levels as determined by the Save the Manatee organization

From: WaterMatters.org
To: sunshine648@juno.com
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Thursday, October 04, 2012 2:15:07 PM



Hi Ruthann,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

protect the environment and it's inhabitants

From: WaterMatters.org
To: hlbjr@bellsouth.net
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Thursday, October 04, 2012 2:17:54 PM



Hi Harvey,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

From: WaterMatters.org
To: lotsofringlets@yahoo.com
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Thursday, October 04, 2012 2:20:55 PM



Hi vicki,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

do not drop the water levels

From: WaterMatters.org
To: pamelarainsong@hotmail.com
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Thursday, October 04, 2012 2:21:03 PM



Hi Pamela,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

I'm very concerned about wildlife and the environment. I'm an advocate for my planet. River flow will be reduced to meet future human water demand. In recent decades, both the Chassahowitzka River and the Homosassa River are showing signs of environmental stress. It's logical to assume that any further reduction of groundwater flows would only heighten existing problems. Manatees rely on healthy aquatic ecosystems to survive and utilize both the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers year round. Both provide critical winter warm water habitat. Environmental changes that negatively affect food supply and water quality threaten manatee habitat and manatees themselves.

From: WaterMatters.org
To: rls444@hotmail.com
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Thursday, October 04, 2012 2:28:09 PM



Hi Tina,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

Please let it be known that I vehemently oppose the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers, and also believe that no further flow reduction should be permitted. MFLs should be set at their current flows, i.e. 0% reduction. I would also like to see you cut back on water waste, and better manage resources. We have a fragile ecosystem to protect and preserve for future generations, and your part in this is both valuable and essential. Please do what is right for our environment, not your own self-interests.

From: WaterMatters.org
To: jgsaks@gmail.com
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Thursday, October 04, 2012 2:34:09 PM



Hi Jane,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

*I oppose the proposed MFLs for the Chassahowitzka & Homosassa Rivers.
Manatees rely on healthy aquatic ecosystems to survive & use these rivers.*

From: WaterMatters.org
To: bworthy@cfl.rr.com
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Thursday, October 04, 2012 2:34:41 PM



Hi Bonnie,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

*I oppose the proposed MFLs for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers and believe that no further flow reduction should be allowed. We entrust you to manage our water, both as a supply and a natural resource. I implore you to be more prudent in your management practices, and ask that you require new development to implement more conscientious efforts to cut back on wasteful water use in our state.
Respectfully submitted,*

From: WaterMatters.org
To: manatee.randy@gmail.com
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Thursday, October 04, 2012 2:35:15 PM



Hi Randy,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

From: WaterMatters.org
To: alynnnotarnicola@gmail.com
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Thursday, October 04, 2012 2:40:03 PM



Hi Alynn,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

Determining significant ecological harm based on models that ignore the current strain on the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa rivers is irresponsible. Teaching better water conservation and imposing water restrictions to people who live in the affected areas would be more productive than damaging the rivers beyond repair.

From: WaterMatters.org
To: haydoug_linda@yahoo.com
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Thursday, October 04, 2012 3:10:35 PM



Hi Douglas,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

Having paddled these river systems, I do not see how it can help the waterways to further reduce minimum flows to the levels proposed. In fact, it would seem wiser to increase the minimum flows to improve water quality and the ecology for manatees and all forms of wildlife. The recent rains may help to improve conditions that have evolved during the recent drought, but there is no guarantee that the wet spell will last. Now is the time to increase minimum flow levels, not reduce them. Thanks for considering.

From: WaterMatters.org
To: ruthannfurst@gmail.com
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Thursday, October 04, 2012 2:40:25 PM



Hi Ruth,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

I oppose the proposed MFLs for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers and believe that no further flow reduction should be allowed. The MFLs should be set at current flows (0% flow reduction). I would like to see our water managed more wisely and do more to cut back on wasteful water use in our state.

From: WaterMatters.org
To: ANNA_MAIL27@YAHOO.COM
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Thursday, October 04, 2012 2:53:09 PM



Hi ANNA,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

From: WaterMatters.org
To: samllama-pip@yahoo.com
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Thursday, October 04, 2012 2:57:12 PM



Hi Mary,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

Manatees are a Florida treasure. Every thing possible should be done to help them.

From: WaterMatters.org
To: eagleyachts@gmail.com
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Thursday, October 04, 2012 3:05:58 PM



Hi Eric,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

It makes no sense to set minimum flow levels a lower levels than exist today since the flow levels and contamination have already been altered. If anything, the MFL's should be increased. Considering also that the WMD's came up with the asignation of Priority Water Caution Areas in the '90's, it is obvious that they were already allowing more water to be removed from the aquifer than was sustainable. It's really time to do your job and, instead of reducing the MFL's, reduce the already existing CUP's you have issued until the MFL's are back to what they were in 1972 when you were supposed to have set the MFL's to begin with.

From: WaterMatters.org
To: ljones1501@gmail.com
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Thursday, October 04, 2012 3:06:11 PM



Hi Linda,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

I oppose the proposed MFLs for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers and believe that no further flow reduction should be allowed; also the MFLs should be set at current flows (0% flow reduction). Also I wish to see you manage our water more wisely and do more to cut back on wasteful water use in our state. This is important not only for the manatees, but for the humans as well. Thank you. Linda Jones

From: WaterMatters.org
To: gilland@ufl.edu
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Thursday, October 04, 2012 3:08:54 PM



Hi David,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

From: WaterMatters.org
To: eugenesued@aol.com
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Thursday, October 04, 2012 3:19:27 PM



Hi Susan,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

Dear Board Members, Please protect what little manatee habitat Florida has left by opposing the proposed MFLs for the Chassahowitzka & Homosassa Rivers. Thank you, Susan Dietrick

From: WaterMatters.org
To: K9gra@aol.com
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Thursday, October 04, 2012 3:27:22 PM



Hi Gerald,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

Haven't the flows of the springs been varied enough by the increases usage already. Please let nature take its course without the outside influences of greedy people who are only interested in themselves.

From: WaterMatters.org
To: caquesq@gmail.com
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Thursday, October 04, 2012 3:34:08 PM



Hi Claire,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

Dear SWFWMD: I am writing to you to tell you that I oppose the proposed MFLs for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers, and that I believe no further flow reduction should be allowed. It is my request that the MFLs be set at the current. I beg you to manage our water more wisely and to do more to cut back on wasteful water use in our beautiful state of Florida. Though I live in Palm Beach County, as a small business owner, I am constantly driving to all areas of the state, including the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa areas, and the natural native beauty of the west coast of Florida is the most important thing that brings people to our state and gives them the opportunity to shop at my business. Maintaining Florida's natural water flow is good business to me, personally, and for our beautiful state as a whole. Thank you, best regards, Claire Dumas

From: WaterMatters.org
To: tahenize@aol.com
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Thursday, October 04, 2012 3:35:43 PM



Hi Tina,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

We oppose your proposed MFLs for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers. No further flow reduction should be allowed, and therefore the MFLs should be set at current flows, i.e. 0% flow reduction. We need wiser management of our water resources, including doing more to reduce wasteful water use in Florida. We are very aware of SWFWMD staff and budget reductions as part of the increasing pressures from Tallahassee, but none of that should mean our water resources for our wildlife and human population should be compromised. The goal is the same. Maintaining and providing in our part of the State clean, plentiful fresh water is a basic requirement for a healthy and economically stable Florida with a high quality-of-life for us all. Thank you for this opportunity to comment.

From: WaterMatters.org
To: allietennant@gmail.com
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Thursday, October 04, 2012 3:38:13 PM



Hi Allie,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

If your intent is to force the manatees into extinction, you are doing a great job. However, if you are on the side of keeping a healthy ecosystem in these two rivers, might I suggest you stop interfering with the water flow, as even 3% will do great harm.

From: WaterMatters.org
To: michwilltwo@aol.com
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Thursday, October 04, 2012 3:43:23 PM



Hi Michele,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

Dear Southwest Florida Water Management District Board, The MFLs you are purposing for the Chassahowitzka River, 9% flow reduction, and a 3% reduction for the Homosassa River mean that for each river, flows could be reduced by these percentages to meet future human water demand. In recent decades, both rivers have shown signs of environmental stress. Among the observed changes are dead trees in the Chassahowitzka killed by encroaching salt water, and a loss of aquatic plants in the Homosassa River. Residents in both rivers have observed a steady progression of barnacles further inland, a sign of the water becoming more saline. Even though SWFWMD's models have indicated that the proposed MFLs will not cause significant ecological harm, logic suggests that any further reduction of groundwater flows would only exacerbate existing problems. Manatees rely on healthy aquatic ecosystems to survive and utilize both the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers year round. Both provide critical winter warm water habitat. Environmental changes that negatively affect food supply and water quality threaten manatee habit at and manatees themselves. I urege to to consider making those MFLs higher to accomadate the Florida manatee and help maintain a healthy river system. Thank you for your consideration. Michele King

From: WaterMatters.org
To: bomracer@gmail.com
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Thursday, October 04, 2012 3:44:58 PM



Hi Stephen,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

From: WaterMatters.org
To: phvmaddog@hotmail.com
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Thursday, October 04, 2012 3:47:41 PM



Hi Pamela,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

From: WaterMatters.org
To: kathymporter@comcast.net
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Thursday, October 04, 2012 3:49:30 PM



Hi Kathryn M,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

I oppose the proposed MFLs for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers and believe that no further flow reduction should be allowed. I believe that the MFLs should be set at current flows (0% flow reduction). Please manage our water more wisely and do more to cut back on wasteful water use in our state.

From: WaterMatters.org
To: giraff1000@ail.com
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Thursday, October 04, 2012 3:51:33 PM



Hi brooke,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

manatees need healthy waters so please make a big effort to make our waters clean, and healthy for our FL manatees! thanks!

From: WaterMatters.org
To: fredbarb1@verizon.net
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Thursday, October 04, 2012 3:57:16 PM



Hi Barbara,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

I oppose the reducing of the MFL's on both the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers in order to protect the wildlife and ecosystem.

From: WaterMatters.org
To: maryl@marylsworld.com
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Thursday, October 04, 2012 4:04:28 PM



Hi Maryl,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

Do not change anything related to the springs except to preserve them!! stop boats and do not redirect or touch in any way. What purity do we have left if not our springs.

From: WaterMatters.org
To: stephfla954@aol.com
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Thursday, October 04, 2012 4:06:11 PM



Hi Stephanie,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

Please do not kill the manatees or take measures that will lead to their death. They are part of the State of Florida and deserve to be protected.

From: WaterMatters.org
To: goldiched@gmail.com
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Thursday, October 04, 2012 4:18:30 PM



Hi Edwin,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

*I would like to see no reduction in flow of the Homosassa & Chassahowitska rivers before there are written regulations made into law. We MUST protect our rivers!
Sincerely, Edwin Goldich*

From: WaterMatters.org
To: apfrecker@yahoo.com
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Thursday, October 04, 2012 4:23:35 PM



Hi alicia,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

From: WaterMatters.org
To: satoskarvv@yahoo.com
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Thursday, October 04, 2012 4:27:54 PM



Hi Vijay,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

Florida's eco-system depends upon a proper management of its' water resources.

From: WaterMatters.org
To: freya109@yahoo.com
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Thursday, October 04, 2012 4:29:25 PM



Hi Karen,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

I oppose the proposed MFLs for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers and believe that no further flow reduction should be allowed; that the MFLs should be set at current flows (0% flow reduction). Also, I wish to see SWFMD manage our water more wisely and do more to cut back on wasteful water use in our state.

From: WaterMatters.org
To: tnagilday@roadrunner.com
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Thursday, October 04, 2012 4:33:16 PM



Hi Amanda,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

I oppose the proposed MFLs for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers and believe that no further flow reduction should be allowed; that the MFLs should be set at current flows (0% flow reduction). I wish to see you manage our water more wisely and do more to cut back on wasteful water use in our state. Thank you very much for your time and attention to this serious matter.

From: WaterMatters.org
To: leeulbing@gmail.com
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Thursday, October 04, 2012 4:37:19 PM



Hi Lee,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

I believe the MFLs for any water system in this state SHOULD NOT BE CHANGED at this juncture. Yes we've had some rain this summer, but we and our water systems have been suffering from drought over a number of years now. Let it all try to recover naturally as nature intended before taking any action. Please consider the wildlife that depends on our rivers for habitat like the manatee. They and the other wildlife can not fight against mankind and their loss would diminish our quality of life enormously. Remember, they were here long before we were. Lee Ulbing

From: WaterMatters.org
To: wcbryan@yahoo.com
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Thursday, October 04, 2012 4:50:21 PM



Hi Karol,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

I oppose the proposed MFLs for Chassahowitzka & Homosassa Rivers. No further flow reduction should be allowed. Please manage our waters more wisely. Thank you.

From: WaterMatters.org
To: mikasunny@hotmail.com
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Thursday, October 04, 2012 4:55:07 PM



Hi David and Judy,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

To The Southwest Florida Water Management District: We are writing to you today to urge you to oppose the proposed "Minimum Flows and Levels" (MFLs) on the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers. No further reduction should be allowed. The MFLs should be set at the current flow level (0% flow reduction). In addition, we urge the Southwest Florida Water Management District to manage our water more wisely and to do everything possible to cut back on wasteful water management and water flow uses and practices. Thank you for your time and attention.

From: WaterMatters.org
To: mao15@bellsouth.net
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Thursday, October 04, 2012 5:07:54 PM



Hi a m,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

From: WaterMatters.org
To: cgula@tampabay.rr.com
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Thursday, October 04, 2012 5:12:09 PM



Hi Carol,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

I oppose the proposed MFLs for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers and believe that no further flow reduction should be allowed; that the MFLs should be set at current flows (0% flow reduction). I think SWIFTMUD should manage our water more wisely and do more to cut back on wasteful water use in our state

From: WaterMatters.org
To: Beaniepbg@comcast.net
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Thursday, October 04, 2012 5:14:14 PM



Hi Jill,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

PLEASE consider the manatees before lowering the MFLs in Chassahowitzka & Homosassa rivers! Do not lower the levels at all! You will be negatively effecting the quality of the water which in turn, effects the food supply for the gentle giants! Don't be another cause of harm to these harmless creatures! THINK BEFORE YOU ACT!! Thank you for your consideration!

Chassahowitzka and Homosassa River Systems PUBLIC MEETING COMMENT CARD

Southwest Florida
Water Management District
WATERMATTERS.ORG • 1-800-423-1476

Your comments will be provided to the Governing Board. Please make sure to clearly print your name and email address or phone number. Thank you for your comments.

Name Mary Ellen Aliberti

Date

Email Address or Phone Number 352-794-3111

10/2/12

Comments: I care, show that you care, please.

This information is a public record and may be disclosed to anyone requesting a copy for any purpose pursuant to the Florida Public Records Act, Chapter 119, Florida Statutes. Under Florida law, email addresses are public records. If you do not want your email address released in response to a public records request, do not send electronic mail to this entity.

Chassahowitzka and
Homosassa River Systems
PUBLIC MEETING COMMENT CARD

Southwest Florida
Water Management District
WATERMATTERS.ORG • 1-800-423-1476

Your comments will be provided to the Governing Board. Please make sure to clearly print your name and email address or phone number. Thank you for your comments.

Name Darrell Snedecor, President

Date

10/21/12

Email Address or Phone Number Citrus Co.

Comments: darrell@snedecors.com Audubon

Zero reduction is the only way
to save the future.

This information is a public record and may be disclosed to anyone requesting a copy for any purpose pursuant to the Florida Public Records Act, Chapter 119, Florida Statutes. Under Florida law, email addresses are public records. If you do not want your email address released in response to a public records request, do not send electronic mail to this entity.

Chassahowitzka and Homosassa River Systems PUBLIC MEETING COMMENT CARD

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Water Management District
WATERMATTERS.ORG • 1-800-423-1476

Your comments will be provided to the Governing Board. Please make sure to clearly print your name and email address or phone number. Thank you for your comments.

Name Rathy Dobronyi

Date

Email Address or Phone Number Rdobronyi@intergate.com

10 12 120/2

Comments:

*Water temperature addressed for manatees, but
how will the flow change effect food source for
them?*

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Chassahowitzka and Homosassa River Systems PUBLIC MEETING COMMENT CARD

Southwest Florida
Water Management District
WATERMATTERS.ORG • 1-800-423-1476

Your comments will be provided to the Governing Board. Please make sure to clearly print your name and email address or phone number. Thank you for your comments.

Name KARL SCHULZ

Date

Email Address or Phone Number (352) 621-1664

OCT 12 / 2012

Comments: *Nice scientific data. No matter how you slice it, removing more water from the Homosassa will not be good for the river. Frogs are gone from our canal, barnacles have moved in.*

The major concept omitted from your comments is "common sense" what is practical, what do the citizens want? Removing river water for bottle water is a very bad idea & you know it.

Do the right thing, remove NO water.

Vote the way you would want if you did not work for "Swiftmed"

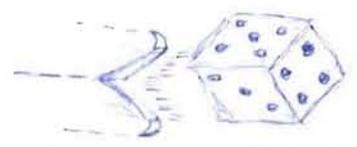
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BLUE CARD = COMMENTS MEETING

- 2006 - US Minutes

- Energy
- Biomass
- Drought
- Mind made up
- Common sense
- Science based

91% CHAZ FROM RECOMMEND
97% HOME



Chassahowitzka and Homosassa River Systems PUBLIC MEETING COMMENT CARD

Southwest Florida
Water Management District
WATERMATTERS.ORG • 1-800-423-1476

Your comments will be provided to the Governing Board. Please make sure to clearly print your name and email address or phone number. Thank you for your comments.

Name Joan Schulz

Date

Email Address or Phone Number jaschulz@tampabay.fl.com

10 12 12

Comments: I don't think your 100% natural flow is accurate as we have now few fish, ^{crabs} and natural grasses that used to exist in the river. The river is already sick and a 3% reduced flow will make it much sicker (Homosassa River). Removing more water will concentrate the pollution more. You should be doing all you can to make this river healthy instead of inflicting more harm.

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Chassahowitzka and Homosassa River Systems PUBLIC MEETING COMMENT CARD

Southwest Florida
Water Management District
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Your comments will be provided to the Governing Board. Please make sure to clearly print your name and email address or phone number. Thank you for your comments.

Name HOPE CORONA

Date

Email Address or Phone Number hopecorona@tampabay,rr.com

10 / 1 / 2012

Comments:

- since 1932-2012
1930
- (1) If Chassahowitzka spring flow strongly correlates with Weeki Wachee Well, for which extensive historic records exist; then one can estimate the pre-development spring flow in CHASSAHOWITZKA; what ~~is~~ was it? What was it at time of Designation as OFW? HAS SIGNIFICANT HARM ALREADY OCCURED AS IT HAS IN WEEKI WACHEE?
- (2) THE CHASSAHOWITZKA, like the Weeki Wachee, is a ~~S~~ Freshwater Spring Fed River that flows out to an Estuary; THE CHASSAHOWITZKA SPRING RUNS AND ASSOCIATED SPRING RUNS flow through and nourish an extensive freshwater forested wetlands community ~~is~~ comprised of species intolerant to saline conditions. The Weeki Wachee MFL was a two part MFL ~~is~~ that addressed essential FRESH WATER HABITAT (A SPRING / FRESH WATER MFL, AND AN ESTUARY MFL). Why was ONLY AN ESTUARY MFL performed for Chassahowitzka? ~~Many~~ of our IMPAIRED SPRING HABITATS ~~are~~ will be significantly harmed, yet NO Fresh Water MFL was performed?

This information is a public record and may be disclosed to anyone requesting a copy for any purpose pursuant to the Florida Public Records Act, Chapter 119, Florida Statutes. Under Florida law, email addresses are public records. If you do not want your email address released in response to a public records request, do not send electronic mail to this entity.

—over—>

(3) BASED ON SALINITY PROFILES (on Page 47 of the Char. MFL Fig. 4-3): there appears to be an approximately 1.05 km movement upstream of the salinity gradients shown for every 43 cfs reduction in flow (estimate). The presently suggested reduction in flow will move these salinity gradients how much farther east (upstream) towards the springs? My lay person estimate places a 3ppt salinity well east of Potter Creek (between Potter and Salt Creek). There is a significant amount of fresh water habitat and fresh water forested wetlands that may be significantly harmed by further ~~sat~~ increases in salinity beyond sensitive species thresholds.

(4) ~~SWPMD~~ Regarding "Other organisms response to flow changes" that Doug presented tonight - the species addressed are still ALL Estuarine species! ~~We asked~~ Stakeholders asked SWPMD to address effects to Fresh Water Species.

(5) IN PREVIOUS MEETINGS WE WERE TOLD THAT MONITORING would take place ~~to see~~ on the affected Rivers/Spring communities. Where can we review the Monitoring Plan? How often (monthly, quarterly) will monitoring take place, and what (Species, habitats, water qual./salinity) will be monitored? Will that data be available as Public Records?

Chassahowitzka and Homosassa River Systems PUBLIC MEETING COMMENT CARD

Southwest Florida
Water Management District
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Your comments will be provided to the Governing Board. Please make sure to clearly print your name and email address or phone number. Thank you for your comments.

Name Lynda Tourlie-Case Date 10/2/12
Email Address or Phone Number rodlynda@tampabay.ir.com

Comments: *I have been coming to Chass. River since about 1945. my father has been coming up (from Tampa) with his father since about 1920 - I have been living on the main canal full time since 1984. I kayak, fish, swim, crab - I pay waterfront homeowner taxes - my husband, Doug Case, was very involved with getting Chass. named an Outstanding Fla. Water way in the mid 80's. We need to protect this beautiful resource - We need to protect quality not just quantity -*

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Chassahowitzka and Homosassa River Systems PUBLIC MEETING COMMENT CARD

Southwest Florida
Water Management District
WATERMATTERS.ORG • 1-800-423-1476

Your comments will be provided to the Governing Board. Please make sure to clearly print your name and email address or phone number. Thank you for your comments.

Name Maxine Connor

Date

Email Address or Phone Number maxineconnor@gmail.com

10 / 2 / 12

Comments: Restore the rivers and springs. This is the only place in the world with this many first magnitude springs. They have already been degraded. Do not allow flow levels to be reduced. ~~The~~ Reducing flow levels will only result in further degradation of water quality, ^{water} and flow, and loss of habitat. Loss of habitat will result in the death of many plants and animals.

This information is a public record and may be disclosed to anyone requesting a copy for any purpose pursuant to the Florida Public Records Act, Chapter 119, Florida Statutes. Under Florida law, email addresses are public records. If you do not want your email address released in response to a public records request, do not send electronic mail to this entity.

From: WaterMatters.org
To: j-cmacdonald@att.net
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Thursday, October 04, 2012 5:23:21 PM



Hi Carol,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

We have been enjoying Chassahowitzka and Homasassa rivers for many years. We've seen a decline in these areas, and one thing is VERY apparent--EVERYONE CAN'T LIVE IN FLORIDA! The water management districts must look at the range of typical flows and levels over the course of record-keeping history of these springs and their rivers, realizing that recent decades have been affected by pumpage as well as drought. MFL's must be established according to long-term historic levels-- NOT determined by the last one or two decades which, I believe, have been much lower than previous long-term historic levels.

From: WaterMatters.org
To: wvm1580@sbcglobal.net
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Thursday, October 04, 2012 5:29:23 PM



Hi william,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

My wife and I are voting residents of Lee county. We oppose the proposed MFLs for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers and believe that no further flow reduction should be allowed; that the MFLs should be set at current flows (0% flow reduction). We need to manage our water more wisely and reduce wasteful water use in our state.

From: WaterMatters.org
To: alb826@gmail.com
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Thursday, October 04, 2012 5:31:32 PM



Hi Andrea,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

From: WaterMatters.org
To: lrodoff@earthlink.net
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Thursday, October 04, 2012 5:31:58 PM



Hi Iennie,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

From: WaterMatters.org
To: ann@hanushek.com
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Thursday, October 04, 2012 5:32:32 PM



Hi Ann,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

It is time to protect our water, the most basic natural resource. The manatee and other marine need to be protected so that future generations may enjoy the richness that they bring to the environment.

From: WaterMatters.org
To: orvalnangle@comcast.net
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Thursday, October 04, 2012 5:41:17 PM



Hi Rosanne,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

As a Florida resident, I oppose the proposed MFLs for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers and believe no further flow reduction should be allowed and that the MFLs should be set at current flows (0% flow reduction). Both rivers show signs of environmental stress: dead trees in the Chassahowitzka killed by encroaching salt water; loss of aquatic plants in the Homosassa; and a steady progression of barnacles further inland in both rivers, a sign the water is becoming more saline. I wish to see you manage our water more wisely and do more to cut back on wasteful water use in our state. Rosanne Nangle Jacksonville, FL 32257

From: WaterMatters.org
To: susanclaire20@yahoo.com
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Thursday, October 04, 2012 5:41:34 PM



Hi Susan,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

From: WaterMatters.org
To: msmstr159@gmail.com
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Thursday, October 04, 2012 5:42:45 PM



Hi mary,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

From: WaterMatters.org
To: jrtromans@yahoo.com
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Thursday, October 04, 2012 5:47:18 PM



Hi Jean,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

Please do a better job managing water in Florida for the manatee, turtles, dolphins, and all other creatures who are dependent on water in Florida. Thank you.

From: WaterMatters.org
To: mengranger@tampabay.rr.com
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Thursday, October 04, 2012 5:50:38 PM



Hi Margaret,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

Please, please do everything possible to help the Florida Manatees, our wonderful friends. I hope it's not too late. We need to be aware of what can be done and what is being done. Thank you for keeping us aware of the situation of the Manatees.

From: WaterMatters.org
To: bgt.roo@verizon.net
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Thursday, October 04, 2012 6:01:22 PM



Hi Bonita,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

I oppose the proposed MFLs for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers and believe that no further flow reduction should be allowed; that the MFLs should be set at current flows (0% flow reduction). Also, SWFWMD should manage our water more wisely and do more to cut back on wasteful water use in our state. Thank you for any help you may provide in this area.

From: WaterMatters.org
To: traceysadiq@hotmail.com
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Thursday, October 04, 2012 6:11:19 PM



Hi Tracey,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

To Whom it May Concern: I would like to state that I oppose the proposed MFLs for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers and also believe that no further flow reduction should be allowed; that the MFLs should be set at current flows (0% flow reduction). Additionally, I would like to see your organization manage our water more wisely and do more to cut back on wasteful water use in our state than is currently being done. Thank you, Tracey Sadiq

From: WaterMatters.org
To: lrs5@bellsouth.net
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Thursday, October 04, 2012 6:13:26 PM



Hi LeAnn,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

I oppose the proposed MFLs for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers and believe that no further flow reduction should be allowed. The MFLs should be set at current flows (0% flow reduction). Also, I wish to see you manage our water more wisely and do more to cut back on wasteful water use in our state.

From: WaterMatters.org
To: paulsadiq@hotmail.com
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Thursday, October 04, 2012 6:13:46 PM



Hi Paul,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

To Whom it May Concern: I would like to state that I oppose the proposed MFLs for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers and also believe that no further flow reduction should be allowed; that the MFLs should be set at current flows (0% flow reduction). Additionally, I would like to see your organization manage our water more wisely and do more to cut back on wasteful water use in our state than is currently being done. Thank you, Paul Sadiq

From: WaterMatters.org
To: HHOLLON1221@AOL.COM
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Thursday, October 04, 2012 6:19:12 PM



Hi Hollie,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

I oppose the proposed MFLs for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers and believe that no further flow reduction should be allowed; that the MFLs should be set at current flows (0% flow reduction). I would like to tell the SWFWMD that I want to see them manage our water more wisely and do more to cut back on wasteful water use in our state. This matter is so very important to everyone who lives in Florida and so we must make the proper decisions now to save our water and world for the future. Thank you for your time and consideration on this very important issue.

From: WaterMatters.org
To: jefazio@gmail.com
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Thursday, October 04, 2012 6:23:05 PM



Hi jayna,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

I oppose the proposed MFLs for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers and believe that no further flow reduction should be allowed; that the mFLs should be set at current flows (0%) flow reduction. pLease manage our water more wisely and do more to cut back on wasteful water use in our state. Thank you

From: WaterMatters.org
To: nssb@yahoo.com
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Thursday, October 04, 2012 6:40:10 PM



Hi Nancy,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

I am strongly opposed to the proposed MFL's for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers. I believe that no further flow reduction should be allowed. The MFL's should remain at current flows of 0% flow reduction. I also wish SWFWMD would manage Florida's waters more wisely and do more to cut back on wasteful water use in Florida. This would be an opportune time to purchase wetlands from individuals to ensure there is no development that destroys the environment.

From: WaterMatters.org
To: PerrySclafani@gmail.com
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Thursday, October 04, 2012 6:43:26 PM



Hi Perry,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

I oppose the proposed MFLs for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers and believe that no further flow reduction should be allowed; that the MFLs should be set at current flows (0% flow reduction). Also i want to tell SWFWMD that I wish to see them manage our water more wisely and do more to cut back on wasteful water use in our state.

From: WaterMatters.org
To: startrek1976@yahoo.com
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Thursday, October 04, 2012 6:48:03 PM



Hi Melissa,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

Please don't mess with the flows of the Chessowitzka River. The manatees are such beautiful and gentle animals, they need our help to survive.

From: WaterMatters.org
To: gmorotti@gmail.com
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Thursday, October 04, 2012 6:54:12 PM



Hi Gloria,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

We need to save the rivers.

From: WaterMatters.org
To: mejides@yahoo.com
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Thursday, October 04, 2012 6:56:58 PM



Hi Andres,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

From: WaterMatters.org
To: manateeprotector@hotmail.com
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Thursday, October 04, 2012 7:05:02 PM



Hi Angel,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

*Sir/Ma'am, I oppose the proposed Minimum Flow Levels (MFL) for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers and believe that no further flow reduction should be allowed; the MFLs should be set at current flows (0% flow reduction). Please do all in your power to manage our water more wisely and do more to cut back on wasteful water use in our state. Thank you for your time and consideration.
V/r, Angel Burke*

From: WaterMatters.org
To: soniapox@yahoo.com
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Thursday, October 04, 2012 7:05:22 PM



Hi Sonia,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

Please reconsider the water flow reduction the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers. Many ecological systems depend on these rivers and water flow reduction may cause negative effects to the water quality there. This will directly affect the aquatic life. In a world where wildlife habitats are rapidly destroyed, I hope that we do our best to understand the environment around us before making any changes. Ecosystems are often intertwined with many other factors, so making one change can easily disrupt the whole system. Thank You for your time, Sonia Wong

From: WaterMatters.org
To: scooteacha@aol.com
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Thursday, October 04, 2012 7:12:26 PM



Hi Robyn,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

From: WaterMatters.org
To: amie98@gmail.com
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Thursday, October 04, 2012 7:19:58 PM



Hi Amie,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

Manatees rely on healthy aquatic ecosystems to survive and utilize both the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers year round. Both provide critical winter warm water habitat. Environmental changes that negatively affect food supply and water quality threaten manatee habitat and manatees themselves. I oppose the proposed MFLs for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers and believe that no further flow reduction should be allowed. The MFLs should be set at current flows (0% flow reduction). SWFWMD needs to manage our water more wisely and do more to cut back on wasteful water use in our state.

From: WaterMatters.org
To: fladream@msn.com
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Thursday, October 04, 2012 7:20:15 PM



Hi connie,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

*STOP TAKING AWAY FROM THE MANATEES THEY ARE GOD'S CREATURES
LET THEM BE HAPPY HOW MANY TIMES HAVE YOU TAKENED AWAY FROM
WILDLIFE TO MAKE THEIR ENVIROMENTS LOUSEY? PUT YOURSELVES IN
THEIR PLACES AND SEE HOW YOU LIKE IT*

From: WaterMatters.org
To: cvezolles@yahoo.com
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Thursday, October 04, 2012 7:24:00 PM



Hi Celeste,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

From: WaterMatters.org
To: crmcglone@moose-mail.com
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Thursday, October 04, 2012 7:25:26 PM



Hi Colleen,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

I oppose the proposed MFLs for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers and believe that no further flow reduction should be allowed; that the MFLs should be set at current flows (0% flow reduction). Please manage our water more wisely and do more to cut back on wasteful water use in our state.

From: WaterMatters.org
To: remember69@aol.com
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Thursday, October 04, 2012 7:32:22 PM



Hi Ronald,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

I disapprove of the decision to limit the water flow of these river systems. Please think of the environmental consequences of this action before it is taken. Thank you for your time.

From: WaterMatters.org
To: hwrldmill@tampabay.rr.com
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Thursday, October 04, 2012 7:56:44 PM



Hi Howard,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

Dont reduce the presenr flow levels

From: WaterMatters.org
To: doctorrose@hotmail.com
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Thursday, October 04, 2012 7:36:10 PM



Hi Rosandra,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

Dear SWFWMD Staff & Governing Boards: I oppose the proposed MFLs for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers and believe that no further flow reduction should be allowed. The MFLs should be set at current flows (0% flow reduction. Also, I wish to see our water managed more wisely and would like to see more cut backs on wasteful water use in our state. Thank you, Sincerely, Rose Manduca, DVM

From: WaterMatters.org
To: Revoltlingstr2@yahoo.com
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Thursday, October 04, 2012 8:10:15 PM



Hi Cristina,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

I oppose the proposed MFLs for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers and believe that no further flow reduction should be allowed; that the MFLs should be set at current flows (0% flow reduction). Both sites are already showing signs of ecological stress and by reducing current flows will further exasperate the problem. The slightest reduction in water flow can cause significant changes in food availability, nutrient inputs, salinity levels and so on for the wildlife that call these rivers home. Please reconsider the reduction and focus more on ways to effectively manage our water use and ways to prevent wasteful water use in the state.

From: WaterMatters.org
To: bearbigpaws@aol.com
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Thursday, October 04, 2012 8:10:28 PM



Hi Debbie,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

From: WaterMatters.org
To: mcmduda@aol.com
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Thursday, October 04, 2012 8:14:10 PM



Hi Mary,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

From: WaterMatters.org
To: celesteas@gmail.com
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Thursday, October 04, 2012 8:27:32 PM



Hi Celeste,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

I believe the current MFL at 0% reduction should stand for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa river systems, no increases to already ailing Florida waterways and aquifer. And much more should be done to protect the incredible waterways of Florida.

From: WaterMatters.org
To: cwillis64@gmail.com
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Thursday, October 04, 2012 8:33:36 PM



Hi chris,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

Please help us save our manatees. thank you.

From: WaterMatters.org
To: jib5270@yahoo.com
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Thursday, October 04, 2012 9:14:25 PM



Hi Jennifer,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

From: WaterMatters.org
To: kcms2002@yahoo.com
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Thursday, October 04, 2012 9:26:47 PM



Hi Kady,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

From: WaterMatters.org
To: mybarr38@aol.com
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Thursday, October 04, 2012 9:31:35 PM



Hi Mylene,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

From: WaterMatters.org
To: Snannywan26@aol.com
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Thursday, October 04, 2012 9:33:51 PM



Hi Savannah,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

I oppose the proposed MFLs for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers and believe that no further flow reduction should be allowed; that the MFLs should be set at current flows (0% flow reduction). Also, I wish to see you managing our water more wisely and please do more to cut back on wasteful water use in our state. It is a major issue. Manatee habitat can be adversely affected by your flow reduction plans. Manatees are an important part of our ecosystem - not to mention an endangered species. Manatees rely on healthy aquatic ecosystems to survive and utilize both the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers year round. Both provide critical winter warm water habitat. Environmental changes that negatively affect food supply and water quality threaten manatee habit at and manatees themselves. Please do not allow any further flow reduction!

From: WaterMatters.org
To: terrythor@hotmail.com
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Thursday, October 04, 2012 9:38:32 PM



Hi Terry,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

I oppose the proposed MFLs for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers and believe that no further flow reduction should be allowed. The MFLs should be set at current flows (0% flow reduction). I wish to see the district manage our water more wisely and do more to cut back on wasteful water use in Florida.

From: WaterMatters.org
To: munchong39@yahoo.com
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Thursday, October 04, 2012 9:38:57 PM



Hi Tolentin,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

I oppose the proposed MFLs for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers and believe that no further flow reduction should be allowed; that the MFLs should be set at current flows (0% flow reduction). Also tell SWFWMD that I wish to see them manage our water more wisely and do more to cut back on wasteful water use in our state.

From: WaterMatters.org
To: estrucker@hotmail.com
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Thursday, October 04, 2012 9:44:56 PM



Hi elizabeth,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

From: WaterMatters.org
To: kayGates@bellsouth.net
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Thursday, October 04, 2012 9:47:55 PM



Hi Kay,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

I oppose the proposed MFLs for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers. I believe that no further flow reduction should be allowed; the MFLs should be set at current flows (0% flow reduction). Also, I wish the water managers our waters would more wisely manage the water to protect the natural environment and critters. Please do more to cut back on wasteful water use in our state. Much appreciation for all the good work you do. Don't let the greedy few ruin and deplete our natural resources. Thanks you.

From: WaterMatters.org
To: lkazmarek@hotmail.com
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Thursday, October 04, 2012 9:56:56 PM



Hi Lauren,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

I oppose the proposed MFLs for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers and believe that no further flow reduction should be allowed. The MFLs should be set at current flows (0% flow reduction). I also wish to see them manage our water more wisely and do more to cut back on wasteful water use in our state

From: WaterMatters.org
To: blaest@earthlink.net
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Thursday, October 04, 2012 10:01:25 PM



Hi Terry,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

Humans have already caused significant harm to Florida's freshwater ecosystems. Look at the growth of algae and salt water intrusion. Allowing water to be diverted for further development means that minimum levels will surely become maximum levels for our water bodies, continuing the decline. Save the Chassawitzka and Homosassa and ALL our rivers and lakes.

From: WaterMatters.org
To: dcray831@yahoo.com
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Thursday, October 04, 2012 10:03:37 PM



Hi Donna,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

I am writing to express my opposition to the proposed MFLs for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers. I strongly support manatee protection, and as such, believe that no further flow reduction should be allowed; the MFLs should be set at current flows (0% flow reduction). Also I wish to see the water managed more wisely so that the natural environment - Florida's greatest resource, is protected. Thank you.

From: WaterMatters.org
To: annsaward@aol.com
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Thursday, October 04, 2012 10:22:59 PM



Hi Ann,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

I have learned a great deal about MFL's in the past few years. Part of that was watching what happened in New Orleans as a result in part to the decrease in barrier islands that disappeared because of salt water intrusion. Our water supplies are not limitless and the damage done by depleting our rivers is irreversible. Of course SWFMD knows all that. What happens if the MFL's you are recommending result in salt intrusion on the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa river systems as it certainly would? Already on the Withlacoochee River we have noticed an increase in salinity many miles in from the gulf. Please..... reconsider the MFL's and protect the rivers and the people and animals who depend on their health.

From: WaterMatters.org
To: Goslingsawagreen@aol.com
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Thursday, October 04, 2012 10:36:33 PM



Hi Micah,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

Lets preserve the rivers so the Manatee can live and thrive in florida

From: WaterMatters.org
To: Melissa.Sullivan.A@gmail.com
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Thursday, October 04, 2012 10:50:13 PM



Hi Melissa,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

Please take manatees into consideration when making decisions. Manatees need to be protected.

From: WaterMatters.org
To: keyweyspot@aol.com
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Thursday, October 04, 2012 10:51:29 PM



Hi Mary,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

Leave the flow alone

From: WaterMatters.org
To: rmarziagamm@msn.com
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Thursday, October 04, 2012 10:51:54 PM



Hi Rose,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

Please consider the effects to the Manatee on this matter. Water management is fine as long as it isn't adversely affecting the life in the waters.

From: WaterMatters.org
To: rmarziagamm@msn.com
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Thursday, October 04, 2012 10:55:05 PM



Hi Linda,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

I please leave at oppose the MFL's water flow please leave at "0" flow

From: WaterMatters.org
To: shiggins@monarchlearningacademy.com
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Thursday, October 04, 2012 11:00:23 PM



Hi Mrs.Higgins',

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

*Please do not reduce the flow. We want the manatees to have a good habitat.
Sincerrely, Mrs. Higgins' Second Grade Class*

From: WaterMatters.org
To: bigmohank@netscape.net
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Thursday, October 04, 2012 11:13:59 PM



Hi Henry,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

Please ensure that everything possible is done to promote and protect the habitat our manatees require. They are truly a Florida treasure, and representative of what a true "gentle giant" should be. Thanks very much in advance.

From: WaterMatters.org
To: omans5@juno.com
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Thursday, October 04, 2012 11:45:37 PM



Hi Jeff,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

The SWFWMD is preparing to implement Minimum Flows and Levels for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers on Florida's west coast. It is very important to set MFLs and protect our water bodies from harm, but we can only ensure protection when appropriate MFLs are set. For the Chassahowitzka River, the SWFWMD is proposing a 9% flow reduction, and a 3% reduction for the Homosassa River. This means that for each river, flows could be reduced by these percentages to meet future human water demand. In recent decades, both rivers have shown signs of environmental stress. Among the observed changes are dead trees in the Chassahowitzka killed by encroaching salt water, and a loss of aquatic plants in the Homosassa River. Residents in both rivers have observed a steady progression of barnacles further inland, a sign of the water becoming more saline. Even though SWFWMD's models have indicated that the proposed MFLs will not cause significant ecological harm, logic suggests that any further reduction of groundwater flows would only exacerbate existing problems. Manatees rely on healthy aquatic ecosystems to survive and utilize both the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers year round. I oppose the proposed MFLs for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers and believe that no further flow reduction should be allowed; the MFLs should be set at current flows (0% flow reduction). I urge you to manage our water more wisely and do more to cut back on wasteful water use in our state.

From: WaterMatters.org
To: cause4paws2@hotmail.com
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Friday, October 05, 2012 12:14:16 AM



Hi Everett and Melody,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

WE oppose the proposed MFLs for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers and believe that no further flow reduction should be allowed; that the MFLs should be set at current flows (0% flow reduction). We wish to see you manage our water more wisely and do more to cut back on wasteful water use in our state. Sincerely, Everett and Melody Halligan

From: WaterMatters.org
To: Acboroughs@yahoo.com
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Friday, October 05, 2012 12:17:46 AM



Hi Anna,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

From: WaterMatters.org
To: casabianca@live.com
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Friday, October 05, 2012 3:53:55 AM



Hi melinda h,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

Did you know there are indications that both the Chassahowitzka and Homassa Rivers are in trouble? Salt water intrusion is a huge and growing problem in south and middle Florida. Decreasing the water flow would increase the problem. Please don't draw down any more water.

From: WaterMatters.org
To: treehugger52768@gmail.com
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Friday, October 05, 2012 5:56:59 AM



Hi Katrina,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

From: WaterMatters.org
To: pattiw2469@yahoo.com
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Friday, October 05, 2012 6:07:18 AM



Hi Patti,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

I oppose the proposed MFLs for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers and believe that no further flow reduction should be allowed; that the MFLs should be set at current flows (0% flow reduction). I would also like to see SWFWMD manage our water more wisely and do more to cut back on wasteful water use in our state

From: WaterMatters.org
To: NLoughery@gmail.com
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Friday, October 05, 2012 6:53:57 AM



Hi Nancy,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

I strongly oppose the proposed MFLs for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers and believe that no further flow reduction should be allowed. The current flow (0% reduction) is fine! I'd also like to see more done to cut back on wasteful water usage in Florida. Thank you.

From: WaterMatters.org
To: danandjo@bellsouth.net
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Friday, October 05, 2012 7:22:50 AM



Hi Jo,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

I oppose the proposed MFLs for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers and believe that no further flow reduction should be allowed; that the MFLs should be set at current flows (0% flow reduction). I would like to see SWFWMD manage our water more wisely and do more to cut back on wasteful water use in our state.

From: WaterMatters.org
To: reson8tor@mac.com
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Friday, October 05, 2012 7:41:24 AM



Hi Chris,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

I oppose the proposed MFLs for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers and believe that no further flow reduction should be allowed; that the MFLs should be set at current flows (0% flow reduction). And I wish to see SWFWMD manage our water more wisely and do more to cut back on wasteful water use in our state.

From: WaterMatters.org
To: eltonbanks@msn.com
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Friday, October 05, 2012 9:01:51 AM



Hi David & Grace,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

I oppose the proposed MFLs for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers and believe that no further flow reduction should be allowed; that the MFLs should be set at current flows (0% flow reduction). I wish to see you manage our water more wisely and do more to cut back on wasteful water use in our state.

From: WaterMatters.org
To: efcbdb@verizon.net
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Friday, October 05, 2012 9:02:22 AM



Hi Brian,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

Dear Governing Board Members, I am writng to oppose any further flow reductions on these two waterways. The Mfl's should be set at the current flow rates. Thank you. Brian Banks

From: WaterMatters.org
To: chilove42@aol.com
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Friday, October 05, 2012 9:08:56 AM



Hi carol,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

MFL's should be set at current levels and no further reduction levels should be allowed. Florida has lost enough natural resources because of poor decisions by the people we put in charge to protect our waterways. These two rivers should not be next on the list. The proof is already there that water reduction allows saltwater encroachment. SWFWMD need to manage our water more wisely, there are other alternatives to preserve water such as using waste water for public lands, parks, buildings etc, and not allowing fresh water waste, education of the public, etc.

From: WaterMatters.org
To: Vocewing@aol.com
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Friday, October 05, 2012 10:54:04 AM



Hi Jim,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

I vehemently oppose the proposed MFLs for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers and believe that no further flow reduction should be allowed and that the MFLs should be set at current flows (0% flow reduction). Wiser water management along with a reduction in wasteful water use are directions SWFWMD should pursue to improve water supplies.

From: WaterMatters.org
To: jacqueline2662@cfl.rr.com
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Friday, October 05, 2012 11:09:09 AM



Hi Jacqueline,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

From: WaterMatters.org
To: shenderson@mygulfport.us
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Friday, October 05, 2012 11:18:12 AM



Hi Sam,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are already showing signs of ecological decline at the current flow levels. In the absence of a comprehensive restoration / remediation plan, or indeed a definition of minimum flow criteria, it is not rational to conclude that flow levels below the current annual average for these rivers could be sustainable for the proliferation of manatees and other local biota. In light of this, the SWFWMD should not institute a minimum flow level that is less than the current annual average. Such a move would endorse the further degradation of the rivers and the wildlife that relies upon them. Any reduction in permissible flow levels for these rivers will likely prove unsustainable and conflict with the overarching responsibility of the district - preservation and protection of Florida's declining waterbodies. Thank you.

From: WaterMatters.org
To: Mimi181@aol.com
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Friday, October 05, 2012 11:27:05 AM



Hi Marilyn,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

From: WaterMatters.org
To: atc5@comcast.net
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Friday, October 05, 2012 11:52:29 AM



Hi David,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

Please do not restrict flow on these important waterways. Thank you for helping to preserve our natural environment and helping out the animals who need us and who do not have a voice.

From: WaterMatters.org
To: uphighfla@yahoo.com
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Friday, October 05, 2012 12:01:01 PM



Hi donna,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

From: WaterMatters.org
To: mcohorst@gmail.com
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Friday, October 05, 2012 12:16:09 PM



Hi Meghan,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

Environmental evidence continues to tell us that our rivers need protection, and decreasing MFLs will only exacerbate problems of increased salinity and plant loss already being seen in the Homossasa and Chassahowitzka Rivers. Please make the right decision by choosing 0% flow reduction for both of these rivers, so we can protect some of our state's most precious resources.

From: WaterMatters.org
To: faydarby@earthlink.net
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Friday, October 05, 2012 1:14:28 PM



Hi Fay,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

From: WaterMatters.org
To: blanch6669@cfl.rr.com
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Friday, October 05, 2012 2:08:07 PM



Hi Donna,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

I oppose the proposed MFLs for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers and believe that no further flow reduction should be allowed; the MFLs should be set at current flows (0% flow reduction). I also wish to see water managed more wisely and more done to cut back on wasteful water use in our state. In recent decades, both rivers have already shown signs of environmental stress. Manatees, and other wildlife, rely on healthy aquatic ecosystems to survive and utilize both the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers year round. Both provide critical winter warm water habitat. Environmental changes that negatively affect food supply and water quality threaten manatee habitat and manatees themselves.

From: WaterMatters.org
To: shynes825@hotmail.com
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Friday, October 05, 2012 3:39:55 PM



Hi sandy,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

This proposed action by swiftmud is unbelievably against all that organization stands for. I thought they had the health of the rivers of Florida as their top priority. Also The permits for a bottling company withdrwing precious waterfrom florida waters is beyond stupid especially when there are watering restrictions for private water users.

From: WaterMatters.org
To: cici4ever@hotmail.it
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Friday, October 05, 2012 3:41:42 PM



Hi Cinzia,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

From: WaterMatters.org
To: HEIDIHOVAN@GMAIL.COM
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Friday, October 05, 2012 3:43:46 PM



Hi HEIDI,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

PLEASE ALLOW THE RIVERS OF FLORIDA TO FLOW NATURALLY AT A HEALTHY BALANCE AND HEIGHT TO ENSURE THE FUTURE AND ON-GOING WELLBEING OF OUR BEAUTIFUL STATE. KEEP IN MIND WHAT HAPPENED WHEN THE CORP OF ENGINEERS STRAIGHTEN THE KISSISSIMME RIVER.

From: WaterMatters.org
To: dawn466@earthlink.net
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Friday, October 05, 2012 3:45:26 PM



Hi Dawn,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

Dear Sirs, I am writing to ask you to oppose any further flow reduction for the Chassahowitzka & Homosassa Rivers. These rivers have already been a very low levels and residents have seen evidence of salt water encroaching on this area. Please do what you can to keep these rivers healthy and consider the aquatic life, plants and manatees who these rivers are vital for. Please do what you can to manage these waters wisely for the environment, and not just human needs. Thank-you for your time. Sincerely, Dawn Rutigliano

From: WaterMatters.org
To: nickistoneman@sbcglobal.net
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Friday, October 05, 2012 4:28:36 PM



Hi Nicki,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

Manatees need help. Their God's creature's.

From: WaterMatters.org
To: Keth@Awakening-Healing.com
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Friday, October 05, 2012 5:54:50 PM



Hi Keth,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

We oppose the proposed MFLs for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers and believe that no further flow reduction should be allowed; that the MFLs should be set at current flows (0% flow reduction). We wish to see you manage our water more wisely and do more to cut back on wasteful water use in our state.

From: WaterMatters.org
To: boverly@tampabay.rr.com
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Friday, October 05, 2012 6:07:20 PM



Hi Beverly,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

I ask the SWIFTMUD Board not to let this chance go by. The timeline on setting MFL's is already 50 years too late - the data is new, but the damage has already been done to both the Chassahowitzka and the Homosassa Rivers. The only sensible reset is '0'. Salinity has marched up the rivers to the springs unabated for too long. Please, DO THE RIGHT THING - ZERO MFL'S to reflect conditions TODAY. Don't allow yourselves to be tools of Mr. Scott - think of the Legacy you leave to your offspring - Do you really want your family name attached to this shameful water grab? ZERO, ZERO, ZERO - Yeah, I won some.

From: [Alan Martyn Johnson](#)
To: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Meeting Follow up
Date: Wednesday, October 03, 2012 11:19:24 AM

Doug,

As a reminder you said you would share the e-mail for Mr. Motz who was on the Peer Review Team and the only engineer, so I can ask if he feels the omission of Halls River Flow in the regression analysis is significant.

The more I thought about our discussion, you are correct that in a regression analysis you can consider what ever factors you want. However, my point in the question was about the validity by ignoring about half the flow.

Additionally,

you indicated that you would try to track down the 2007 work by Ping Wang, I did mention this to Chris Anastasiou, I think he would be interested in getting a copy. Our primary interest is in the first mile from the Head Springs, but we will take responsibility for extracting the data of interest.

Doug,

I do appreciate what you do and trust that you and the team surrounding you will be around for many years. I have seen the articles about cuts but note the modelliand data teams are going to be increased.

Martyn

From: Doug Leeper
To: "[Alan Martyn Johnson](#)"
Bcc: [Kevin Grimsley \(kigrims@usgs.gov\)](#); [Richard Kane \(rkane@usgs.gov\)](#); [kwatson@hsweng.com](#); [Adrienne Vining](#); [Chris Zajac](#); [Christopher Pettit](#); [Darcy A. Brune](#); [Dave Dewitt](#); [Doug Leeper](#); [Eric DeHaven](#); [Gary E. Williams](#); [Jay Yingling](#); [Jerry Mallams](#); [Karen West](#); [Kenneth R. Herd](#); [Laura Donaldson](#); [Lou Kavouras](#); [Mark Barcelo](#); [Mark Hammond](#); [Michael Molligan](#); [Mike Heyl](#); [Robyn O. Felix](#); [Ron Basso](#); [Sid Flannery](#); [Tammy Hinkle](#); [Veronica Crow](#); [Virginia Singer](#); [Xinjian Chen](#); [Yassert Gonzalez](#)
Subject: RE: MFL Meeting
Date: Friday, October 05, 2012 6:34:00 PM

Hi Martyn:

Thanks again for sending the questions prior to the public meeting. Hopefully I addressed them during the event on Tuesday -- thought I would follow-up with an e-mail. My written responses to your questions are imbedded in your e-mail below. I used italics and a different font color to distinguish the responses from your original text.

Douglas A. Leeper
Chief Environmental Scientist
Water Resources Bureau
Southwest Florida Water Management District
2379 Broad Street
Brooksville, Florida 34604-6899
1-800-423-1476, ext. 4272 (FL only)
352-796-7211, ext. 4272
352-754-6885 (Fax)
doug.leeper@watermatters.org

From: Alan Martyn Johnson [<mailto:martynellijay@hotmail.com>]
Sent: Monday, October 01, 2012 8:11 AM
To: Doug Leeper
Subject: MFL Meeting

Doug,

I hope to be at the meeting tomorrow evening and intent to raise a number of questions. No doubt the number of loopholes to defining a specific minimum flow will be center stage. But, I have some specific questions and thought it fair to give you a heads up so you are able to provide thoughtful answers and not be relying totally on memory/immediate thoughts. The questions are regarding the validity of HWS Engineering's work/report and the USGS calculated discharges.

HSW

1. Please explain why HSW ignored the flow from Halls River when running the salinity regression analyses.

The reason I ask this question is in Table 2-1 and the explanation "Based on the average daily data, spring flow and Halls River flow are about 53 and 47 percent of the total flow at the Homosassa gauge." (page 2-7 Appendix A...both original and revised). And in the main report Table 2-4 (adapted from Basso 2010 on page 66) the flow from Halls River represents 50% of the total springs flow.

Response: Discharge has not historically been measured for Halls River. To support development of

minimum flow recommendations for the Homosassa River system, discharge in Halls River was estimated. The estimated Halls River discharge data were not considered appropriate or necessary for developing regression equations for predicting salinities in the Homosassa River.

- 2. Please explain on why HSW have different summary results regarding the salinity RKM, Volume and Area as presented in the revised report Tables 4-2, 4-3, 4-4, 4-5 (Appendix A). However, the regression analyses presented in Table 2-3, 2-4, 2-4, 2-5 are the same in both the original and revised reports.**

Response: Differences in reported values for tables summarizing hydrodynamic modeling results from the original and revised reports by HSW Engineering, Inc. are attributable to data corrections included in the revised report. The changes were made to correct for the erroneous use and presentation of predicted "bottom" salinities as "top" salinities and "top" salinities as "bottom" salinities in the original report.

- 3. In the main report Tables 5-2 thru 5-10 address the same salinity changes with flow reductions (some described as adapted from HSW Engineering (2011)). Please explain why and who made these changes/adaptations.** Particularly consider some of these Tables are titled as benchmark period 2007, others as benchmark period 1995 to 2009 based on modeling daily values. Regression coefficients shown in Tables 2-10 indicates the regression analyses were done with **70 observations or less** and Table 2-3 in Appendix A for the 2000-2009 has observations from **625-1389 observation**. It is not clear where these observations for the regression analyses originate from (it may be the random sampling of the 15 minute data or the synoptic survey by USF (look carefully at the median Figure 2-42)).

Response: The tabular presentation of summary data in the identified tables from chapter 5 of the "main report" was developed by District staff. Information included in the tables was adapted from information presented in the HSW Engineering, Inc. report to clarify differences between modeled scenarios.

Response: Salinity-flow regressions for USGS gage sites were developed using USGS salinity and discharge data, and were based on relatively large sample sizes. Salinity-flow regressions for predicting isohaline locations were based on synoptic salinity sampling by the University of South Florida and the District and daily combined discharge for the Homosassa and SE Fork gage sites. In some cases, daily discharge values used for regression development were based on 15-minute USGS data.

To highlight the concerns with HSW's work I would point to a correlation Appendix A on page 2-15 and Figure 2-23 concluding levels in Weeki Wachee Well lag rainfall in Inglis by 40-70 days. The logic for HWS linking rainfall in Inglis to the level in the Weeki Wachee Well is difficult to find. This conclusion is so far off it was not used in the main report. Rainfall and its influence on the level in Weeki Wachee Well, not Lecanto as presented in the main report, is a concern as Weeki Wachee Well level is the predominate factor in the calculated discharge for Homosassa Main and the SE Fork.

Note: Water levels at the observation well in Inglis are typically about 10 feet lower than the Weeki Wachee well, water does not flow uphill. Data shows Weeki Wachee Well reacts very quickly to rainfall (the data regarding rainfall, Brooksville Station, from recent tropical storms show Weeki Wachee Well level increased

4 feet in 6 days).

USGS

There are concerns about the calculated discharge data for a number of the USGS Gage Sites. I have shared with USGS and SWFWMD differences between calculated and Field Measurements to support the concerns. Accuracy of the tidal filtered data from Homosassa River presumably is of so much concern, HSW and SWFWMD have ignored Halls River flow in the regression analyses. **It is incomprehensible how it has taken over a year for any data to come from the velocity meter installed at the SE Fork and nearly 6 months from the velocity meter installed in Halls River.** I would have thought everyone would want to verify the basis of all this work urgently. The Governing Board should not make any decision on these MFL's before these investments bear some fruit to indicate the accuracy of the calculated discharge. Recent Field Measurements (particularly February 8 and 9) at the Homosassa R at Homosassa gage do tend to support accuracy concerns I raised well over a year ago about the bias resulting from squaring of the velocity (during inflow squaring the negative velocity results in an addition).

Response: The USGS has been collecting velocity data at the SE Fork gage site for approximately one year and expects to complete initial analyses regarding discharge estimation using these data within a couple of months. Similar analyses will be forthcoming for the Halls River site once a sufficient data set becomes available.

I look forward to an interesting and productive meetin.

Martyn.

Finally, I will ask again the question about where the NDM predicts the 438.1 mgd would go if not withdrawn by mechanical pumping? The predicted 2.3 cfs for the Homosassa represents only about 0.33% of 438.1 mgd.

Response: Water not withdrawn from the surficial or Upper Floridan aquifer layers that are included in the Northern District Model domain would be expected to be discharged through existing spring vents and diffuse areas of discharge along the west coast of Florida, discharged as runoff, or exit the model domain as evapotranspiration of flow to underlying aquifers.

From: Doug Leeper
To: "Alan Martyn Johnson"
Bcc: Wang, Ping (pwang@cas.usf.edu); lmotz@ce.ufl.edu; Chris Anastasiou; Adrienne Vining; Chris Zajac; Christopher Pettit; Darcy A. Brune; Dave Dewitt; Doug Leeper; Eric DeHaven; Gary E. Williams; Jay Yingling; Jerry Mallams; Karen West; Kenneth R. Herd; Laura Donaldson; Lou Kavouras; Mark Barcelo; Mark Hammond; Michael Molligan; Mike Heyl; Robyn O. Felix; Ron Basso; Sid Flannery; Tammy Hinkle; Veronica Craw; Virginia Singer; Xinjian Chen; Yassert Gonzalez
Subject: RE: Meeting Follow up
Date: Friday, October 05, 2012 7:02:00 PM

Martyn:

Thanks for your comments about my colleagues and me.

Here is Dr. Louis Motz e-mail address at the University of Florida.

lmotz@ce.ufl.edu

I've created a zipped file containing the bathymetric data and report developed for the District by P. Wang, and have placed the file on the District FTP site for you to retrieve.

Directions for retrieving files from the FTP site may be found on the "How to Access our Anonymous FTP Server" page of the District web site at the following link:

<http://www.swfwmd.state.fl.us/data/ftp/>

The file that you want is named **Homo_Bathy.zip** and is stored in the public-outgoing folder. Here's a direct link to that folder.

<http://ftp.swfwmd.state.fl.us/pub/out/>

Let me know if you have trouble downloading the zipped file or have questions concerning the data.

Incidentally, I also mailed a CD containing the bathymetric data to your Homosassa address.

Douglas A. Leeper
Chief Environmental Scientist
Water Resources Bureau
Southwest Florida Water Management District
2379 Broad Street
Brooksville, Florida 34604-6899
1-800-423-1476, ext. 4272 (FL only)
352-796-7211, ext. 4272
352-754-6885 (Fax)
doug.leeper@watermatters.org

From: Alan Martyn Johnson [<mailto:martynellijay@hotmail.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, October 03, 2012 11:19 AM
To: Doug Leeper
Subject: Meeting Follow up

Doug,

As a reminder you said you would share the e-mail for Mr. Motz who was on the Peer Review Team and the only engineer, so I can ask if he feels the omission of Halls River Flow in the regression analysis is significant.

The more I thought about our discussion, you are correct that in a regression analysis you can consider what ever factors you want. However, my point in the question was about the validity by ignoring about half the flow.

Additionally,
you indicated that you would try to track down the 2007 work by Ping Wang, I did mention this to Chris Anastasiou, I think he would be interested in getting a copy. Our primary interest is in the first mile from the Head Springs, but we will take responsibility for extracting the data of interest.

Doug,

I do appreciate what you do and trust that you and the team surrounding you will be around for many years. I have seen the articles about cuts but note the modelliand data teams are going to be increased.

Martyn

From: [Ron Basso](#)
To: [Doug Leeper](#); [Alan Martyn Johnson](#)
Subject: RE: MFL Meeting
Date: Monday, October 08, 2012 8:47:12 AM

Mr. Johnson:

Just a brief follow-up on the following response:

Finally, I will ask again the question about where the NDM predicts the 438.1 mgd would go if not withdrawn by mechanical pumping? The predicted 2.3 cfs for the Homosassa represents only about 0.33% of 438.1 mgd.

***Response:** Water not withdrawn from the surficial or Upper Floridan aquifer layers that are included in the Northern District Model domain would be expected to be discharged through existing spring vents and diffuse areas of discharge along the west coast of Florida, discharged as runoff, or exit the model domain as evapotranspiration of flow to underlying aquifers.*

As I've mentioned before, the greatest withdrawal impact depends on the magnitude of the withdrawal and its proximity to the spring (i.e. the larger and closer it is, the largest impact to flow). While the ND model contains a total of 438.1 mgd of pumping within its domain, you have to remember that this is spread out over nearly 10,000 square miles. In addition, some areas (ex. the Tampa Bay wellfield area) pump much higher amounts than other locations. So, it's a distribution issue in addition to the simple math of total withdrawals.

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ph 352-796-7211, ext. 4291 (outside state)
FAX 352-797-5799

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From: Doug Leeper
Sent: Friday, October 05, 2012 6:35 PM
To: Alan Martyn Johnson
Subject: RE: MFL Meeting

Hi Martyn:

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From: Alan Martyn Johnson [<mailto:martynellijay@hotmail.com>]
Sent: Monday, October 01, 2012 8:11 AM
To: Doug Leeper
Subject: MFL Meeting

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1. Please explain why HSW ignored the flow from Halls River when running the salinity regression analyses.

The reason I ask this question is in Table 2-1 and the explanation "Based on the average daily data, spring flow and Halls River flow are about 53 and 47 percent of the total flow at the Homosassa gauge." (page 2-7 Appendix A...both original and revised). And in the main report Table 2-4 (adapted from Basso 2010 on page 66) the flow from Halls River represents 50% of the total springs flow.

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To highlight the concerns with HSW’s work I would point to a correlation Appendix A on page 2-15 and Figure 2-23 concluding levels in Weeki Wachee Well lag rainfall in Inglis by 40-70 days. The logic for HWS linking rainfall in Inglis to the level in the Weeki Wachee Well is difficult to find. This conclusion is so far off it was not used in the main report. Rainfall and its influence on the level in Weeki Wachee Well, not Lecanto as presented in the main report, is a concern as Weeki Wachee Well level is the predominate factor in the calculated discharge for Homosassa Main and the SE Fork.

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I look forward to an interesting and productive meetin.

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From: [Alan Martyn Johnson](#)
To: [Ron Basso](#); [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: RE: MFL Meeting
Date: Monday, October 08, 2012 10:08:41 AM

Ron,
Thanks for the follow up thoughts.

So where are these great impacts of local withdrawals? Which Springs have lost how much flow. That was my question.

I fully understand that the area covered by the model is large, but it still managed to predict this 0.33% for the Homosassa River. Just amazing accuracy for such a large model. And let me not forget the prediction about the flow reduction in each of the springs in the SE Fork was equal (assumptions in the model may be)...reality is Pumphouse Spring is far stronger flow than Abdoney. Pumphouse is also higher specific conductance, usually about twice the reading of Abdoney, Belcher, Trotter.

As the Peer Review commented there is a gap in the understanding of how the various springs will be influenced by withdrawals; essentially, will the freshwater springs get more salty more quickly than the already more saline springs...this potential imbalance in the rate of deterioration may be more critical than flow alone.

To understand the concern you only have to look at the data for Homosassa springs and the SE Fork from early June to mid July to see how these changed in salinity (specific conductance).

Recharge to the aquifer is increased by withdrawals...this appears to make sense as a play on words. If the level in the aquifer is low the increase resulting from one inch of rainfall is greater than if the aquifer is at a high level...is that what you are saying? A drier sponge takes in more than a wet sponge.

I do not think if we suck twice as much water out of the aquifer it will increase the level more than at present.

As for the one inch over the total area, bear in mind not all that one inch goes to recharge. I am not going to look it up now but the water balance done by Yobbi as I recall had 30% going to recharge and that will vary dependent on the topography of the ground on which the rain falls. Right ?

I have to go back to Mr. Mulligans comment about the Villages having their own well so what they draw does not influence the flow in the Homosassa River. Applying the same logic the large well fields in the Master Plan for Citrus County will not affect the Homosassa River. Do you honestly believe those statements?

Martyn

From: Ron.Basso@swfwmd.state.fl.us
To: Doug.Leeper@swfwmd.state.fl.us; martynellijay@hotmail.com
Date: Mon, 8 Oct 2012 08:47:11 -0400
Subject: RE: MFL Meeting

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IMPORTANT NOTICE: All E-mail sent to or from this address are public record and archived. The Southwest Florida Water Management District does not allow use of District equipment and E-mail facilities for non-District business purposes.

From: [Alan Martyn Johnson](#)
To: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: RE: MFL Meeting
Date: Monday, October 08, 2012 9:26:12 AM

Doug,

Thanks for sharing Dr. Motz e-mail address and posting the Bathymetric Study by Ping Wang on the web site. I did check to see if I could find the file. I have found it, but not yet downloaded it.

At the meeting you mentioned work done on 1-4% flow reductions and I commented this was not in the final report (very surprising as you indicated it was critical in making the decision re MFL). Now that I am back in Atlanta I checked the various Appendices and the notes I made as I reviewed each of these. The only reference I have to work done at the flow reductions of 1-4% is Appendix X which is a Memorandum regarding the position of the 2 psu isohaline. Is this the work you were referencing?

I will contact Dr. Motz regarding the flow from Halls River and its influence on the validity of the models. I could not agree more regarding the accuracy of the 'estimated' flow from Halls River. I think we both agree the tidally adjusted discharge data for Homosassa River at Homosassa is, sorry to have to say it, rubbish.

The erroneous use of top and bottom salinities you attribute changes to are not specifically identified in your response. I did note the apparent error in the original report where the Median EFDC Model Surface and Bottom Salinity lines were transposed on Figures F1 and F-2 (surface salinity higher than bottom at RKM 0); this was corrected in the revised report. Is this the error you are referring to?

At this same point in the reports my notes show other error/difference e.g.

- data from 1/15/2008 (163 cfs) Figure F-2, and 1/16/2008 (165 cfs) Figure F-3 (possibly a typo of both date and cfs).
- discharge cfs data from 10/2/2007 shown as 165 cfs, when USGS had some problem that day; in fact no discharge data reported Sept 29 thru Oct 13 2007.
- On Page 2-30 Appendix A the text reads "For example, if Q is reduced by 10 cfs, the 5 psu bottom isohaline is predicted to move only about 0.09 km upstream if Q is less than 135 cfs but will move 0.9 km upstream for greater values of Q." Some how this does not appear logical (possibly upstream and downstream confused with RKM).

Just a few of many points that give me concern about the validity and value of HSW's work.

Your response about the 438.1 mgd groundwater withdrawals will need some thought. The mention of 'surficial', 'runoff' and 'evapotranspiration of flow to underlying aquifers', leave me, confused. The point is, if the NDM can identify the very small flow loss to the Homosassa River; surely it must be able to identify which other known springs (or other known outflows if not identified as springs) have a flow reduction. 438.1 mgd is close to five first magnitude springs being sucked out of the ground. This 438.1 mgd (such an accurate number!) is Destruction By Suction.

As more than one person said at the meeting; look at the river, the data models do not match what we all see.

Martyn

From: Doug.Leeper@swfwmd.state.fl.us
To: martynellijay@hotmail.com
Date: Fri, 5 Oct 2012 18:34:40 -0400
Subject: RE: MFL Meeting

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I look forward to an interesting and productive meetin.

Martyn.

Finally, I will ask again the question about where the NDM predicts the 438.1 mgd would go if not withdrawn by mechanical pumping? The predicted 2.3 cfs for the Homosassa represents only about 0.33% of 438.1 mgd.

Response: Water not withdrawn from the surficial or Upper Floridan aquifer layers that are included in the Northern District Model domain would be expected to be discharged through existing spring vents and diffuse areas of discharge along the west coast of Florida, discharged as runoff, or exit the model domain as evapotranspiration of flow to underlying aquifers.

IMPORTANT NOTICE: All E-mail sent to or from this address are public record and archived. The Southwest Florida Water Management District does not allow use of District equipment and E-mail facilities for non-District business purposes.

From: [Ron Basso](#)
To: [Alan Martyn Johnson](#); [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: RE: MFL Meeting
Date: Monday, October 08, 2012 11:43:49 AM

Mr. Johnson:

I don't wish to get into a long discussion here. Some of our previous emails and conversations have covered this same ground. We've discussed our scientific understanding of the system, shown the long-term rainfall changes, sea level rise, flow data, groundwater pumping history, coastal salinity trends from wells, and modeling results. The fact is groundwater withdrawals have impacted flows at these springs (Chasshowitzka and Homosassa) by a very small amount – about 1 percent. In fact, so small we didn't even adjust for these impacts in 2010 as they were not considered significant. Other springs are affected more by the proximity and magnitude of withdrawals – I've discussed the predicted impact to Weeki Wachee Spring previously as one example. We also modeled 10 separate springs in the Homosassa Group – the combined impact from pumping is 1 percent of flow.

The reference to increasing recharge is not a play on words but occurs when you lower the water table. Less water can ET from plants and less runoff occurs – this is why recharge can increase. The one inch of water I referenced was a volumetric calculation only – to try and lend perspective to how much 438.1 mgd of withdrawals would mean spread out over the entire domain. As I said previously, the distribution of withdrawals are such that some areas experience greater impacts and others much less. Did you know that two-thirds of the 438.1 mgd groundwater withdrawn in the model occurs in just three counties: Hillsborough, Pasco, and Lake Counties. And finally, we'll analyze and model any new large wellfield withdrawals that may occur in the future in Citrus County and determine how that might affect springflow. We've already simulated the impact of 2030 projected use on these two springs.

I hope this addresses your questions and concerns.

Ron Basso, P.G.
Senior Professional Geologist
Resource Evaluation Section
Southwest Florida Water Management District
ph 1-800-423-1476 (in state)
ph 352-796-7211, ext. 4291 (outside state)
FAX 352-797-5799

Life's Tragedy is that we get old too soon and wise too late. - Benjamin Franklin

From: Alan Martyn Johnson [mailto:martynellijay@hotmail.com]
Sent: Monday, October 08, 2012 10:09 AM
To: Ron Basso; Doug Leeper
Subject: RE: MFL Meeting

Ron,
Thanks for the follow up thoughts.

So where are these great impacts of local withdrawals? Which Springs have lost how much flow. That was my question.

I fully understand that the area covered by the model is large, but it still managed to predict this 0.33% for the Homosassa River. Just amazing accuracy for such a large model. And let me not forget the prediction about the flow reduction in each of the springs in the SE Fork was equal (assumptions in the model may be)...reality is Pumphouse Spring is far stronger flow than Abdoney. Pumphouse is also higher specific conductance, usually about twice the reading of Abdoney, Belcher, Trotter.

As the Peer Review commented there is a gap in the understanding of how the various springs will be influenced by withdrawals; essentially, will the freshwater springs get more salty more quickly than the already more saline springs...this potential imbalance in the rate of deterioration may be more critical than flow alone.

To understand the concern you only have to look at the data for Homosassa springs and the SE Fork from early June to mid July to see how these changed in salinity (specific conductance).

Recharge to the aquifer is increased by withdrawals...this appears to make sense as a play on words. If the level in the aquifer is low the increase resulting from one inch of rainfall is greater than if the aquifer is at a high level...is that what you are saying? A drier sponge takes in more than a wet sponge.

I do not think if we suck twice as much water out of the aquifer it will increase the level more than at present.

As for the one inch over the total area, bear in mind not all that one inch goes to recharge. I am not going to look it up now but the water balance done by Yobbi as I recall had 30% going to recharge and that will vary dependent on the topography of the ground on which the rain falls. Right ?

I have to go back to Mr. Mulligans comment about the Villages having their own well so what they draw does not influence the flow in the Homosassa River. Applying the same logic the large well fields in the Master Plan for Citrus County will not affect the Homosassa River. Do you honestly believe those statements?

Martyn

From: Ron.Basso@swfwmd.state.fl.us
To: Doug.Leeper@swfwmd.state.fl.us; martynellijay@hotmail.com
Date: Mon, 8 Oct 2012 08:47:11 -0400
Subject: RE: MFL Meeting

Mr. Johnson:

Just a brief follow-up on the following response:

Finally, I will ask again the question about where the NDM predicts the 438.1 mgd would go if not withdrawn by mechanical pumping? The predicted 2.3 cfs for the Homosassa represents only about 0.33% of 438.1 mgd.

Response: Water not withdrawn from the surficial or Upper Floridan aquifer layers that are included in the Northern District Model domain would be expected to be discharged through existing spring vents and diffuse areas of discharge along the west coast of Florida, discharged as runoff, or exit the model domain as evapotranspiration of flow to underlying aquifers.

As I've mentioned before, the greatest withdrawal impact depends on the magnitude of the withdrawal and its proximity to the spring (i.e. the larger and closer it is, the largest impact to flow). While the ND model contains a total of 438.1 mgd of pumping within its domain, you have to remember that this is spread out over nearly 10,000 square miles. In addition, some areas (ex. the Tampa Bay wellfield area) pump much higher amounts than other locations. So, it's a distribution issue in addition to the simple math of total withdrawals.

Doug is quite correct from his description above except I would add other factors where water from withdrawals would be expressed include a change in storage in the aquifer (increase in aquifer water levels), increase in baseflow (groundwater contribution) to rivers/streams, and increased evapotranspiration. Did you know that recharge to the aquifer actually increases as a result of withdrawals? And the 438.1 mgd equates to only about an inch of water per year over a 10,000 square mile domain? So it's not quite as simple as addition and subtraction. It's why we create complex numerical models of the system, to account for most of these changes.

Ron Basso, P.G.
Senior Professional Geologist
Resource Evaluation Section
Southwest Florida Water Management District
ph 1-800-423-1476 (in state)
ph 352-796-7211, ext. 4291 (outside state)
FAX 352-797-5799

Life's Tragedy is that we get old too soon and wise too late. - Benjamin Franklin

From: Doug Leeper
Sent: Friday, October 05, 2012 6:35 PM
To: Alan Martyn Johnson
Subject: RE: MFL Meeting

Hi Martyn:

Thanks again for sending the questions prior to the public meeting. Hopefully I addressed them during the event on Tuesday -- thought I would follow-up with an e-mail. My written responses to your questions are imbedded in your e-mail below. I used italics and a different font color to distinguish the responses from your original text.

Douglas A. Leeper
Chief Environmental Scientist

Water Resources Bureau
Southwest Florida Water Management District
2379 Broad Street
Brooksville, Florida 34604-6899
1-800-423-1476, ext. 4272 (FL only)
352-796-7211, ext. 4272
352-754-6885 (Fax)
doug.leeper@watermatters.org

From: Alan Martyn Johnson [<mailto:martynellijay@hotmail.com>]
Sent: Monday, October 01, 2012 8:11 AM
To: Doug Leeper
Subject: MFL Meeting

Doug,

I hope to be at the meeting tomorrow evening and intent to raise a number of questions. No doubt the number of loopholes to defining a specific minimum flow will be center stage. But, I have some specific questions and thought it fair to give you a heads up so you are able to provide thoughtful answers and not be relying totally on memory/immediate thoughts. The questions are regarding the validity of HWS Engineering's work/report and the USGS calculated discharges.

HSW

1. Please explain why HSW ignored the flow from Halls River when running the salinity regression analyses.

The reason I ask this question is in Table 2-1 and the explanation "Based on the average daily data, spring flow and Halls River flow are about 53 and 47 percent of the total flow at the Homosassa gauge." (page 2-7 Appendix A...both original and revised). And in the main report Table 2-4 (adapted from Basso 2010 on page 66) the flow from Halls River represents 50% of the total springs flow.

Response: Discharge has not historically been measured for Halls River. To support development of minimum flow recommendations for the Homosassa River system, discharge in Halls River was estimated. The estimated Halls River discharge data were not considered appropriate or necessary for developing regression equations for predicting salinities in the Homosassa River.

2. Please explain on why HSW have different summary results regarding the salinity RKM, Volume and Area as presented in the revised report Tables 4-2, 4-3, 4-4, 4-5 (Appendix A). However, the regression analyses presented in Table 2-3, 2-4, 2-4, 2-5 are the same in both the original and revised reports.

Response: Differences in reported values for tables summarizing hydrodynamic modeling results from the original and revised reports by HSW Engineering, Inc. are attributable to data corrections included in the revised report. The changes were made to correct for the erroneous use and presentation of predicted "bottom" salinities as "top" salinities and "top" salinities as "bottom" salinities in the original report.

3. In the main report Tables 5-2 thru 5-10 address the same salinity changes with flow reductions (some described as adapted from HSW Engineering (2011)). Please explain why and who made these changes/adaptations. Particularly consider some of these Tables are titled as benchmark period 2007, others as benchmark period 1995 to 2009 based on modeling daily values. Regression coefficients shown in Tables 2-10 indicates the regression analyses were done with **70 observations or less** and Table 2-3 in Appendix A for the 2000-2009 has

observations from **625-1389 observation**. It is not clear where these observations for the regression analyses originate from (it may be the random sampling of the 15 minute data or the synoptic survey by USF (look carefully at the median Figure 2-42)).

Response: The tabular presentation of summary data in the identified tables from chapter 5 of the "main report" was developed by District staff. Information included in the tables was adapted from information presented in the HSW Engineering, Inc. report to clarify differences between modeled scenarios.

Response: Salinity-flow regressions for USGS gage sites were developed using USGS salinity and discharge data, and were based on relatively large sample sizes. Salinity-flow regressions for predicting isohaline locations were based on synoptic salinity sampling by the University of South Florida and the District and daily combined discharge for the Homosassa and SE Fork gage sites. In some cases, daily discharge values used for regression development were based on 15-minute USGS data.

To highlight the concerns with HSW's work I would point to a correlation Appendix A on page 2-15 and Figure 2-23 concluding levels in Weeki Wachee Well lag rainfall in Inglis by 40-70 days. The logic for HWS linking rainfall in Inglis to the level in the Weeki Wachee Well is difficult to find. This conclusion is so far off it was not used in the main report.

Rainfall and its influence on the level in Weeki Wachee Well, not Lecanto as presented in the main report, is a concern as Weeki Wachee Well level is the predominate factor in the calculated discharge for Homosassa Main and the SE Fork.

Note: Water levels at the observation well in Inglis are typically about 10 feet lower than the Weeki Wachee well, water does not flow uphill. Data shows Weeki Wachee Well reacts very quickly to rainfall (the data regarding rainfall, Brooksville Station, from recent tropical storms show Weeki Wachee Well level increased 4 feet in 6 days).

USGS

There are concerns about the calculated discharge data for a number of the USGS Gage Sites. I have shared with USGS and SWFWMD differences between calculated and Field Measurements to support the concerns. Accuracy of the tidal filtered data from Homosassa River presumably is of so much concern, HSW and SWFWMD have ignored Halls River flow in the regression analyses. **It is incomprehensible how it has taken over a year for any data to come from the velocity meter installed at the SE Fork and nearly 6 months from the velocity meter installed in Halls River.** I would have thought everyone would want to verify the basis of all this work urgently. The Governing Board should not make any decision on these MFL's before these investments bear some fruit to indicate the accuracy of the calculated discharge. Recent Field Measurements (particularly February 8 and 9) at the Homosassa R at Homosassa gage do tend to support accuracy concerns I raised well over a year ago about the bias resulting from squaring of the velocity (during inflow squaring the negative velocity results in an addition).

Response: The USGS has been collecting velocity data at the SE Fork gage site for approximately one year and expects to complete initial analyses regarding discharge estimation using these data within a couple of months. Similar analyses will be forthcoming for the Halls River site once a sufficient data set becomes available.

I look forward to an interesting and productive meetin.

Martyn.

Finally, I will ask again the question about where the NDM predicts the 438.1 mgd would go if not withdrawn by mechanical pumping? The predicted 2.3 cfs for the Homosassa represents only about 0.33% of 438.1 mgd.

Response: *Water not withdrawn from the surficial or Upper Floridan aquifer layers that are included in the Northern District Model domain would be expected to be discharged through existing spring vents and diffuse areas of discharge along the west coast of Florida, discharged as runoff, or exit the model domain as evapotranspiration of flow to underlying aquifers.*

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MINUTES OF THE MEETING
**Public Meeting on
Proposed Minimum Flows for the
Chassahowitzka and Homosassa River Systems**

October 2, 2012

District staff facilitated a public meeting on October 2, 2012 for discussion of proposed minimum flows for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa river systems. The meeting was held at the Citrus County Lecanto Government Building in Lecanto, Florida, and was initiated at 5:30 p.m.

Governing Board Member Present

Douglas Tharpe, Vice Chair

District Staff Present

Chris Anastasiou, Senior Environmental Scientist
Ron Basso, Senior Professional Geologist/Engineer
Veronica Crow, Environmental Manager
Randy Emberg, Video Production Engineer
Mark Hammond, Resource Management Director
Mike Heyl, Chief Environmental Scientist
Ken Herd, Water Resources Bureau Chief
Doug Leeper, Chief Environmental Scientist
Jerry Mallams, Resource Evaluation Manager
Michael Molligan, Communications Bureau Chief
Chris Pettit, Staff Attorney
Virginia Singer, Senior Communications Coordinator
Vining, Adrienne, Senior Attorney
Chris Zajac, Government Affairs Program Manager

SWFWMD – Southwest Florida Water Management District

A list of the 95 members of the public present at the meeting who signed the attendance roster is filed in the permanent files of the SWFWMD.

1. Discussion of revised minimum flow recommendations
Mr. Michael Molligan began the meeting by explaining the purpose of the event, noting that staff would present information on revised minimum flow recommendations for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa river systems and that ample time would be provided for public input on the proposed minimum flows. Mr. Molligan noted that individuals who were interested in providing input during the meeting please could fill out a “Request to Speak” card and that they would each be permitted to address meeting participants for a three-minute period. Mr. Molligan also noted that comment cards were available for those who wanted to submit written comments and that written comments could also be submitted electronically through the SWFWMD web site. Eight comment cards were submitted during the meeting.

Mr. Doug Leeper subsequently provided a presentation that included an overview of the minimum flows and levels and specifically addressed development of minimum flow recommendations for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa river systems. Information presented for the two river systems was focused on initial minimum flow recommendations developed by the SWFWMD in 2010 and revised recommendations developed in 2012.

Mr. Leeper ended his presentation by noting that staff plans to recommend that the SWFWMD Governing Board approve rule amendments associated with the proposed minimum flows at the Board meeting scheduled to be held at the District Headquarters on October 30, 2012.

2. Public Input

The public input portion of the meeting was initiated at approximately 6:10 p.m. Input was provided by 26 meeting participants.

3. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:30 p.m.

From: WaterMatters.org
To: DawnsvRiety@yahoo.com
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Friday, October 05, 2012 6:49:46 PM



Hi Dawn,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

Save our environment and animals not destroy It!

From: WaterMatters.org
To: bobrast1@aol.com
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Friday, October 05, 2012 7:04:15 PM



Hi Bob,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

Please don't do it.

From: WaterMatters.org
To: pr59nyleve@yahoo.com
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Friday, October 05, 2012 8:13:44 PM



Hi Eve,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

Please take the necessary steps to protect our native wildlife following the guidelines offered by the Save the Manatee organization.

From: WaterMatters.org
To: Clognakked@yahoo.com
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Friday, October 05, 2012 8:30:35 PM



Hi Pam,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

From: WaterMatters.org
To: pnut485@aol.com
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Friday, October 05, 2012 10:09:52 PM



Hi Ilana,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

To Whom It May Concern, I am writing to urge you to oppose the proposed MFLs for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers. I believe that no further flow reduction should be allowed--the MFLs should be set at their current levels. I would also like to see the SWFWMD manage our water more wisely and do more to cut back on wasteful water use in our state. One of the most important economic drivers in Florida is our water--our oceans, rivers, and lakes. These waters also provide important habitat for many endangered species of plants and animals. Please help protect the economic future and natural diversity of our beautiful state. Thank you, - Ilana Cohen

From: WaterMatters.org
To: ourfelines@aol.com
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Friday, October 05, 2012 10:11:28 PM



Hi Laurie,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

I fully oppose MFLs for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers and believe no further flow reductions should be permitted. MFLs should be set at current flows (0% flow reduction.) I trust that SWFMMD will manage our waters more wisely and carefully and not cut back on wasteful water use here in Florida. Remember, our Manatees rely upon healthy aquatic ecosystems, for their survival and utilize Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Rivers all year long! Winter warm water is provided by them as well. Food supply and water quality could threaten Manatee habitat and our precious Manatees!1 Many Many Thanks,for this important consideration.~~

From: WaterMatters.org
To: Cmyers2202@comcast.net
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Friday, October 05, 2012 11:07:27 PM



Hi Christine,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

From: WaterMatters.org
To: DMandCH@aol.com
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Friday, October 05, 2012 11:21:31 PM



Hi Drew,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

We need to establish MFLs that protect our wildlife. Springs and Rivers need to have minimum flows that protect wildlife. This the law. Please establish the proper MFLs.

From: WaterMatters.org
To: rosebolt@clearwire.net
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Saturday, October 06, 2012 8:16:43 AM



Hi Ann,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

Dear SWFWMD and Board: I strongly oppose the proposed MFLs for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers and believe that no further flow reduction should be allowed. The MFLs should be set at current flows (0% flow reduction). For people, manatees, and environmental health, this water is a lifeline. Our water could be managed more wisely to reduce wasteful use, also a benefit for all. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

From: WaterMatters.org
To: sharpen@msn.com
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Saturday, October 06, 2012 9:46:03 AM



Hi Susan,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

Please do not reduce the flow and damage more natural habitat for the manatee. I live on the Hillsborough River and I am witnessing the manatees trying to survive in the conditions that we have put upon them. Sincerely, Susan J Sharp

From: WaterMatters.org
To: aungstsj@aol.com
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Saturday, October 06, 2012 10:07:48 AM



Hi Susan,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

Dear Sir/Ma'am: I oppose the proposed MFLs for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers and believe that no further flow reduction should be allowed; that the MFLs should be set at current flows (0% flow reduction). Also I wish to see you manage our water more wisely and do more to cut back on wasteful water use in our state.

From: WaterMatters.org
To: lrvsg@windstream.net
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Saturday, October 06, 2012 10:10:37 AM



Hi Louise,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

From: WaterMatters.org
To: Rfay808700@aol.com
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Saturday, October 06, 2012 11:43:23 AM



Hi Bob,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

The Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD) is preparing to implement Minimum Flows and Levels for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers on Florida's west coast. The current minimum flow levels need to be retained. In recent decades, both rivers have shown signs of environmental stress. Among the observed changes are dead trees in the Chassahowitzka killed by encroaching salt water, and a loss of aquatic plants in the Homosassa River. Residents in both rivers have observed a steady progression of barnacles further inland, a sign of the water becoming more saline. Even though SWFWMD's models have indicated that the proposed MFLs will not cause significant ecological harm, logic suggests that any further reduction of groundwater flows would only exacerbate existing problems. Manatees rely on healthy aquatic ecosystems to survive and utilize both the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers year round. Both provide critical winter warm water habitat. Environmental changes that negatively affect food supply and water quality threaten manatee habitat and manatees themselves.

From: WaterMatters.org
To: nanab39@rocketmail.com
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Saturday, October 06, 2012 12:40:26 PM



Hi Melissa,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

Please leave well enough alone on these two rivers. Our awesome manatees in this state face enough harm from humans, they do not need another problem that could possibly send them to extinction. I so enjoy quiet activities on BOTH of these rivers & the highlight of each & every canoe or kayak trip is seeing a manatee. Don't take that away from me & my children & my grandchildren & all future generations. Thank you. Melissa Bried

From: WaterMatters.org
To: suzcor17@msn.com
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Saturday, October 06, 2012 1:31:12 PM



Hi Suzanne,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

I am a native-born Floridian and am very concerned about our environment. It is my understanding that you as the governing board of Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD) are preparing to implement Minimum Flows and Levels for the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers. I feel this will result in significant ecological harm. I OPPOSE the pending proposed MFLs for the Chassahowitzka and Hlmosassa Rivers and firmly believe that no further flow reduction should be allowed! MFLs should be set at current flows (0% flow reduction) I am unable to attend the meeting to personally voice my feelings. Thank you for your consideration. Please listen to the voice of reason and do not support any flow reduction for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

From: WaterMatters.org
To: sarahh17101@earthlink.net
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Saturday, October 06, 2012 3:13:54 PM



Hi Sarah,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

I am concerned that changes to MFL's are being proposed to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers and I believe this will increase saltwater intrusion to the detriment of manatee habitat and the decline of the regional ecosystem. I think you should keep the flows at their current level.

From: WaterMatters.org
To: mick2318@earthlink.net
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Saturday, October 06, 2012 6:00:33 PM



Hi Michele,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

I oppose the proposed MFLs for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers and believe that no further flow reduction should be allowed; that the MFLs should be set at current flows (0% flow reduction). Please manage our water more wisely and do more to cut back on wasteful water use in our state.

From: WaterMatters.org
To: manateeadvocate@hotmail.com
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Saturday, October 06, 2012 7:54:30 PM



Hi William,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

As a frequent visitor to Chassahowitzka and Homosassa, I am writing to express my opposition to the proposed MFLs for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers. I believe that no further flow reduction should be allowed and that the MFLs should be set at current flows (0% flow reduction). Additionally, I'd like the SWFWMD to manage our water more wisely and do more to cut back on wasteful water use in our state. Thank you for considering my views.

From: WaterMatters.org
To: Angelique3842@gmail.com
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Saturday, October 06, 2012 9:33:01 PM



Hi Virginia A,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

From: WaterMatters.org
To: Pebbles243@aol.com
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Saturday, October 06, 2012 10:40:51 PM



Hi Jamie,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

From: WaterMatters.org
To: jlmclmd@yahoo.com
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Saturday, October 06, 2012 11:40:52 PM



Hi Jim,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

0% MFL

From: WaterMatters.org
To: hdzgator@hotmail.com
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Saturday, October 06, 2012 11:42:44 PM



Hi Henry,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

Although I live Alachua County, I am concerned about the proposed flow reductions for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa rivers. I visit both rivers several times each year to enjoy the manatees and the incredible diversity of the birds and other creatures these rivers support. I believe that, should the proposed flow reductions be implemented, we Floridians will be risking degradation to an ecosystems that is part of what makes our state so beautiful and unique. As a member of the Florida Conservation Coalition and a "tourist" to your counties, I strongly encourage the SWFWMD to allow the current flow rates stand as they are and to reject any flow rate reductions. Thank you for the opportunity to be heard on this issue.

From: WaterMatters.org
To: tne_llc@yahoo.com
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Sunday, October 07, 2012 10:01:30 AM



Hi David,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

I oppose the proposed MFLs for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers and believe that no further flow reduction should be allowed; that the MFLs should be set at current flows (0% flow reduction). We need to manage our water more wisely and do more to cut back on wasteful water use in our state.

From: WaterMatters.org
To: endangered@att.net
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Sunday, October 07, 2012 10:14:53 AM



Hi Rio,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

From: WaterMatters.org
To: dmcartor@tampabay.rr.com
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Sunday, October 07, 2012 10:38:59 AM



Hi Linda,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

From: WaterMatters.org
To: francoise.boisson@telenet.be
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Sunday, October 07, 2012 1:29:13 PM



Hi françoise,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

Please do everything that can be done to protect the manatee's environment.

From: WaterMatters.org
To: kaj10c@my.fsu.edu
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Sunday, October 07, 2012 2:20:46 PM



Hi Karin,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

Dear Sirs/Madams, I respectfully oppose the proposed MFLs for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers. I believe that no further flow reduction should be allowed. Rather, the MFLs should be set at current flows (0% flow reduction). In addition, I respectfully request that you manage our water more wisely and do more to cut back on wasteful water use in our state. The manatee is our state marine animal, and like the American bald eagle, should be actively protected, not just used as a symbol. Thank you for your consideration.

From: WaterMatters.org
To: sharollambertsrocketmail@yahoo.com
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Sunday, October 07, 2012 4:15:35 PM



Hi Sharol,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

I am very much opposed to any MFL's from Homosassa River

From: WaterMatters.org
To: sharollambertsrocketmail@yahoo.com
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Sunday, October 07, 2012 4:17:28 PM



Hi Don,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

I am very much opposed to any MFL's from the Homosassa River.

From: WaterMatters.org
To: grmcglone@snail-mail.net
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Sunday, October 07, 2012 6:20:15 PM



Hi Gail,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

I oppose the proposed MFLs for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers and believe that no further flow reduction should be allowed. The MFLs should be set at current flows (0% flow reduction). Please manage our water more wisely and do more to cut back on wasteful water use in our state.

From: WaterMatters.org
To: popcomic@tampabay.rr.com
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Sunday, October 07, 2012 7:08:13 PM



Hi Doug,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

I oppose the proposed MFLs for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers and believe that no further flow reduction should be allowed; that the MFLs should be set at current flows (0% flow reduction). Also, I wish you would manage our water more wisely and do more to cut back on wasteful water use in our state.

From: WaterMatters.org
To: donnapaler@yahoo.com
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Sunday, October 07, 2012 8:08:20 PM



Hi Donna,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

I, Donna Paler OPPOSE the proposed MFLs for the Chassahowitzka & Homosassa Rivers and that No further flow reduction should be allowed. Thank you

From: WaterMatters.org
To: LCGJANI@AOL.COM
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Sunday, October 07, 2012 8:25:53 PM



Hi ELSIE,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

I speak for myself but represent thousands that feel likewise..the ecosystems around these rivers are very fragile as it stands NOW....lowering the levels would be destructive to ALL of the wildlife, especially the endangered manatees, that inhabit these areas! WE have the power to protect our natural resources and our futures.... before they are all depleted! THE FUTURE of our rivers WILL = NON EXISTENCE!!

From: WaterMatters.org
To: mustangmd202@yahoo.com
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Sunday, October 07, 2012 8:32:13 PM



Hi Amanda,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

I oppose the proposed MFLs for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers and believe that no further flow reduction should be allowed. The MFLs should be set at current flows (0% flow reduction). I would like to see our water more wisely managed and please do more to cut back on wasteful water use in our state. As a supporter of Manatees for the last 25 years I fully support the Save the Manatee Club and any efforts that help the manatees stay safe and stay alive. Please consider them when making your choices.

From: WaterMatters.org
To: CandyMurphy2@gmail.com
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Monday, October 08, 2012 12:05:09 PM



Hi Candy,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

I oppose the proposed MFLs for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers and believe that no further flow reduction should be allowed; that the MFLs should be set at current flows (0% flow reduction). Let Nature take its own course. Your organization would be better served managing our water more wisely and do more to cut back on wasteful water use in our state. There is no need for every golf course in the state to still be spraying water into the air. Technology has far advance this technique.

From: WaterMatters.org
To: crnababe@yahoo.com
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Monday, October 08, 2012 2:10:37 PM



Hi Patricia,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

Please save our Manatee!!!!

From: WaterMatters.org
To: RACLAYPOOL@BELLSOUTH.NET
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Sunday, October 07, 2012 10:28:35 PM



Hi ROBERTA,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

From: WaterMatters.org
To: compassion8way@yahoo.com
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Monday, October 08, 2012 4:47:10 PM



Hi Betty,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

I oppose the proposed MFLs for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers and believe that no further flow reduction should be allowed. I support the MFLs being set at current flows (0% flow reduction). Please manage our water more wisely and do more to cut back on wasteful water use in our state. Thank you!

From: WaterMatters.org
To: valgale795@cfl.rr.com
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Monday, October 08, 2012 12:51:19 AM



Hi Valerie,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

I urge you to oppose the proposed MFLs for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers. I strongly believe that no further flow reduction should be allowed; that the MFLs should be set at current flows (0% flow reduction). I am concerned that you are not doing enough to manage our water more wisely, and ask that you do more to cut back on wasteful water use in our state.

From: WaterMatters.org
To: rtloehe@tampabay.rr.com
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Monday, October 08, 2012 6:41:49 AM



Hi Randy,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

The proposed changes to flow rates for both the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa rivers seem to come at a time when both rivers have shown signs of deterioration. These rivers attract many to visit here as well as provide habitat for flora and fauna. The change to the Chassahowitzka seems fairly dramatic - it would be much more prudent to start with a smaller change and study the outcome in my view.

From: WaterMatters.org
To: tmorgan@tji.martin.fl.us
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Monday, October 08, 2012 8:40:52 AM



Hi Terri,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

I oppose the proposed MFL's for the Chassahowitzka & Homosassa Rivers. There should be no further flow reductions allowed. I would also like to see SWFWMD better manage our water. Thank you.

From: WaterMatters.org
To: rc7m4s9@fastmail.fm
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Monday, October 08, 2012 8:24:05 AM



Hi Audrey,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

Florida habitat is crucial for our varied animal population and beautiful surroundings. Stop fooling around with Nature to the detriment of our state and for the benefit of those profiting from it!

From: WaterMatters.org
To: marty.flpetitions@mailnull.com
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Monday, October 08, 2012 10:09:46 AM



Hi Martin,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

I am writing to express my opposition to the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers. No further flow reductions should be allowed because they will cause significant ecological harm. To suggest otherwise denies reality. I encourage the District to manage our dwindling water supply better and reduce wasteful water use. Thank you.

From: WaterMatters.org
To: rwortham@tampabay.rr.com
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Monday, October 08, 2012 10:33:33 AM



Hi Ruth,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

I oppose MFL's for Chassahowitzka & Homosassa Rivers and believe that no further flow reduction should be allowed; that MFL's should be set at current flows (0% flow reduction). Please cut back on wasteful water use in our State.

From: WaterMatters.org
To: debbie.hahs-vaughn@ucf.edu
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Monday, October 08, 2012 11:09:26 AM



Hi Debbie,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

I oppose the proposed MFLs for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers and believe that no further flow reduction should be allowed; that the MFLs should be set at current flows (0% flow reduction). I want to see you manage our water more wisely and do more to cut back on wasteful water use in our state.

From: WaterMatters.org
To: mpbean@hotmail.com
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Monday, October 08, 2012 11:11:44 AM



Hi Marie,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

From: WaterMatters.org
To: compassion8way@yahoo.com
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Monday, October 08, 2012 4:47:10 PM



Hi Betty,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

I oppose the proposed MFLs for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers and believe that no further flow reduction should be allowed. I support the MFLs being set at current flows (0% flow reduction). Please manage our water more wisely and do more to cut back on wasteful water use in our state. Thank you!

From: WaterMatters.org
To: quakeguard@yahoo.com
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Monday, October 08, 2012 5:19:55 PM



Hi Sue,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

I oppose the proposed MFLs for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers and believe that no further flow reduction should be allowed; that the MFLs should be set at current flows (0% flow reduction). Also tell SWFWMD that you wish to see them manage our water more wisely and do more to cut back on wasteful water use in our state

From: WaterMatters.org
To: catday@tampabay.r.com
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Monday, October 08, 2012 5:21:21 PM



Hi Cat,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

I the proposed MFLs for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers and believe that no further flow reduction should be allowed; that the MFLs should be set at current flows (0% flow reduction). Also tell SWFWMD that you wish to see them manage our water more wisely and do more to cut back on wasteful water use in our state

From: WaterMatters.org
To: tkadlec@cfl.rr.com
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Monday, October 08, 2012 6:15:31 PM



Hi Tamara,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

Manatees are a vital part of Florida's culture and history. Restricting water flows on any waterways is unacceptable and inhumane to all living creatures. Manatees are peaceful creatures who need water, aquatic grass, and safety to survive. Without humans like me who appreciate and care for them, who would advocate? Manatees need protection from poor water quality, boat traffic, etc. Allow the rivers to keep their natural levels so all aquatic life lives peacefully and to their fullest. Why do innocent animals have to suffer at the expense of selfish human beings? Why can't humans be forced to consume less? Why can't boats be forced to idle speed on waterways? Why doesn't FWC ticket more often? Why can't wildlife conform to human behavior? Because they're WILD and face it, they were here first. We are living in the manatee's habitat so leave the water levels alone! Sincerely, an avid kayaker, manatee viewer, and nature lover.

From: Doug Leeper
To: ["Brad Rimbey"](#)
Cc: [Lou Kavouras](#)
Bcc: [Adrienne Vining](#); [Christopher Pettit](#)
Subject: RE: Oct 30 SWFWMD GB meeting agenda
Date: Friday, October 12, 2012 3:18:00 PM

Brad –

Thanks for contributing to the meeting and for your comments about my part in the event.

I've previously spoken with Lou Kavouras, our Board & Executive Services Bureaus Chief, about a "time-certain" request for the planned discussion of proposed minimum flows for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa river systems at the October 30, 2012 Governing Board meeting. Lou notes that staff will ask the District Executive Director and Governing Board Chair to make the *Resource Management Committee*, which is the committee that will be discussing the MFLs agenda item, the first committee meeting of the day. If the Executive Director and Chair agree to this request, the *Resource Management Committee* will follow the *Convene Public Hearing and Meeting* (call to order, employee recognition, etc.) and the *Consent Agenda* portions of the meeting, and will likely begin within the first half-hour or so following the 9:00 a.m. meeting initiation.

Douglas A. Leeper
Chief Environmental Scientist
Water Resources Bureau
Southwest Florida Water Management District
2379 Broad Street
Brooksville, Florida 34604-6899
1-800-423-1476, ext. 4272 (FL only)
352-796-7211, ext. 4272
352-754-6885 (Fax)
doug.leeper@watermatters.org

From: Brad Rimbey [mailto:BWR.CRRC@tampabay.rr.com]
Sent: Friday, October 12, 2012 10:31 AM
To: Doug Leeper
Subject: Oct 30 SWFWMD GB meeting agenda

Doug,

Thanks again for arranging the Oct 2 meeting in Lecanto. I was glad to see a good turnout. Sorry we did not get a chance to talk to after the meeting. As usual, you did a good job moderating.

I've had some inquiries regarding the agenda for the Oct 30 GB meeting. I think I heard you say that you would try to get the MFL stuff out of the way first (or early on?).

As I recall, the agendas for the GB meetings are not posted until a week or two before the meetings. In the absence of a published agenda, any suggestion on when we should tell people to show up if they are only interested in the MFL issue on the agenda?

Brad Rimbey

From: WaterMatters.org
To: joelo@bellsouth.net
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Monday, October 08, 2012 8:22:36 PM



Hi Joyce,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

Manatee welfare is eminent before fiddling with the river systems.

From: WaterMatters.org
To: kristi_fox@yahoo.com
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Tuesday, October 09, 2012 11:07:17 AM



Hi Kristi,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

I oppose the proposed MFLs for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers and believe that no further flow reduction should be allowed. The MFLs should be set at current flows (0% flow reduction). Please manage our water more wisely and do more to cut back on wasteful water use in our state.

From: WaterMatters.org
To: baschmidt2@yahoo.com
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Tuesday, October 09, 2012 12:10:30 PM



Hi Bill,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

I am writing to voice my opposition to the proposed MFLs for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers. I believe that no further flow reduction should be allowed - that the MFLs should be set at current flows (0% flow reduction). What we need to do is focus on water conservation in this state - without a strong water conservation ethic we will continue to tap our water resources until none are left and we are in crisis. We need to implement strong measures now before it is too late. If no flow reductions are allowed then we will be forced to address conservation and we will all be better off for it.

From: WaterMatters.org
To: madbeachlady@aol.com
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Tuesday, October 09, 2012 3:01:00 PM



Hi Anita,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

I oppose the proposed MFLs for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers and believe that no further flow reduction should be allowed; that the MFLs should be set at current flows (0% flow reduction). Also tell SWFWMD that you wish to see them manage our water more wisely and do more to cut back on wasteful water use in our state.

From: WaterMatters.org
To: joicza@comcast.net
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Tuesday, October 09, 2012 3:02:47 PM



Hi Jo,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

I oppose the proposed MFLs for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers and believe that no further flow reduction should be allowed; MFLs should be set at current flows (0% flow reduction). I also wish to see you manage our water more wisely and do more to cut back on wasteful water use in our state.

From: WaterMatters.org
To: aniem85@hotmail.com
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Wednesday, October 10, 2012 4:17:32 AM



Hi Emily,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

I oppose the proposed MFLs for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers and believe that no further flow reduction should be allowed. The MFLs should be set at current flows (0% flow reduction). Also, please manage our water more wisely and do more to cut back on wasteful water use in our state. Thank you for your serious consideration and sensible handling of this delicate matter.

From: WaterMatters.org
To: danicarushing@yahoo.com
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Wednesday, October 10, 2012 3:46:23 PM



Hi danica,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

From: WaterMatters.org
To: naturecoastbirder5@yahoo.com
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Wednesday, October 10, 2012 4:43:18 PM



Hi Eileen,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

I am opposed to any reduction of MFL for the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

From: WaterMatters.org
To: john.tolentino@earthlink.net
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Thursday, October 11, 2012 7:13:21 AM



Hi John,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

I oppose the proposed MFLs for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers and believe that no further flow reduction should be allowed; that the MFLs should be set at current flows (0% flow reduction). Also, I wish to see you manage our water more wisely and do more to cut back on wasteful water use in our state.

From: WaterMatters.org
To: JASC1397@AOL.COM
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Friday, October 12, 2012 5:20:25 PM



Hi SANDRA,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE, DON'T MAKE THE MISTAKE THAT OTHER ENGINEERING GROUPS HAVE MADE AND DIVERT OR REDUCE ANY WATER LEVELS IN OUR COUNTY. WE WOULD BE NOTHING HERE WITHOUT OUR RIVERS AND LAKES. LET THE BIG CITIES USE DESALINIZATION BUT LEAVE OUR WATERS ALONE.

From: [Alan Martyn Johnson](#)
To: [Ron Basso](#); [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: RE: MFL Meeting
Date: Monday, October 15, 2012 7:35:43 AM

Ron,

Thanks for the reply. I have been out of pocket on e-mails for the last week.

I am well aware of the model outputs for the various springs feeding the Homosassa River as presented in Table 2-4 of the report. Despite your belief that such accuracy is reality, I must respectfully point out that your good friend and colleague Doug pointed out in a recent e-mail that the flow from Halls River is not data that could be used in the regression analyses/modeling of salinity (I can get his exact wording if needed).

So the discharge from Halls River does not meet necessary reliability to model salinity, but the NDM provide outputs, so precise, that pumping versus non pumping discharge for Halls River Main Spring is reduced by 0.05 cfs (0.9%) and for the Head Spring by 1.05 cfs (1.0%).

This is hard to buy.

And made even more difficult by considering the precision of Belcher Spring presented in the same table as suffering twice the loss of other springs in the SE Fork in the pumping scenario. As far as I know discharge from each of the springs in the SE Fork has not been quantified. All this modeling appears to be based on a myriad of assumptions with little verification to reality. And painfully slow attempts to understand reality with efforts such as:

- data from the installed velocity meters SE Fork and Halls River,
- field measurements to understand the flow at the Homosassa R at Homosassa 02310700
- on site verification of the reverse flow in Chassahowitzka

to mention just a few.

In the Homosassa MFL report immediately after Table 2-4 the 2030 estimated annual groundwater withdrawal of 576.1 mgd is presented and I note the wording " Withdrawals predicted for year 2030 were distributed or dispersed at current withdrawal points within the model domain." Presumably this means the future two thirds of the withdrawals will be in the counties where the 'current' two thirds is sucked out of the aquifer. As we have heard people comment, those areas have already suffered the damage (loss of springs flow), losses that I hoped you would be able to specifically quantify from the model...hence my comment in the question 'Would the Peace River still be flowing'.

I can only assume there is another modeling run that considers the major well fields for Citrus County proposed in SWFWMD's master plan. If you have time in your busy schedule I would be interested to hear about the 2030 model that considers all the additional wells that have been and will be drilled, particularly the major well fields for Citrus County (the Saudi Arabia for water).

Sorry to be so skeptical, but the jigsaw is still in pieces.

Martyn

From: Ron.Basso@swfwmd.state.fl.us
To: martynellijay@hotmail.com; Doug.Leeper@swfwmd.state.fl.us
Date: Mon, 8 Oct 2012 11:43:47 -0400
Subject: RE: MFL Meeting

Mr. Johnson:

I don't wish to get into a long discussion here. Some of our previous emails and conversations have covered this same ground. We've discussed our scientific understanding of the system, shown the long-term rainfall changes, sea level rise, flow data, groundwater pumping history, coastal salinity trends from wells, and modeling results. The fact is groundwater withdrawals have impacted flows at these springs (Chasshowitzka and Homosassa) by a very small amount – about 1 percent. In fact, so small we didn't even adjust for these impacts in 2010 as they were not considered significant. Other springs are affected more by the proximity and magnitude of withdrawals – I've discussed the predicted impact to Weeki Wachee Spring previously as one example. We also modeled 10 separate springs in the Homosassa Group – the combined impact from pumping is 1 percent of flow.

The reference to increasing recharge is not a play on words but occurs when you lower the water table. Less water can ET from plants and less runoff occurs – this is why recharge can increase. The one inch of water I referenced was a volumetric calculation only – to try and lend perspective to how much 438.1 mgd of withdrawals would mean spread out over the entire domain. As I said previously, the distribution of withdrawals are such that some areas experience greater impacts and others much less. Did you know that two-thirds of the 438.1 mgd groundwater withdrawn in the model occurs in just three counties: Hillsborough, Pasco, and Lake Counties. And finally, we'll analyze and model any new large wellfield withdrawals that may occur in the future in Citrus County and determine how that might affect springflow. We've already simulated the impact of 2030 projected use on these two springs.

I hope this addresses your questions and concerns.

Ron Basso, P.G.
Senior Professional Geologist
Resource Evaluation Section
Southwest Florida Water Management District
ph 1-800-423-1476 (in state)
ph 352-796-7211, ext. 4291 (outside state)
FAX 352-797-5799

Life's Tragedy is that we get old too soon and wise too late. - Benjamin Franklin

From: Alan Martyn Johnson [mailto:martynellijay@hotmail.com]
Sent: Monday, October 08, 2012 10:09 AM
To: Ron Basso; Doug Leeper
Subject: RE: MFL Meeting

Ron,
Thanks for the follow up thoughts.

So where are these great impacts of local withdrawals? Which Springs have lost how much flow. That was my question.

I fully understand that the area covered by the model is large, but it still managed to predict this 0.33% for the Homosassa River. Just amazing accuracy for such a large model. And let me not forget the prediction about the flow reduction in each of the springs in the SE Fork was equal (assumptions in the model may be)...reality is Pumphouse Spring is far stronger flow than Abdoney. Pumphouse is also higher specific conductance, usually about twice the reading of Abdoney, Belcher, Trotter.

As the Peer Review commented there is a gap in the understanding of how the various springs will be influenced by withdrawals; essentially, will the freshwater springs get more salty more quickly than the already more saline springs...this potential imbalance in the rate of deterioration may be more critical than flow alone.

To understand the concern you only have to look at the data for Homosassa springs and the SE Fork from early June to mid July to see how these changed in salinity (specific conductance).

Recharge to the aquifer is increased by withdrawals...this appears to make sense as a play on words. If the level in the aquifer is low the increase resulting from one inch of rainfall is greater than if the aquifer is at a high level...is that what you are saying? A drier sponge takes in more than a wet sponge.

I do not think if we suck twice as much water out of the aquifer it will increase the level more than at present.

As for the one inch over the total area, bear in mind not all that one inch goes to recharge. I am not going to look it up now but the water balance done by Yobbi as I recall had 30% going to recharge and that will vary dependent on the topography of the ground on which the rain falls. Right ?

I have to go back to Mr. Mulligans comment about the Villages having their own well so what they draw does not influence the flow in the Homosassa River. Applying the same logic the large well fields in the Master Plan for Citrus County will not affect the Homosassa River. Do you honestly believe those statements?

Martyn

From: Ron.Basso@swfwmd.state.fl.us
To: Doug.Leeper@swfwmd.state.fl.us; martynellijay@hotmail.com
Date: Mon, 8 Oct 2012 08:47:11 -0400
Subject: RE: MFL Meeting

Mr. Johnson:

Just a brief follow-up on the following response:

Finally, I will ask again the question about where the NDM predicts the 438.1 mgd would go if not withdrawn by mechanical pumping? The predicted 2.3 cfs for the Homosassa represents only about 0.33% of 438.1 mgd.

Response: Water not withdrawn from the surficial or Upper Floridan aquifer layers that are

included in the Northern District Model domain would be expected to be discharged through existing spring vents and diffuse areas of discharge along the west coast of Florida, discharged as runoff, or exit the model domain as evapotranspiration of flow to underlying aquifers.

As I've mentioned before, the greatest withdrawal impact depends on the magnitude of the withdrawal and its proximity to the spring (i.e. the larger and closer it is, the largest impact to flow). While the ND model contains a total of 438.1 mgd of pumping within its domain, you have to remember that this is spread out over nearly 10,000 square miles. In addition, some areas (ex. the Tampa Bay wellfield area) pump much higher amounts than other locations. So, it's a distribution issue in addition to the simple math of total withdrawals.

Doug is quite correct from his description above except I would add other factors where water from withdrawals would be expressed include a change in storage in the aquifer (increase in aquifer water levels), increase in baseflow (groundwater contribution) to rivers/streams, and increased evapotranspiration. Did you know that recharge to the aquifer actually increases as a result of withdrawals? And the 438.1 mgd equates to only about an inch of water per year over a 10,000 square mile domain? So it's not quite as simple as addition and subtraction. It's why we create complex numerical models of the system, to account for most of these changes.

Ron Basso, P.G.
Senior Professional Geologist
Resource Evaluation Section
Southwest Florida Water Management District
ph 1-800-423-1476 (in state)
ph 352-796-7211, ext. 4291 (outside state)
FAX 352-797-5799

Life's Tragedy is that we get old too soon and wise too late. - Benjamin Franklin

From: Doug Leeper
Sent: Friday, October 05, 2012 6:35 PM
To: Alan Martyn Johnson
Subject: RE: MFL Meeting

Hi Martyn:

Thanks again for sending the questions prior to the public meeting. Hopefully I addressed them during the event on Tuesday -- thought I would follow-up with an e-mail. My written responses to your questions are imbedded in your e-mail below. I used italics and a different font color to distinguish the responses from your original text.

Douglas A. Leeper
Chief Environmental Scientist
Water Resources Bureau
Southwest Florida Water Management District
2379 Broad Street
Brooksville, Florida 34604-6899
1-800-423-1476, ext. 4272 (FL only)
352-796-7211, ext. 4272

352-754-6885 (Fax)

doug.leeper@watermatters.org

From: Alan Martyn Johnson [<mailto:martynellijay@hotmail.com>]

Sent: Monday, October 01, 2012 8:11 AM

To: Doug Leeper

Subject: MFL Meeting

Doug,

I hope to be at the meeting tomorrow evening and intent to raise a number of questions. No doubt the number of loopholes to defining a specific minimum flow will be center stage. But, I have some specific questions and thought it fair to give you a heads up so you are able to provide thoughtful answers and not be relying totally on memory/immediate thoughts. The questions are regarding the validity of HSW Engineering's work/report and the USGS calculated discharges.

HSW

1. **Please explain why HSW ignored the flow from Halls River when running the salinity regression analyses.**

The reason I ask this question is in Table 2-1 and the explanation "Based on the average daily data, spring flow and Halls River flow are about 53 and 47 percent of the total flow at the Homosassa gauge." (page 2-7 Appendix A...both original and revised). And in the main report Table 2-4 (adapted from Basso 2010 on page 66) the flow from Halls River represents 50% of the total springs flow.

Response: Discharge has not historically been measured for Halls River. To support development of minimum flow recommendations for the Homosassa River system, discharge in Halls River was estimated. The estimated Halls River discharge data were not considered appropriate or necessary for developing regression equations for predicting salinities in the Homosassa River.

2. **Please explain on why HSW have different summary results regarding the salinity RKM, Volume and Area as presented in the revised report Tables 4-2, 4-3, 4-4, 4-5 (Appendix A). However, the regression analyses presented in Table 2-3, 2-4, 2-4, 2-5 are the same in both the original and revised reports.**

Response: Differences in reported values for tables summarizing hydrodynamic modeling results from the original and revised reports by HSW Engineering, Inc. are attributable to data corrections included in the revised report. The changes were made to correct for the erroneous use and presentation of predicted "bottom" salinities as "top" salinities and "top" salinities as "bottom" salinities in the original report.

3. In the main report Tables 5-2 thru 5-10 address the same salinity changes with flow reductions (some described as adapted from HSW Engineering (2011)). **Please explain why and who made these changes/adaptations.** Particularly consider some of these Tables are titled as benchmark period 2007, others as benchmark period 1995 to 2009 based on modeling daily values. Regression coefficients shown in Tables 2-10 indicates the regression analyses were done with **70 observations or less** and Table 2-3 in Appendix A for the 2000-2009 has observations from **625-1389 observation**. It is not clear where these observations for the regression analyses originate from (it may be the random sampling of the 15 minute data or the synoptic survey by USF (look carefully at the median Figure 2-42)).

Response: The tabular presentation of summary data in the identified tables from chapter 5 of the "main report" was developed by District staff. Information included in the tables was adapted from

information presented in the HSW Engineering, Inc. report to clarify differences between modeled scenarios.

***Response:** Salinity-flow regressions for USGS gage sites were developed using USGS salinity and discharge data, and were based on relatively large sample sizes. Salinity-flow regressions for predicting isohaline locations were based on synoptic salinity sampling by the University of South Florida and the District and daily combined discharge for the Homosassa and SE Fork gage sites. In some cases, daily discharge values used for regression development were based on 15-minute USGS data.*

To highlight the concerns with HSW's work I would point to a correlation Appendix A on page 2-15 and Figure 2-23 concluding levels in Weeki Wachee Well lag rainfall in Inglis by 40-70 days. The logic for HWS linking rainfall in Inglis to the level in the Weeki Wachee Well is difficult to find. This conclusion is so far off it was not used in the main report.

Rainfall and its influence on the level in Weeki Wachee Well, not Lecanto as presented in the main report, is a concern as Weeki Wachee Well level is the predominate factor in the calculated discharge for Homosassa Main and the SE Fork.

Note: Water levels at the observation well in Inglis are typically about 10 feet lower than the Weeki Wachee well, water does not flow uphill. Data shows Weeki Wachee Well reacts very quickly to rainfall (the data regarding rainfall, Brooksville Station, from recent tropical storms show Weeki Wachee Well level increased 4 feet in 6 days).

USGS

There are concerns about the calculated discharge data for a number of the USGS Gage Sites. I have shared with USGS and SWFWMD differences between calculated and Field Measurements to support the concerns. Accuracy of the tidal filtered data from Homosassa River presumably is of so much concern, HSW and SWFWMD have ignored Halls River flow in the regression analyses. **It is incomprehensible how it has taken over a year for any data to come from the velocity meter installed at the SE Fork and nearly 6 months from the velocity meter installed in Halls River.** I would have thought everyone would want to verify the basis of all this work urgently. The Governing Board should not make any decision on these MFL's before these investments bear some fruit to indicate the accuracy of the calculated discharge. Recent Field Measurements (particularly February 8 and 9) at the Homosassa R at Homosassa gage do tend to support accuracy concerns I raised well over a year ago about the bias resulting from squaring of the velocity (during inflow squaring the negative velocity results in an addition).

***Response:** The USGS has been collecting velocity data at the SE Fork gage site for approximately one year and expects to complete initial analyses regarding discharge estimation using these data within a couple of months. Similar analyses will be forthcoming for the Halls River site once a sufficient data set becomes available.*

I look forward to an interesting and productive meetin.

Martyn.

Finally, I will ask again the question about where the NDM predicts the 438.1 mgd would go if not withdrawn by mechanical pumping? The predicted 2.3 cfs for the Homosassa represents only about 0.33% of 438.1 mgd.

***Response:** Water not withdrawn from the surficial or Upper Floridan aquifer layers that are included in the Northern District Model domain would be expected to be discharged through existing spring vents and diffuse areas of discharge along the west coast of Florida, discharged as runoff, or exit the model domain as evapotranspiration of flow to underlying aquifers.*

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IMPORTANT NOTICE: All E-mail sent to or from this address are public record and archived. The Southwest Florida Water Management District does not allow use of District equipment and E-mail facilities for non-District business purposes.

From: Doug Leeper
To: "[Alan Martyn Johnson](#)"
Bcc: [Adrienne Vining](#); [Chris Zajac](#); [Christopher Pettit](#); [Darcy A. Brune](#); [Dave Dewitt](#); [Doug Leeper](#); [Eric DeHaven](#); [Gary E. Williams](#); [Jay Yingling](#); [Jerry Mallams](#); [Karen West](#); [Kenneth R. Herd](#); [Laura Donaldson](#); [Lou Kavouras](#); [Mark Barcelo](#); [Mark Hammond](#); [Michael Molligan](#); [Mike Heyl](#); [Robyn O. Felix](#); [Ron Basso](#); [Sid Flannery](#); [Tammy Hinkle](#); [Veronica Crow](#); [Virginia Singer](#); [Xinjian Chen](#); [Yassert Gonzalez](#)
Subject: RE: Timeframe for Velocity data from investments at SE Fork and Halls River
Date: Monday, October 15, 2012 11:31:00 AM

Martyn –

Hopefully I responded to your question concerning the time-frame for the United States Geological Survey's evaluation of the velocity data that has been collected over the past year in the Homosassa River system. In case I did not, I'm writing to let you know that Kevin Grimsley has told me that he anticipates the Survey will be completing an initial analyses of the data within a couple of months.

Douglas A. Leeper
Chief Environmental Scientist
Water Resources Bureau
Southwest Florida Water Management District
2379 Broad Street
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352-796-7211, ext. 4272
352-754-6885 (Fax)
doug.leeper@watermatters.org

From: Alan Martyn Johnson [<mailto:martynellijay@hotmail.com>]
Sent: Thursday, August 30, 2012 7:34 AM
To: Doug Leeper
Cc: Ron Basso; Mike Heyl
Subject: Timeframe for Velocity data from investments at SE Fork and Halls River

Doug,

I was pleased to receive a confirmation and Thank You e-mail, regarding comment I posted on the web site; and noted that you are copied. Good job by whoever organized this; I was concerned comments were going to accumulate both unread as well as unanswered.

This e-mail is not directly about the MFL Reports, but about funding/investments.

We are within 10 days of the anniversary of the start of operation of the velocity meter at the SE Fork station (September 9 @ 12:15 hour). The most recent Field Measurements only add to the concerns I have previously expressed. I have copied the specific data below for ease of reference, but my concern is data collected from these investments, SE Fork and Halls River Velocity Meters, is not being made available. This is troubling as USGS is going to discontinue monitoring of some wells in the area due to lack of sponsorship, yet data from these recently funded projects is 'intentionally' hidden. I am sure you are aware that velocity data from the Halls River 'new' site (installed March 2012) was on line for a few months before being 'hidden'. What is the sense in spending these scarce resources and not getting

any value from them?

I would appreciate if you can share the timeframe for velocity data to be made available from these two sites in the Homosassa River. I appreciate there is more involved in converting velocity to discharge (determining stage area and how it changes with stage, plus verification by field measurements), but velocity as seen by the instrument is raw data and meaningful raw data.

FYI I have spoken to the manufacturer's technical personnel regarding location of these meters and how quickly meaning full data can be obtained, both velocity and discharge. Let's just say one year is difficult to understand and the SE Fork location is not ideal as it is at a location where flow direction changes significantly.

On a more positive note, the delay has at least given the chance to observe a range of conditions with Weeki Wachee Well starting around 15 ft. last September/October, dropping to a low of 10.86 ft. in May, and to the high of 18.84 ft. in July.

On a personal note I am pleased to see the significant increase in levels in the aquifer, due to tropical storm Debby, have resulted in improved quality of water emanating both the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs. I will be in Homosassa the next two weeks and plan on monitoring the springs as I have in the past. Really interested to see if strong flow has reestablished at some of the smaller vents.

Doug, SWFWMD and us folks that pay the taxes which make all this possible need a timeframe for data from these investments with USGS.

Martyn

Recent Field Measurements Stream flow and 'as close as possible time' Calculated flow from USGS 02310688 SE Fork.

Meas. Number	Date	Time	Stream flow (ft³/s)	Calculated flow (ft³/s)
234	2012-08-16	14:49:08	74.3	37
233	2012-08-16	14:40:53	78.4	37
232	2012-08-16	14:23:38	78.7	
231	2012-08-16	14:16:06	70.7	
230	2012-08-16	14:09:03	77.8	43
229	2012-08-16	10:30:23	90.7	76

Time series observations from USGS 02310688 SE Fork

08/16/2012 10:15 EST	1.17 ^P	76 ^P	960 ^P	24.5 ^P	0.55 ^P
08/16/2012 10:30 EST	1.15 ^P	76 ^P	970 ^P	24.4 ^P	0.53 ^P
08/16/2012 10:45 EST	1.13 ^P	76 ^P	950 ^P	24.3 ^P	0.51 ^P

08/16/2012 11:00 EST	1.11 ^P	77 ^P	930 ^P	24.1 ^P	0.49 ^P
08/16/2012 11:15 EST	P	P	980 ^P	24.3 ^P	P
08/16/2012 11:30 EST	1.12 ^P	64 ^P	980 ^P	24.4 ^P	0.50 ^P
08/16/2012 11:45 EST	1.15 ^P	55 ^P	980 ^P	24.5 ^P	0.53 ^P
08/16/2012 12:00 EST	1.21 ^P	42 ^P	970 ^P	24.5 ^P	0.59 ^P
08/16/2012 12:15 EST	P	P	1,040 ^P	24.5 ^P	P
08/16/2012 12:30 EST	1.28 ^P	37 ^P	960 ^P	24.7 ^P	0.66 ^P
08/16/2012 12:45 EST	1.34 ^P	41 ^P	1,240 ^P	24.3 ^P	0.72 ^P
08/16/2012 13:00 EST	1.37 ^P	53 ^P	1,130 ^P	24.4 ^P	0.75 ^P
08/16/2012 13:15 EST	P	P	1,330 ^P	24.5 ^P	P
08/16/2012 13:30 EST	1.47 ^P	23 ^P	1,300 ^P	24.5 ^P	0.85 ^P
08/16/2012 13:45 EST	1.52 ^P	43 ^P	1,180 ^P	24.6 ^P	0.90 ^P
08/16/2012 14:00 EST	1.57 ^P	43^P	1,100 ^P	24.5 ^P	0.95 ^P
08/16/2012 14:15 EST	P	P	950 ^P	24.8 ^P	P
08/16/2012 14:30 EST	1.68 ^P	16^P	1,250 ^P	24.6 ^P	1.06 ^P
08/16/2012 14:45 EST	1.74 ^P	37^P	1,050 ^P	24.7 ^P	1.12 ^P
08/16/2012 15:00 EST	1.79 ^P	40 ^P	1,210 ^P	24.6 ^P	1.17 ^P

Blue colored data is using a 30 minute stage change and is not comparable.

From: [Alan Martyn Johnson](#)
To: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: MFL Report for Homosassa River
Date: Tuesday, October 09, 2012 7:01:17 AM

Doug,

I owe you an apology. After sending the e-mail yesterday morning I searched further for the 1 to 4 percent reduction in flow analyses.

I was wrong to say the data from Appendix X did not make it to the main report. It is touched on in the Executive Summary and presented in Section 7.3.1.

In the Executive Summary

"The additional analyses included evaluation of the effects potential flow reductions on measures of system productivity and evaluation of the effects of low (1 to 4 percent) flow reductions on current salinity-based habitats, salinity-based habitats that could be expected for various future sea level rise scenarios, and salinity-based habitats that could be expected for current and future sea level rise scenarios with consideration of existing withdrawal impacts to spring discharge."

My note on the Executive Summary indicates I took this to be only the sea level rise analysis. Although it is a rather long sentence, I obviously did not read it carefully enough.

In Section 7.3.1

"As discussed in Chapter 5 of this report, in HSW Engineering, Inc. (2011) and in Watson et al. (2011,), use of the hydrodynamic model for evaluating the location of bottom, surface and water-column average isohalines (and corresponding salinity-based habitats) with a salinity of 2 was considered problematic because salinities of model inputs associated with water discharged from the Homosassa Springs main pool and springs of the Southeast Fork often exceeded 2 during the modeled 2007 benchmark period and isohalines associated with a salinity of 2 were often near or upstream of the model domain."

My notes indicates I had concerns with the value of this analysis as the water quantity and quality emanating from the different springs is the issue, not just the combined flow reduction.

My apology for failing to check thoroughly before e-mailing you.

I will not expand on the concerns my notes indicated I had with the HSW 'modelling' of sea water rise, but I had questions about the logic/equation they 'derived' relative to calculated current discharge change from low stage to high stage. I will check my notes more thoroughly before I comment further.

Martyn

From: [Alan Martyn Johnson](#)
To: [Ron Basso](#); [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: RE: MFL Meeting
Date: Monday, October 15, 2012 7:35:43 AM

Ron,

Thanks for the reply. I have been out of pocket on e-mails for the last week.

I am well aware of the model outputs for the various springs feeding the Homosassa River as presented in Table 2-4 of the report. Despite your belief that such accuracy is reality, I must respectfully point out that your good friend and colleague Doug pointed out in a recent e-mail that the flow from Halls River is not data that could be used in the regression analyses/modeling of salinity (I can get his exact wording if needed).

So the discharge from Halls River does not meet necessary reliability to model salinity, but the NDM provide outputs, so precise, that pumping versus non pumping discharge for Halls River Main Spring is reduced by 0.05 cfs (0.9%) and for the Head Spring by 1.05 cfs (1.0%).

This is hard to buy.

And made even more difficult by considering the precision of Belcher Spring presented in the same table as suffering twice the loss of other springs in the SE Fork in the pumping scenario. As far as I know discharge from each of the springs in the SE Fork has not been quantified. All this modeling appears to be based on a myriad of assumptions with little verification to reality. And painfully slow attempts to understand reality with efforts such as:

- data from the installed velocity meters SE Fork and Halls River,
- field measurements to understand the flow at the Homosassa R at Homosassa 02310700
- on site verification of the reverse flow in Chassahowitzka

to mention just a few.

In the Homosassa MFL report immediately after Table 2-4 the 2030 estimated annual groundwater withdrawal of 576.1 mgd is presented and I note the wording " Withdrawals predicted for year 2030 were distributed or dispersed at current withdrawal points within the model domain." Presumably this means the future two thirds of the withdrawals will be in the counties where the 'current' two thirds is sucked out of the aquifer. As we have heard people comment, those areas have already suffered the damage (loss of springs flow), losses that I hoped you would be able to specifically quantify from the model...hence my comment in the question 'Would the Peace River still be flowing'.

I can only assume there is another modeling run that considers the major well fields for Citrus County proposed in SWFWMD's master plan. If you have time in your busy schedule I would be interested to hear about the 2030 model that considers all the additional wells that have been and will be drilled, particularly the major well fields for Citrus County (the Saudi Arabia for water).

Sorry to be so skeptical, but the jigsaw is still in pieces.

Martyn

From: Ron.Basso@swfwmd.state.fl.us
To: martynellijay@hotmail.com; Doug.Leeper@swfwmd.state.fl.us
Date: Mon, 8 Oct 2012 11:43:47 -0400
Subject: RE: MFL Meeting

Mr. Johnson:

I don't wish to get into a long discussion here. Some of our previous emails and conversations have covered this same ground. We've discussed our scientific understanding of the system, shown the long-term rainfall changes, sea level rise, flow data, groundwater pumping history, coastal salinity trends from wells, and modeling results. The fact is groundwater withdrawals have impacted flows at these springs (Chasshowitzka and Homosassa) by a very small amount – about 1 percent. In fact, so small we didn't even adjust for these impacts in 2010 as they were not considered significant. Other springs are affected more by the proximity and magnitude of withdrawals – I've discussed the predicted impact to Weeki Wachee Spring previously as one example. We also modeled 10 separate springs in the Homosassa Group – the combined impact from pumping is 1 percent of flow.

The reference to increasing recharge is not a play on words but occurs when you lower the water table. Less water can ET from plants and less runoff occurs – this is why recharge can increase. The one inch of water I referenced was a volumetric calculation only – to try and lend perspective to how much 438.1 mgd of withdrawals would mean spread out over the entire domain. As I said previously, the distribution of withdrawals are such that some areas experience greater impacts and others much less. Did you know that two-thirds of the 438.1 mgd groundwater withdrawn in the model occurs in just three counties: Hillsborough, Pasco, and Lake Counties. And finally, we'll analyze and model any new large wellfield withdrawals that may occur in the future in Citrus County and determine how that might affect springflow. We've already simulated the impact of 2030 projected use on these two springs.

I hope this addresses your questions and concerns.

Ron Basso, P.G.
Senior Professional Geologist
Resource Evaluation Section
Southwest Florida Water Management District
ph 1-800-423-1476 (in state)
ph 352-796-7211, ext. 4291 (outside state)
FAX 352-797-5799

Life's Tragedy is that we get old too soon and wise too late. - Benjamin Franklin

From: Alan Martyn Johnson [mailto:martynellijay@hotmail.com]
Sent: Monday, October 08, 2012 10:09 AM
To: Ron Basso; Doug Leeper
Subject: RE: MFL Meeting

Ron,
Thanks for the follow up thoughts.

So where are these great impacts of local withdrawals? Which Springs have lost how much flow. That was my question.

I fully understand that the area covered by the model is large, but it still managed to predict this 0.33% for the Homosassa River. Just amazing accuracy for such a large model. And let me not forget the prediction about the flow reduction in each of the springs in the SE Fork was equal (assumptions in the model may be)...reality is Pumphouse Spring is far stronger flow than Abdoney. Pumphouse is also higher specific conductance, usually about twice the reading of Abdoney, Belcher, Trotter.

As the Peer Review commented there is a gap in the understanding of how the various springs will be influenced by withdrawals; essentially, will the freshwater springs get more salty more quickly than the already more saline springs...this potential imbalance in the rate of deterioration may be more critical than flow alone.

To understand the concern you only have to look at the data for Homosassa springs and the SE Fork from early June to mid July to see how these changed in salinity (specific conductance).

Recharge to the aquifer is increased by withdrawals...this appears to make sense as a play on words. If the level in the aquifer is low the increase resulting from one inch of rainfall is greater than if the aquifer is at a high level...is that what you are saying? A drier sponge takes in more than a wet sponge.

I do not think if we suck twice as much water out of the aquifer it will increase the level more than at present.

As for the one inch over the total area, bear in mind not all that one inch goes to recharge. I am not going to look it up now but the water balance done by Yobbi as I recall had 30% going to recharge and that will vary dependent on the topography of the ground on which the rain falls. Right ?

I have to go back to Mr. Mulligans comment about the Villages having their own well so what they draw does not influence the flow in the Homosassa River. Applying the same logic the large well fields in the Master Plan for Citrus County will not affect the Homosassa River. Do you honestly believe those statements?

Martyn

From: Ron.Basso@swfwmd.state.fl.us
To: Doug.Leeper@swfwmd.state.fl.us; martynellijay@hotmail.com
Date: Mon, 8 Oct 2012 08:47:11 -0400
Subject: RE: MFL Meeting

Mr. Johnson:

Just a brief follow-up on the following response:

Finally, I will ask again the question about where the NDM predicts the 438.1 mgd would go if not withdrawn by mechanical pumping? The predicted 2.3 cfs for the Homosassa represents only about 0.33% of 438.1 mgd.

Response: Water not withdrawn from the surficial or Upper Floridan aquifer layers that are

included in the Northern District Model domain would be expected to be discharged through existing spring vents and diffuse areas of discharge along the west coast of Florida, discharged as runoff, or exit the model domain as evapotranspiration of flow to underlying aquifers.

As I've mentioned before, the greatest withdrawal impact depends on the magnitude of the withdrawal and its proximity to the spring (i.e. the larger and closer it is, the largest impact to flow). While the ND model contains a total of 438.1 mgd of pumping within its domain, you have to remember that this is spread out over nearly 10,000 square miles. In addition, some areas (ex. the Tampa Bay wellfield area) pump much higher amounts than other locations. So, it's a distribution issue in addition to the simple math of total withdrawals.

Doug is quite correct from his description above except I would add other factors where water from withdrawals would be expressed include a change in storage in the aquifer (increase in aquifer water levels), increase in baseflow (groundwater contribution) to rivers/streams, and increased evapotranspiration. Did you know that recharge to the aquifer actually increases as a result of withdrawals? And the 438.1 mgd equates to only about an inch of water per year over a 10,000 square mile domain? So it's not quite as simple as addition and subtraction. It's why we create complex numerical models of the system, to account for most of these changes.

Ron Basso, P.G.
Senior Professional Geologist
Resource Evaluation Section
Southwest Florida Water Management District
ph 1-800-423-1476 (in state)
ph 352-796-7211, ext. 4291 (outside state)
FAX 352-797-5799

Life's Tragedy is that we get old too soon and wise too late. - Benjamin Franklin

From: Doug Leeper
Sent: Friday, October 05, 2012 6:35 PM
To: Alan Martyn Johnson
Subject: RE: MFL Meeting

Hi Martyn:

Thanks again for sending the questions prior to the public meeting. Hopefully I addressed them during the event on Tuesday -- thought I would follow-up with an e-mail. My written responses to your questions are imbedded in your e-mail below. I used italics and a different font color to distinguish the responses from your original text.

Douglas A. Leeper
Chief Environmental Scientist
Water Resources Bureau
Southwest Florida Water Management District
2379 Broad Street
Brooksville, Florida 34604-6899
1-800-423-1476, ext. 4272 (FL only)
352-796-7211, ext. 4272

352-754-6885 (Fax)

doug.leeper@watermatters.org

From: Alan Martyn Johnson [<mailto:martynellijay@hotmail.com>]

Sent: Monday, October 01, 2012 8:11 AM

To: Doug Leeper

Subject: MFL Meeting

Doug,

I hope to be at the meeting tomorrow evening and intent to raise a number of questions. No doubt the number of loopholes to defining a specific minimum flow will be center stage. But, I have some specific questions and thought it fair to give you a heads up so you are able to provide thoughtful answers and not be relying totally on memory/immediate thoughts. The questions are regarding the validity of HSW Engineering's work/report and the USGS calculated discharges.

HSW

1. **Please explain why HSW ignored the flow from Halls River when running the salinity regression analyses.**

The reason I ask this question is in Table 2-1 and the explanation "Based on the average daily data, spring flow and Halls River flow are about 53 and 47 percent of the total flow at the Homosassa gauge." (page 2-7 Appendix A...both original and revised). And in the main report Table 2-4 (adapted from Basso 2010 on page 66) the flow from Halls River represents 50% of the total springs flow.

Response: Discharge has not historically been measured for Halls River. To support development of minimum flow recommendations for the Homosassa River system, discharge in Halls River was estimated. The estimated Halls River discharge data were not considered appropriate or necessary for developing regression equations for predicting salinities in the Homosassa River.

2. **Please explain on why HSW have different summary results regarding the salinity RKM, Volume and Area as presented in the revised report Tables 4-2, 4-3, 4-4, 4-5 (Appendix A). However, the regression analyses presented in Table 2-3, 2-4, 2-4, 2-5 are the same in both the original and revised reports.**

Response: Differences in reported values for tables summarizing hydrodynamic modeling results from the original and revised reports by HSW Engineering, Inc. are attributable to data corrections included in the revised report. The changes were made to correct for the erroneous use and presentation of predicted "bottom" salinities as "top" salinities and "top" salinities as "bottom" salinities in the original report.

3. In the main report Tables 5-2 thru 5-10 address the same salinity changes with flow reductions (some described as adapted from HSW Engineering (2011)). **Please explain why and who made these changes/adaptations.** Particularly consider some of these Tables are titled as benchmark period 2007, others as benchmark period 1995 to 2009 based on modeling daily values. Regression coefficients shown in Tables 2-10 indicates the regression analyses were done with **70 observations or less** and Table 2-3 in Appendix A for the 2000-2009 has observations from **625-1389 observation**. It is not clear where these observations for the regression analyses originate from (it may be the random sampling of the 15 minute data or the synoptic survey by USF (look carefully at the median Figure 2-42)).

Response: The tabular presentation of summary data in the identified tables from chapter 5 of the "main report" was developed by District staff. Information included in the tables was adapted from

information presented in the HSW Engineering, Inc. report to clarify differences between modeled scenarios.

***Response:** Salinity-flow regressions for USGS gage sites were developed using USGS salinity and discharge data, and were based on relatively large sample sizes. Salinity-flow regressions for predicting isohaline locations were based on synoptic salinity sampling by the University of South Florida and the District and daily combined discharge for the Homosassa and SE Fork gage sites. In some cases, daily discharge values used for regression development were based on 15-minute USGS data.*

To highlight the concerns with HSW's work I would point to a correlation Appendix A on page 2-15 and Figure 2-23 concluding levels in Weeki Wachee Well lag rainfall in Inglis by 40-70 days. The logic for HWS linking rainfall in Inglis to the level in the Weeki Wachee Well is difficult to find. This conclusion is so far off it was not used in the main report.

Rainfall and its influence on the level in Weeki Wachee Well, not Lecanto as presented in the main report, is a concern as Weeki Wachee Well level is the predominate factor in the calculated discharge for Homosassa Main and the SE Fork.

Note: Water levels at the observation well in Inglis are typically about 10 feet lower than the Weeki Wachee well, water does not flow uphill. Data shows Weeki Wachee Well reacts very quickly to rainfall (the data regarding rainfall, Brooksville Station, from recent tropical storms show Weeki Wachee Well level increased 4 feet in 6 days).

USGS

There are concerns about the calculated discharge data for a number of the USGS Gage Sites. I have shared with USGS and SWFWMD differences between calculated and Field Measurements to support the concerns. Accuracy of the tidal filtered data from Homosassa River presumably is of so much concern, HSW and SWFWMD have ignored Halls River flow in the regression analyses. **It is incomprehensible how it has taken over a year for any data to come from the velocity meter installed at the SE Fork and nearly 6 months from the velocity meter installed in Halls River.** I would have thought everyone would want to verify the basis of all this work urgently. The Governing Board should not make any decision on these MFL's before these investments bear some fruit to indicate the accuracy of the calculated discharge. Recent Field Measurements (particularly February 8 and 9) at the Homosassa R at Homosassa gage do tend to support accuracy concerns I raised well over a year ago about the bias resulting from squaring of the velocity (during inflow squaring the negative velocity results in an addition).

***Response:** The USGS has been collecting velocity data at the SE Fork gage site for approximately one year and expects to complete initial analyses regarding discharge estimation using these data within a couple of months. Similar analyses will be forthcoming for the Halls River site once a sufficient data set becomes available.*

I look forward to an interesting and productive meetin.

Martyn.

Finally, I will ask again the question about where the NDM predicts the 438.1 mgd would go if not withdrawn by mechanical pumping? The predicted 2.3 cfs for the Homosassa represents only about 0.33% of 438.1 mgd.

***Response:** Water not withdrawn from the surficial or Upper Floridan aquifer layers that are included in the Northern District Model domain would be expected to be discharged through existing spring vents and diffuse areas of discharge along the west coast of Florida, discharged as runoff, or exit the model domain as evapotranspiration of flow to underlying aquifers.*

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IMPORTANT NOTICE: All E-mail sent to or from this address are public record and archived. The Southwest Florida Water Management District does not allow use of District equipment and E-mail facilities for non-District business purposes.

From: WaterMatters.org
To: jhipler2012@yahoo.com
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Friday, October 12, 2012 11:00:25 PM



Hi Joshua,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

From: WaterMatters.org
To: darrell@snedecors.com
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Saturday, October 13, 2012 11:28:34 AM



Hi Darrell,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

As president of Citrus County Audubon Society I strongly urge NO reduction in the current flows and levels of these two rivers in order to help restore the health of these Outstanding Florida Waters and not cause them further harm. Both rivers and their springs are seriously impaired from pollution from leaking septic tanks, direct discharge of sewerage, run-off from roads and parking lots, fertilizer and lawn chemicals, loss of native sea grasses and fish, proliferation of lyngbya, and salt water intrusion, etc.

From: WaterMatters.org
To: julesrs007@gmail.com
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Saturday, October 13, 2012 12:21:46 PM



Hi Julie,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

I am concerned about the existing health (and future health) of Florida's water resources. I strongly oppose the proposed MFLs for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers and believe that no further flow reduction should be allowed and that the MFLs should be set at current flows (0% flow reduction). I am hopeful that steps will be taken in protecting these delicate and finite water resources instead of allowing their abuse to worsen. Our states water resources need protection from individuals and/or special interest groups who are solely concerned about financial and/or political gain. I hope that instead of broadening already imbalanced (or damaged) ecosystem(s), that more will be done to actually prevent and protect. Thank you for your time and help. Julie Stuckey

From: WaterMatters.org
To: mattthope@tampabay.rr.com
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Sunday, October 14, 2012 12:53:07 AM



Hi Matthew and E. Hope,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

We strongly oppose the proposed MFLs for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers and believe that no further flow reduction should be allowed; the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa MFLs should be set at current flows (0% flow reduction). These spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are rare treasures on Florida's Nature Coast; they are regarded by international tourists to our area as natural wonders worthy of protection as World Heritage Sites. The fresh water spring ecosystems and their rare inhabitants, like the endangered Manatees, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, and Whooping Cranes that draw so many visitors to our area are essential to not only the "Nature" on the Nature Coast, but also the economy here. The MFL data sets and models do not accurately record present conditions or nor accurately predict the disastrous consequences likely to occur. It seems there are not yet methods to accurately measure coastal spring flow, measure changes, or repair damage to these fragile ecosystems once it has occurred. Please, at least, do no harm. Please reject staff's recommendations, and instead set the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa MFLs at current flows (0% flow reduction). Please preserve these rare treasures on the Nature Coast for future generations of wildlife and people. Thank you.

From: WaterMatters.org
To: 14thebirds@bellsouth.net
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Sunday, October 14, 2012 9:56:30 AM



Hi Peggy,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

I oppose the MFLS for the above mentioned rivers. Please protect our waterways and reduce wastewater flow to all of our vital rivers in Florida.

From: WaterMatters.org
To: ahem1@bellsouth.net
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Sunday, October 14, 2012 8:28:51 PM



Hi Ann,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

Simply stated, I do not wish to see the MFLs lowered in the specific regions noted.

From: WaterMatters.org
To: SHudsonMKC@aol.com
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Monday, October 15, 2012 3:41:56 PM



Hi Sharon,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

I want you to know that I oppose the proposed MFLs for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers and believe that no further flow reduction should be allowed and that the MFLs should be set at current flows (0% flow reduction). I would also like to see you manage our water more wisely and do more to cut back on wasteful water use in our state. Thank you.

From: WaterMatters.org
To: Mar1998isol@hotmail.com
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Monday, October 15, 2012 8:01:42 PM



Hi Marisol,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

Please help manatees in need. I want my children to be able to encounter these amazing gentle giants in person, and not in a book of extinct animals. Thank you

From: WaterMatters.org
To: Galleywench22@yahoo.com
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Monday, October 15, 2012 8:39:02 PM



Hi Martina,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

I find it beyond irresponsible to further tap into our springs. To insist that there is still "flow", is a joke. The movement in the river is tidal. Salt water intrusion is to a point that barnacles have destroyed pilings on our docks. New pilings had to be wrapped (an addl. cost). Another sigh: small Blacktip sharks at the main spring by the Homosassa Wildlife Park. Natural grasses and fish have been long gone. As a resident, living on a canal off the Homosassa River, I am against anyone tapping into our water supply. We not only live here, but also try to make a living on this river.

From: WaterMatters.org
To: ccollier@verizon.net
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Monday, October 15, 2012 8:58:52 PM



Hi Carol,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

I oppose the proposed MFLs for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers. Please allow no further flow reduction. MFLs should be set at current flows (0% flow reduction). Please cut down on wasteful water use.

From: WaterMatters.org
To: maxineconnor@gmail.com
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Tuesday, October 16, 2012 12:55:15 AM



Hi Maxine,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

I respectfully disagree with your decision to reduce the MFLs of the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka River and springs, and all such bodies of water in the SWFWMD. Please set MFLs and minimum water levels no lower than they currently are. Seasonal changes and droughts will lower them anyway. These waterways are already polluted. Further reduction in flow and levels will concentrate the pollutants, which will end up in our aquifer and drinking water & cause us significant harm. Overtapping the aquifer will cause more sinkholes, damaged property, & saltwater & pollution in our wells. Who will want to move to Florida or remain here then? The local economy will suffer. Please do not issue any more consumptive use permits until you can set MFLs and MWLs & policies to curb sources of pollution. Please collaborate with environmental advocates & local government to solve these problems, & promote education & conservation. Please read Cynthia Barnett's books "Mirage" & "Blue Revolution." Use current scientific observations/measurements for data. Study the current excess saltwater intrusion into the springs, and sources of pollution. 35 years ago Crystal R was pristine; now it is full of llyngbya. Reducing MFLs will kill habitat & rivers. "Significant harm" is not defined under" 373.019 Definitions". I hope it is within your purview to define it. If not, the law has to be changed to provide guidelines. Also, I think you should meter/control usage when issuing permits. Laws need review.

From: WaterMatters.org
To: imtarynitup@yahoo.com
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Tuesday, October 16, 2012 1:04:46 AM



Hi Taryn,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

Altering the natural flow of a river to meet human needs is something everyone from FL knows never works out well in the long run. Please don't make the same mistake over and over again. Find another solution.

Chassahowitzka and Homosassa River Systems PUBLIC MEETING COMMENT CARD

Southwest Florida
Water Management District

Your comments will be provided to the Governing Board. Please make sure to clearly print your name and email address or phone number. Thank you for your comments.

Name SHARON KERNER

Date

Email Address or Phone Number SharonKerner1@yahoo.com

10/8/2012

We have a significant water abuse problem. We must act to change the proposed consumptive-use rules and change minimum flow levels to ZERO percent! Increasing minimum flow levels will cause "significant harm" and irreparable damage to ALL of our rivers and habitats. Saltwater intrusion is imminent. We ALL must actively participate in cleaning up and protecting our springs, rivers and aquifers. Recharge is wholly dependent on rainfall – it's a fact, as aquifer levels fall, springs flow with less vigor. There is a direct correlation between water quantity and water quality. As quoted by Art Jones, "dilution is the solution to pollution."

I am outraged over a \$50.00 water permit issued by SWFWMD to allow between 76,000 and 153,000 gallons of water per DAY be pumped, shipped, bottled and sold by a private bottling company for a 10 year span within Crystal River city limits. Neither Crystal River nor Citrus County will realize 1 cent of revenue from this debacle. AND it water is NOT even metered. Who knows what that means! This was just a BAD decision. Permit requirements must be changed!

Safeguards must be established to curb our wasteful and contaminating water usage. Do away with septic tanks, plant Florida friendly landscapes, install dual-flush toilets, minimize or use slow-release fertilizer, and install rain barrels. Be creative and conscientious stewards of our natural resources. We ALL must protect the future of our state's water supply and the vitality of our delicate aquatic ecosystems, including our manatees. Support laws and leaders who are committed to the principles of sustaining our precious water!
VOTE, NEVER GIVE UP AND BUY AMERICAN!

SKerner
3885 N Nokomis Pt
CR, FL 34428

S.W.F.W.M.D.
2379 Broad St.
Brooksville FL

Lib
FOR

From: WaterMatters.org
To: ktripp@savethemanatee.org
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Tuesday, October 16, 2012 10:43:42 AM



Hi Katie,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

Save the Manatee Club requests 0% flow reduction for these two rivers, which may already be experiencing significant harm. While flow reductions may not be the sole contributor to degraded water quality, in concert with changing salinity, excessive nutrient input, and other factors, significant cumulative impacts are occurring. We cannot accept model results supporting additional withdrawals when direct observation of the environment indicates that damage is already occurring. We ask the District to protect not just 85% of the remaining habitat, but 100% of it. We support the setting of MFLs but object to managing our rivers at these thresholds. Please stop giving away our shared water resources and start implementing more effective limits on water withdrawals to reduce our dependence on the aquifer and surface water supplies, and allow us to avoid costly alternative water supply (AWS) projects. Growing dependent on AWS projects while threatening the health of the Nature Coast economic engine is fiscally irresponsible. Finally, a correction for manatee habitat use is needed in the Chassahowitzka report. Manatees may use areas shallower than 3.8 ft, but only for an hour or two while the sun is overhead, for solar energy absorption. Manatees could not survive in these shallow areas at other times during cold periods, as exposure would leave them susceptible to cold stress. Please correct this language in the report. Thank you for considering our comments.

From: [2buntings](#)
To: [Blake Guillory](#)
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Springs Coast MFL Rules comment
Date: Tuesday, October 16, 2012 4:03:47 PM
Attachments: [101612commentstoGB-MFL.pdf](#)

Dear Mr. Guillory,

The attached comments on the Springs Coast MFL issue are provided in behalf of WAR, Inc and are addressed to the Governing Board members. Though brief the document is too large for submittal through the District's MFL web page comment portal. I would appreciate this being provided to the Board and submitted to the record of these proceedings.

Thank you for your assistance,

Dan Hilliard

--

Dan Hilliard
Director
W.A.R. Inc.(501.C3)
352/447-5434
www.warinonline.com

Withlacoochee Area Residents, Inc.
PO Box 350
Inglis, Florida 34449-0350

10-16-2012

Governing Board
Southwest Florida Water Management District
2379 Broad Street
Brooksville, FL 34604-6899

Subject: Staff Recommended Springs Coast MFL Rules

WAR, Inc. wishes to extend thanks to the District and Staff for completion of the technical review and recommendations for the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers. The process has been quite lengthy and expensive. We commend staff for their courtesy, professionalism and diligent efforts at public outreach in this arduous process.

The Governing Board will consider adoption of the Rule as presented by Staff and we suggest that acknowledgement of time correlation of increased nutrient loads as identified in the Staff recommendations for the Chassahowitzka River (pg 53, fig 4-6) is one of our major concerns in this action. We suggested previously that development supported by this Rule action would lead to further increases in nutrient loading of these systems and it appears Staff has acknowledged this circumstance. We find this conflicted with current efforts by FDEP as it attempts to establish and apply TMDL standards. We view the FDEP effort in context of anti-degradation provisions adopted pursuant to the CWA and believe these protections must be applied in the MFL process. Ultimately the Rule under consideration is a conceptually conflicted circumstance/action and will confound remedy for nutrient impaired waterways. This portends a very negative economic liability for the state's future.

The Governing Board has statutory authority and responsibility to consider economic impacts resulting from its actions. Consideration of this metric must balance future demand against harm to existing water dependent economic activities. Among the myriad of considerations worthy of the Board's attention are residential property values and by extension, tax roll valuation; park revenues, tourism and related economic support activities. Such things generate tens of millions of dollars per annum in local economic activity and action which degrades such performance cannot be viewed in a positive light.

The state has given broad definition to water dependent activities and for good reason. The annual contribution to Florida's gross product from these endeavors exceeds \$600 Billion per year (FDEP 2008 Integrated Water Quality Assessment (305b/303d)). Violating this productivity is neither sound economic planning nor a positive action on the part of the Governing Board.

Countering these considerations is the short term economic benefit of residential development which may result from diversion of water resources from the two basins under review. The District has not evaluated future land use planning by Citrus County and has no idea of potential demand for water. Therefore we view the technical review in this process only partially complete. Water supply is but a

part of the District's responsibility and without sound economic policy and consideration of societal interests the presented recommendations lack comprehensive credibility.

Perhaps due to historic reliance upon the narrow District definition of "significant harm" examination of economic impact has not been initiated. Regardless of the reason, the Governing Board has no data which will support or diminish Staff's recommendations in context of economic impact. The District's definition of significant harm is founded upon hydrology, biology, geology and other scientific metrics where appropriate and Peer Review panels examine these findings in the same light. We are of the firm opinion that the scope of the definition should be expanded to include economic impact, and lacking evaluation of same, the Governing Board has insufficient information upon which to base its decision. It is reasonable to reflect upon the benefit/harm ratio in examination of these considered Rules.

Staff suggests that current anthropogenic impact on systems flow is in the range of 1%. We ask the Board to consider the activity supported by that single percentage point on one hand and remember these two systems are both on the Impaired Waters List (303d). Staff has clearly correlated time with increased nutrient loads. The District does not have data or methodologies to clearly analyze future impacts of this nature when reviewing WUP applications within these basins. Under current regulations and methodologies, there can be no reasonable expectation that setting withdrawal limits to 9% (Chaz) and 3% (Homosassa) are necessary or can be defended in light of projections of greater adverse impacts which will result over time.

Thank you for your consideration of these very important matters.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dan Hilliard".

Dan Hilliard

for WAR, Inc.

From: WaterMatters.org
To: cctheobald@aol.com
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Wednesday, October 17, 2012 10:59:05 AM



Hi Claire,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

The Homosassa and Chassahowitzka river systems are very delicate and function as essential winter habitats for endangered manatee populations. Please, take careful consideration before you set minimum water flow levels, as these can be extremely detrimental to these ecosystems and the animals that inhabit them. Although I am not currently a Floridian, many members of my family are and I personally am considering a move in the next few years. Please, do not do irreparable harm to the ecosystems that I hope to introduce to my future children. I would like them to be able to enjoy these gorgeous natural areas that can only be found in the beautiful and unique state of Florida.

From: WaterMatters.org
To: jennifercoen@cfl.rr.com
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Wednesday, October 17, 2012 11:07:17 AM



Hi Jennifer,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

I oppose the proposed MFLs for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers and believe that no further flow reduction should be allowed; that the MFLs should be set at current flows (0% flow reduction). Also I wish to see SWFWMD manage our water more wisely and do more to cut back on wasteful water use in our state. On behalf of Florida's wildlife. Thank you.

From: WaterMatters.org
To: elainemoore4@gmail.com
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Wednesday, October 17, 2012 3:20:18 PM



Hi Elaine,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

As contract manager for the Chassahowitzka River Campground, I must point out that it is imperative that you consider the negative effect that your proposed MFL level will have on the Chassahowitzka River and its campground. The proposed MFL level would be disastrous for the health of the Chassahowitzka River. Given its already shallow depths, any reduction in flow would seriously hamper the wildlife in the river and navigation of the river. The boat ramp area of the river has been a source of enjoyment for state residents for many years as well as providing jobs for guides, boat rental companies, the store operators, the campground operators and more. Reducing the flow of this very shallow river is a death knell for the area and the people who have enjoyed and depended on it for so many years. PLEASE PLEASE DO NOT KILL IT.

From: WaterMatters.org
To: tcwiller@aol.com
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Wednesday, October 17, 2012 4:46:58 PM



Hi Cherie,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

I oppose the proposed new MFLs for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers and believe that no further flow reduction should be allowed. I believe vehemently that the MFLs should be set at current flows (0% flow reduction). I wish to see you manage our water more wisely and do more to cut back on wasteful water use in our state. In recent decades, both rivers have shown signs of environmental stress. Among the observed changes are dead trees in the Chassahowitzka killed by encroaching salt water, and a loss of aquatic plants in the Homosassa River. Residents (I have relatives living in the area) in both rivers have observed a steady progression of barnacles further inland, a sign of the water becoming more saline. Even though your models have indicated that the proposed MFLs will not cause significant ecological harm, logic suggests that any further reduction of groundwater flows would only exacerbate existing problems. Manatees, very valuable members of Florida's wildlife, rely on healthy aquatic ecosystems to survive and utilize both the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers year round. Both provide critical winter warm water habitat. Environmental changes that negatively affect food supply and water quality threaten manatee habitat and manatees themselves. I ask that you reconsider your proposal!

From: WaterMatters.org
To: diann@tampabay.rr.com
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Wednesday, October 17, 2012 5:04:31 PM



Hi Diann,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

I live on the Homosassa River. I am a 5th generation Floridian. When my eldest grandson was born my husband and I purchased a lifetime fishing license for him. Our river is very important. I want our grandchildren to enjoy our rivers. When we bought our home in the Blue Water section of the Homosassa there were no barnacle on the pilings. Today the salinity of the water of the water has increased and we no longer have the quality of water we enjoyed previously. I am opposed to any reduction in the flow of our river.

From: WaterMatters.org
To: BWR.CRRC@tampabay.rr.com
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Wednesday, October 17, 2012 7:15:49 PM



Hi Brad,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

October 17, 2012 Governing Board Southwest Florida Water Management District 2379 Broad Street Brooksville, FL 34604-6899 Subject: Staff Recommended Springs Coast MFL Rules Dear Governing Board Members, On July 28, 2012, I copied all of you on an email to Doug Leeper. By copy of that email, I invited all of you to come see the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers before you voted to accept or reject staff's recommendation of continued degradation on these Outstanding Florida Waters. Not one of you replied. I was recently provided with a photograph of Chassahowitzka Main Spring which was taken in 1963. A digital copy of that photograph is attached. If any of you came to look at Chassahowitzka Main Spring recently, did it look anything like this photograph? I seriously doubt that any rational person who looks at this historic photograph and compares it to the current condition of the Chassahowitzka Main Spring could conclude that this spring has not already been "significantly harmed". Likewise, the entire Chassahowitzka River and all of its tributaries have been "significantly harmed" under SWFWMD's watch. We have spent countless hours discussing the inadequate hydrologic and biologic data set upon which SWFWMD staff has based its recommendation to further degrade the Chassahowitzka River. Here is the bottom line. The antidegradation provisions of Florida Law were adopted pursuant to the Federal Clean Water Act and these protections must be applied in the MFL process. SWFWMD's legal staff has been unable to provide any case law or legal precedent which allows SWFWMD to degrade this Outstanding Florida Water under the auspices of the MFL statute or any other statute. Brad W. Rimbey, PE for the Chassahowitzka River Restoration Committee cell 813-417-9453

From: WaterMatters.org
To: ron@ronschultz.us
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Wednesday, October 17, 2012 9:18:58 PM



Hi Ron,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

The degradation of the Homosassa river has exceeded anything that should be allowed for an Outstanding Florida Waterway. Any further reduction in flow or quality of the water is tragic.

From: WaterMatters.org
To: whmarkle@gmail.com
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Wednesday, October 17, 2012 10:16:01 PM



Hi Whitey,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

MFL's should have been established many years ago. The Springs Coast is dying from over consumption. It is not understandable how the District can lower the MFLs in the Outstanding Florida Waterways in the face of their very apparent degradation. We sincerely request no MFL reductions in the Chassahowitzka/ Homosassa Rivers.

From: WaterMatters.org
To: maxineconnor@gmail.com
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Wednesday, October 17, 2012 11:41:19 PM



Hi Maxine,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

On pages 203 and 204 of SWFWMD Recommended MFLs for the Homosassa River System 7/15/12 it states that it will implement a 3-component minimum flows and levels prevention strategy to ensure that MFLs established will not be violated as a result of water withdrawals." It states that the strategy includes "ongoing monitoring of flows and water levels, assessment of potential impacts associated with water supply development..., and implementation of a protective water-use permitting program..." I hope that is happening as we speak. I do not think the recent permit granted to allow large unmetered withdrawals from the Crystal River constitutes protective water-use permitting nor is it in the public interest. This report states "staff recommends that minimum flows established for the river system be reevaluated 10 years after they are adopted into rule." Does this mean that if minimum flows are violated, they won't be reevaluated for 10 years? I think that is way too long. A lot can happen to a water supply and an environment in a lot less time. Our FL waterways are already polluted. See http://ofmpub.epa.gov/tmdl_waters10/attains_state.control?p_state=FL#total_assessed_waters. Reducing flows and levels will concentrate the pollutants; that will also reduce the habitat by 15%, thus killing inhabitants and making the pollutants more concentrated. Nitrates and nitrites are present; they cause cancer when ingested by us. We eat the fish that live in these waters.

From: [Executive](#)
To: [Gwen Brown](#)
Cc: [Jet Houser](#); [Lou Kavouras](#); [Ron Basso](#); [Mike Heyl](#); [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: FW: MFL for Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers
Date: Thursday, October 18, 2012 10:45:04 AM

Please handle accordingly or forward to the appropriate staff for handling.

Thank you.

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

Sr. Document Specialist
Southwest Florida Water Management District
shellie.ferreira@swfwmd.state.fl.us
352-796-7211, ext. 4053

From: Boyd_Blihovde@fws.gov [mailto:Boyd_Blihovde@fws.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, October 17, 2012 11:07 PM
To: Executive
Subject: MFL for Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

The Chassahowitzka National Wildlife Refuge is primarily bordered to the North by the Homosassa River, and contains the mouth of the Chassahowitzka River within its boundary. The freshwater inflow from both these rivers is extremely important to the wildlife that the Refuge was established to protect for the American public. We are pleased to see that the SWFWMD has increased the recommended MFL for both the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers to 91% and 97% respectively. However, we are certainly concerned that if levels on the Chassahowitzka River were actually reduced by 9% (from present conditions) there could be potentially detrimental conditions for many species of wildlife. Refuge staff have witnessed extremely low water levels during low tides on the Chassahowitzka River. These extremely low water situations have resulted in virtually impassable or unnavigable water depths. This is a concern for boaters and for the endangered manatee. Of course, these extremes are not experienced very often, but it is a condition that can be assumed would increase in frequency and intensity if a 9% reduction in flow were to occur.

Former land use practices in the area around the Chassahowitzka River cannot be reversed, but the Chassahowitzka NWR is concerned with future land use practices that may have an impact on the resources we manage for all US citizens. The US Fish and Wildlife Service takes pride in the partnership we have cooperatively developed with the water management districts in Florida. The Chassahowitzka NWR staff are located within close proximity to the river systems discussed in this MFL proposal and we conduct numerous surveys for manatees, birds, whooping cranes, and we cooperate with various agencies and universities to answer more advanced biological questions.

Although Refuge management would feel more comfortable with higher flows allowed for the Chassahowitzka River, we are open to helping establish a monitoring plan that would include a partnership between our agencies. This partnership would hopefully prevent irreparable damage to the habitat in and around the Chassahowitzka River if water flow was

to further decrease. USFWS staff currently make numerous qualitative observations on habitat conditions, and that work will certainly continue. However, through this partnership, the USFWS and SWFWMD should prepare to monitor the effects of freshwater reduction on the estuary within the Refuge and surrounding areas. It is imperative to us that we protect the natural resources that have been entrusted to us by the US citizen and monitoring any proposed management activity (on or near the Refuge boundary) is a very important part of that. We hope that whatever MFL becomes implemented will also include requirements for monitoring the effects of future permitted freshwater withdrawals. We look forward to future cooperative endeavors with the SWFWMD that will help protect Florida's natural resources.

Thanks,

boyd blihovde
Deputy Project Leader
Crystal River National Wildlife Refuge Complex
1502 SE Kings Bay Drive
Crystal River, FL 34429
(P) 352-563-2088
(F) 352-795-7961

**Public Comments and Staff Responses Concerning
Proposed Minimum Flows for the
Chassahowitzka and Homosassa River Systems**

Additional Documents No. 1

Documents Received, Sent or Developed between
October 19, 2012 and October 30, 2012



October 30, 2012

2,642 Pages in Addition to this Cover Sheet

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: `robert traister [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:03 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

`robert traister gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"these creatures are important to all of us you should take action of this or explain to the people why you do not care? "

3353 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: A G Connor [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 11:58 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

A G Connor gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"All creatures on this planet are important and we are to be good stewards here."

8860 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Aaron Ellis [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 3:01 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Aaron Ellis gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"The world's water sustains life, provides shelter and is necessary for the flourishing of EVERY LIVING THING, manatees as much as humans."

4605 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: aaron wolford [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 9:28 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

aaron wolford gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"the world"

9773 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Adam Petrycki [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 4:48 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Adam Petrycki gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"We need to stop creating unsustainable processes. If it's not possible to recreate what you take out, it's not sustainable."

5779 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: adam sikora [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 6:04 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

adam sikora gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I have seen the manatees myself going to the warm waters for shelter, it is a beautiful sight to be preserved"

6331 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Adolph Antonacci [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 8:13 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Adolph Antonacci gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Recently SWIFTMUD allowed an Ocala company access to our water supply . I am conserving my use of our water supply and SWIFTMUD gives it away free!
"

2737 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: adriano lambe [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 7:55 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

adriano lambe gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"This is most important to the manatees, far beyond that represented for those of us who sign the petition. I can only hope that the SWFWMD and our Governor shows more concern, heart and conscience for the environment than the two leading candidates presently dukeing it out for the presidency. "

8246 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees, and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Adriyel Manzoratte [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Monday, October 29, 2012 1:02 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Adriyel Manzoratte gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Because manatees deserve to live. Life has been given to them, us huans have no right to murder these peaceful animals."

10673 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

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The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: agata mosery [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Friday, October 26, 2012 6:47 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

agata mosery gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. "

2256 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Aidee Maldonado [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:45 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Aidee Maldonado gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I love manatees!"

4350 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Aimee Cody [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 6:06 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Aimee Cody gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I'm a Florida resident, and manatees are the most wonderful creatures we have."

6343 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: alan fricker [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:12 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

alan fricker gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Manatees are the ultimate defenseless mamal on earth and should be given every chance to survive their number 1 predator---man and man's decisions "

3634 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Alan Hehe [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 2:03 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Alan Hehe gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I believe ALL life is precious & that all creatures deserve life."

8031 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Albert Navarro [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 6:54 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Albert Navarro gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Manatees are a symbol of Florida's natural resources."

6641 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Alex Brice [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 4:07 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Alex Brice gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"We own property on The Chaz. We have spent many thousands of dollars converting our septic tanks to help clean this Outstanding Florida Water. I say Zero percent reduction of flows and Zero percent loss of habitat! "

5409 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Alex Rojo [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Monday, October 29, 2012 10:21 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Alex Rojo gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Manatees are very gentle creatures, and I am getting sick and tired of politicians messing up with nature. Manatees do not have the right to vote but they have the right to live"

10406 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Alexia Rodrigo [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 8:06 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Alexia Rodrigo gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I lived in Florida for some time and I've seen these beautiful creatures. As a strong environmentalist I believe it's extremely important for people to preserve the worlds wildlife. We share the Earth my countless other creatures and it is our duty to respect that."

6984 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Alexis bellovich [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Friday, October 26, 2012 8:46 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Alexis bellovich gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I love Florida springs"

2442 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Alfred Van Guilder [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 10:59 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Alfred Van Guilder gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I already asked dick scott to retire.He is useless! I'm tired of him DESTROYING this great State. Let's get together, and VOTE him out of office! "

7699 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

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Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Alice Gridley [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Monday, October 29, 2012 8:36 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Alice Gridley gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"We are so fortunate in Florida to have manatees. Please, do not screw it up!"

10189 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Alice Smith [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 5:29 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Alice Smith gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"As a Floridian and life long resident I hate to see any more threats to this species habitat. "

6118 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

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The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: ALICIA ZICCHINO [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 12:35 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

ALICIA ZICCHINO gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"The manatees are already in danger. Lets not decrease the amount of habitat they have!"

2870 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: alison morton [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Friday, October 26, 2012 5:23 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

alison morton gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Disruption of our ecosystems have long term, often irreparable effects"

2038 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: alison van dusen [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:09 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

alison van dusen gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"every animal counts"

3538 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

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and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Allegonda van den Broek [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 4:16 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Alllegonda van den Broek gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Becasuse mantatees rely on the springs"

5486 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: allison juceam [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 4:41 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

allison juceam gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"We live with the Manatees around us and we often see what people do to harm them, inviting them with hoses on their docks, speeding through no wake zones. We are responsible for the harm that has fallen on these creatures. Their habits are not large enough as it is. They live on fresh water and the springs in question are the last source left on a scale large enough to support them."

5724 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Allison Spencer [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Friday, October 26, 2012 10:04 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Allison Spencer gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I love the manatees!"

2551 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Allyson Speizer [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:24 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Allyson Speizer gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Save our manatees and save our springs for future generations!"

3947 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Amado Martinez [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 5:40 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Amado Martinez gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"As a scuba diving instructor I'm a conservationist. So we must conserve the natural habitat of the Manti in order for some day remove it from the endangered list."

9441 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Amanda Miles [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Friday, October 26, 2012 5:22 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Amanda Miles gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Manatees deserve our protection."

2031 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Amber Daniels [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 4:09 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Amber Daniels gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"For the Manatees!!"

5426 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Amelia Barnard [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 8:50 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Amelia Barnard gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"water is our most important resource.
"

7208 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: AMOSS FERTIL [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Monday, October 29, 2012 12:07 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

AMOSS FERTIL gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I love nature and wildlife."

10594 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Amy Austin [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:17 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Amy Austin gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"This response by Dee Atkins was too good not to borrow/repeat (Thank you, Dee!):

Our rivers are already in critical condition and to allow any percentage at all in flow reduction is unconscionable. SWFWMD already allows water use permits to be issued for the cost to \$50 and no metering when someone 'says' they are only going to take 50,000 gallons per day. Of course, with no metering, how do they know how much water is being taken? Crystal River is going to be the next for MFL's to be set, and if permits without metering are already being issued, it scares me to death what they will do setting MFL's. The water permit issued recently is being transported to Ocala to be sold as bottled water. Water transfer!! And no metering on how much is really being taken. SWFWMD is allowing flow reduction in rivers that are already dying or dead. Data that is being used to justify this action can be manipulated to provide the desired results. Use common sense....look at the rivers....look at the lack of aquatic plants that are conducive to the rivers....look at the salinity in areas that used to be fresh water....look at the decrease in wild life, fish, and flora and fauna, look at the degradation of our spings. It is obvious to the lay person what it happening...surely the scientists are smart enough to see what's going on without graphs and numbers and such. If we, the people who love are waterways can see what's happening, there's no data in the world that can change what is obvious to those of us who are aware and feel the pain of watching our rivers and our wildlife die."

3763 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

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The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Amy Campbell [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Monday, October 29, 2012 11:12 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Amy Campbell gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I LOVE ANIMALS! "

10504 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Amy Hibberd [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Monday, October 29, 2012 12:10 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Amy Hibberd gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"
love this place....please leave it alone."

10598 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: amy hyslop [mailto:amy@change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 8:25 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

amy hyslop gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"manatees are florida"

7075 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Amy Knowles [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 7:27 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Amy Knowles gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"It is important to preserve and protect every facet of Florida's threatened and essential coastal, wetland and upland ecosystems, each dependant upon the health of the others."

6810 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Amy McReynolds [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Friday, October 26, 2012 6:12 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Amy McReynolds gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Never mess with the ecosystem!"

2185 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Amy Nelson [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:04 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Amy Nelson gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"To Those in Power @ "SWFWMD",
I emphatically request you "rethink" any change that would violate these spring-fed rivers... for they ARE designated as "home" ~ under the FEDERAL Endangered Species Act ie. "Florida Outstanding Waterways" specifically...
Mr. Rick Scott,
It is Your Duty to enforce Federally mandated statutes to protect our fragile Florida wildlife, as well as fresh water coastal ecosystems.
P.S. I am Active Politically, I Vote, & I will be watching this issue closely.
Thank You for your consideration."

3405 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: amy smith [mailto:amy.smith@change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:37 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

amy smith gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"they are a treasure to the world"

4198 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Amy Stowe [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 9:36 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Amy Stowe gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"We need to protect the more pristine areas of Florida that we can, especially if it could endanger and threaten our precious wildlife. At least, we need to know the environmental impact ahead of time if there is a real human need to move an established ecosystem."

9787 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Ana Haget [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 7:19 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Ana Haget gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Where are the poor manatees going to live. Save their homes! They should be able to live there all year."

6775 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Andra Hearn [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 1:14 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Andra Hearn gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Manatees need this!"

9034 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Andrea Lamoureux [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 7:32 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Andrea Lamoureux gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"All lives seem to be cast aside today no matter if you are human or animal. be the voices and support for all the unfortunate !!"

8218 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Andrea Tallini [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:09 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Andrea Tallini gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I live in florida and the manatees should be protected"

3540 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: ANDRES GARCIA [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 8:06 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

ANDRES GARCIA gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Save the Manatee!"

8269 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Andreu J MacAndrew Richardson [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Friday, October 26, 2012 5:45 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Andreu J MacAndrew Richardson gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"The environment and the preservation of wildlife is sacrosanct above all else. It is irreplaceable and must be maintained, preserved and held sacred no matter the financial, economic or social cost. Nothing matters more."

2123 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Andrew Douglass [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:15 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Andrew Douglass gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Springs"

3726 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Andrew Paliuca [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Monday, October 29, 2012 8:18 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Andrew Paliuca gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"the rivers are stressed enough as is...fresh water flow is critical to these rivers. SWFMD....please do what is right for nature and our unique regional area of FLorida"

10159 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Andrew Sutherland [mailto:mail@change.org]
Sent: Monday, October 29, 2012 9:15 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Andrew Sutherland gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"The natural springs of FL are our greatest resource."

10250 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Angela Baich [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 4:55 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Angela Baich gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"As a Florida native, I lived to see too much destruction of the enviroment, especially fresh water rivers and springs. If not protected, Florida will end up sucked dry."

5834 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Angela Logalbo [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Friday, October 26, 2012 10:38 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Angela Logalbo gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Why would this NOT be important?"

2577 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Angela Murrell [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Friday, October 26, 2012 5:30 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Angela Murrell gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"keeping wildlife safe is a duty that all people should be held accountable for, they where here long before us and we are destoring their habitates. They are the childern of this earth and its our job to help them live in this ever changing world that we seem hell bent on destoring."

2072 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosasa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees, and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Angeline Pino [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Monday, October 29, 2012 1:54 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Angeline Pino gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Because Miami needs to conserve its wild life. Since as long as I can remember I have seen the Everglades go through abuse and have seen our waterways fall victim to not only pollution but overuse."

10731 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Anita Hartmann [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:49 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Anita Hartmann gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Manatees are struggling to survive! They need our support. Do not impact their ecosystem by reduction in flow!

I vote and as an activist influence the votes of others. We will be watching your action with this issue.

Thank you,
Anita Hartmann
352-489-0240
Dunnellon, FL"

4416 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

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The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Ann Sayward [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 6:53 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Ann Sayward gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"The fresh water in our rivers and springs is of major importance for people and the environment. If you don't care about the Manatees who also bring tourists to the area, then think of the Money. Low flow in the rivers increases the possibility of salt water intrusion which devalues property and kills needed vegetation. Please remember what happened to New Orleans because the outlying vegetation was destroyed."

9527 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees, and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: ann stonifer [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 3:40 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

ann stonifer gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Do we have to kill everything? "

5112 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Anna Berardi [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 3:32 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Anna Berardi gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Water is important for manatees AND people. Let's do what's right."

9247 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Anna Diliberto [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Monday, October 29, 2012 9:35 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Anna Diliberto gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"save the Manatees - no flow reduction!!!!"

10305 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Anna Shaft [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:30 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Anna Shaft gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"We have a responsibility to SAVE wildlife!"

4066 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Anna Stacholy [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Monday, October 29, 2012 8:11 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Anna Stacholy gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"These gentle creatures deserve our care"

10142 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: ANNE BOWMAN [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Monday, October 29, 2012 9:15 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

ANNE BOWMAN gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"THE MANATEES ARE NOT THE ONLY ANIMALS THAT NEED THE SPRINGS PROTECTED, THERE ARE LOTS OF FISHERIES AND OTHER ANIMALS -LIKE HUMANS THAT DEPEND ON KEEPING THE SPRINGS FLOWING. NO REDUCTIONS ON FLOW!"

10255 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Anne Molinas [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 1:59 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Anne Molinas gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Protecting the environment and wildlife is very important. Florida is way over developed and there is too much disregard for nature, which is also an important resource for a healthy life and economy, not just construction and development."

9104 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Annette Perdomo [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 6:29 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Annette Perdomo gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"53 years living in Florida I have seen their tragic decline"

6481 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: annmarie kerr [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:22 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

annmarie kerr gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Worked 4 vet and wildlife center. Saw 2 many animals,including manatees(I lived in Fl Everglades) if only one is injured or killed that is too many."

3913 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Anthony DiValentin [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 9:55 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Anthony DiValentin gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"For my kids."

9811 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Antonio Cardillo [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 4:14 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Antonio Cardillo gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"The manatees deserve the same consideration as any other natural resource. Further they draw visitors from around the world to observe these beautiful and gentle creatures in their natural habitats."

5471 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Antonio Fernandez [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Monday, October 29, 2012 7:41 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Antonio Fernandez gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"The survival of the species is crucial to the Florida ecosystem"

10105 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: April browne [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 4:24 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

April browne gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"We have to stop this !!! And everything like it NOW!"

5570 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: april cooper [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 7:52 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

april cooper gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"i love the river and manatees don't have a voice
"

6921 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: April Frizalone [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 3:54 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

April Frizalone gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I live in Florida! I love the Manatees!!!"

5277 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: April Rexroad [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 3:42 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

April Rexroad gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I used to be a resident of Florida and I have seen the scars on many of the manatees already from boats and other man-made dangers and I believe we need to do more to protect these animals. Reducing their habitats would be a step in the wrong direction."

9260 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees, and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Arline Winfield [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Monday, October 29, 2012 1:14 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Arline Winfield gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I saw 2 manatees in my canal yesterday. They are wonderful parts of nature and deserve protection. "

10687 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: arnold m. duhrkopp [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Monday, October 29, 2012 9:27 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

arnold m. duhrkopp gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"because i paddle many rivers, streams and lakes in central florida and see constantly the failing waters"

10288 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Arnold Tarling [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Friday, October 26, 2012 6:02 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Arnold Tarling gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"When they are gone we can't create another one."

2163 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Arthur Amolsch [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 4:01 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Arthur Amolsch gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Manatees were here first."

5334 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Arthur Wood [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 9:23 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Arthur Wood gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"We do not need to stress already stressed rivers. We have a very beautiful area and we need to keep it that way."
"

9762 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Ashlee Tziganuk [mailto:mail@change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:16 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Ashlee Tziganuk gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I grew up along these rivers and I couldn't bear to see the manatees negatively affected by human actions!"

3744 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Ashley Blendinger [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:43 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Ashley Blendinger gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Because they are magnificent creatures that deserve a home that is not interrupted by humans. "

4312 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Astara Edmonds [mailto:mail@change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 11:05 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Astara Edmonds gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"We must preserve the water in our springs and rivers. It is vital."

8725 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Athena Philips [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Monday, October 29, 2012 2:53 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Athena Philips gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I spend much time in and around the waters of Citrus County. Our thirst must be addressed in better ways than just continuing to open the tap. Salinity disruptions are damaging our rivers as much as invasive plants. The waters are not at historic "natural levels" and further reductions are sapping a diminished resource. Please reconsider and don't adopt these MFLs."

10022 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees, and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Audra Brookins [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 2:21 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Audra Brookins gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I grew up swimming with these wonderful, peaceful creatures! They are not only completely harmless they do a service by eating the water plants that end up blocking our water ways."

9136 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Audrey Lima [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 8:35 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Audrey Lima gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Do the right thing you douchebag."

8331 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Audrey Smith [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 9:39 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Audrey Smith gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Please show some compassion for the native wildlife of Florida. They were here first!!"

8486 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: b abernathy [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 6:53 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

b abernathy gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Manatees are awesome gentle creatures who prey on no one and cause no environmental harm. We need to protect them!"

6631 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: B Peet [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:31 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

B Peet gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"From Pensacola, my son's class went on a field trip there last year, and we took the Boy Scout troop there for a weekend as well. The economic impact is significant, and if the manatees are lost, so is the tourist industry."

4086 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Barbara Burt [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 11:05 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Barbara Burt gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Springs are vital for tourism, healthy ecosystems that support humans, plants and animals. we cannot continue to degrade these precious natural resources."

7717 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Barbara Gooding [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 12:12 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Barbara Gooding gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Manatees are Floridas treasure! We must do everything to protect them!!!"

8897 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Barbara Johnson [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 8:34 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Barbara Johnson gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"All of Florida's rivers and springs are important to me. Water is Florida's greatest treasure and it's biggest problem. There are too many people who don't understand that unless we stop wasteing water we will turn on a tap one day and there won't be any water. The natural ecosystems were designed the way they are because they worked that way and we keep playing with things and changing the natural order of things. We are losing our precious resources and Florida'a natural beauty. We have abundant wildlife still in Florida but we won't have it anymore if we keep ruining their habitat. I am a native Floridian and we are ruining the Florida that I know and love. "

9687 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: barbara keene [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 10:31 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

barbara keene gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Because HOW IMPORTANT ARE MANATEES TO FLORIDIANS?? ANSWER THAT! RICK SCOTT, THEY WERE HERE BEFORE US AND HOPEFULLY THEY WILL BE HERE LONG AFTER."

8635 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Barbara McGuire [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Friday, October 26, 2012 5:59 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Barbara McGuire gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I grew up spending my summers in Homosassa and Weeki Wachee. I saw the reduction of the Manatees first hand. These creatures need our help. Please do not reduce the flow of the fresh water to our rivers. "

2158 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Barbara Ouellette [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 6:06 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Barbara Ouellette gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"The Springs need to be protected for more damage occurring in our state's natural water habitats. Please protect these for our generation and the future generations to come."

6341 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: BARBARA PIETRANGELO [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 8:31 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

BARBARA PIETRANGELO gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"For many years we have visited Homosassa Springs with our grandchildren - they have learned so much from these trips - please save the Springs for them and their children!"

8318 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Barbara Sallee [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:01 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Barbara Sallee gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Manatees and other wetland inhabitants need a good flow of water to survive and be healthy."

3296 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Barbara Schardt [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Friday, October 26, 2012 5:24 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Barbara Schardt gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Beause this is one of the beautiful mammals that are only found in our Fl. waters. They need to be cared forso future peoples will be able to study them and enjoy them."

2041 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosasa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Barbara White [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Monday, October 29, 2012 2:31 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Barbara White gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Manatees are so sweet...help them!!"

10015 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Barbara Wilbur [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 3:05 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Barbara Wilbur gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Go swimming with these gentle giants and you would do everything you could to protect them. "

4661 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Barry McWeeney [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 10:46 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Barry McWeeney gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I'm a Florida native and believe these creatures deserve to continue living in "Their" natural surroundings uninhibited by man!!!"

8674 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Barry Ware [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 4:51 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Barry Ware gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"We need to STOP messing with Wildlife Habatats Period !!"

5802 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Becky Reep [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Monday, October 29, 2012 8:26 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Becky Reep gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Sorta a "no-brainer" on the value of our Florida springs....they are ESSENTIAL! They have been a part of nature's design for eons....mankind needs to take a lesson from the Master and leave them alone unless it's doing something to preserve and protect them - like signing this petition!!"

10172 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Ben Oswald [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 10:55 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Ben Oswald gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Because Manatees are already stressed enough."

8697 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Benjamin Burton [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Friday, October 26, 2012 6:46 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Benjamin Burton gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Protecting an endangered species should always be a priority."

2253 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Benjamin Phillips [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Friday, October 26, 2012 7:00 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Benjamin Phillips gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I have always been in awe of Florida's natural beauty- anything done to harm its natural residents would be a shame. It's not worth it."

2282 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Bennett Hoffman [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 9:09 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Bennett Hoffman gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I like manatees "

9745 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Berdina Joseph [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 8:14 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Berdina Joseph gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"love wild life"

9654 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Bernard Yokel PhD [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 4:08 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Bernard Yokel PhD gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Florida is long past the time when it can afford to depreciate functioning ecosystems, particularly those systems that harbor endangered species such as the West Indian Manatee. In a State that relies on growth and tourism it is vital to protect the quality and productivity of its waters. "

5417 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees, and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Beryl Lipoff [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 11:44 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Beryl Lipoff gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"When our wild life disappears, what does that say for our existence? I am a Florida resident I have had the privilege of seeing these wondrous creatures. I implore that there should be NO flow reductions. "

8823 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Beth Hammer [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Monday, October 29, 2012 8:21 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Beth Hammer gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"As a full-time Florida resident, we know the importance of protecting these special creatures. Please understand & save their environment. "

10162 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Betsy Livingstone [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 10:05 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Betsy Livingstone gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Manatees are having a tough time. Please don't make it harder for them to survive."

7528 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Bettina Moser [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:18 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Bettina Moser gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"THIS IS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT FOR ME AS PRESERVATION OF THE WATERWAYS FOR MANATEES ULTIMATELY BENEFITS NOT ONLY THE MANATEES BUT EVERYBODY IN A MYRIAD WAYS. "

3791 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees, and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Betty Klein [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 8:29 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Betty Klein gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"it just is"

7101 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Betty Pearce [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 12:48 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Betty Pearce gave the following reason for signing this petition:

" many natural habitats are, and have been, destroyed. It needs to stop to preserve the beauties of the earth. "

2653 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Betty Whitmer [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Friday, October 26, 2012 5:24 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Betty Whitmer gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"We need to watch over every creature. Not just r self. We need to do the right thing"

2039 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Beverley Wiskow [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 2:37 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Beverley Wiskow gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"With so much of what we knew as old Florida gone, it would be tragic if yet another of our very special resources were destroyed. PLEASE protect the manatees."

9163 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Beverly Strickland [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 6:53 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Beverly Strickland gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"We should not be losing water or habitat"

6626 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Bianca Green [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Friday, October 26, 2012 8:49 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Bianca Green gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"we only have one mother earth. she does not belong to us, but rather we belong to her...it is our moral obligation to protect the beauty of every creature "

2447 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Bill Wukitz [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 7:55 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Bill Wukitz gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I live in Florida I love manatees let us save this gentle species."

8249 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Bill Yule [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:00 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Bill Yule gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"These harmless beautiful creatures have had to struggle for years to stay alive and need understanding help from people who can change their lives; YOU. Say NO! NO! to reduction in water flow. It is your duty."

3270 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Blythe Broecker [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 1:03 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Blythe Broecker gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I made a bill about this! So happy to see it is a bigger deal now! :D"

9012 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: bob fulford [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 8:29 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

bob fulford gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"do you know prime facie?"

7095 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Bobby Pulliam [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Friday, October 26, 2012 7:29 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Bobby Pulliam gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Why wouldn't this be important to anyone?"

"

2332 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: BobbyAnn Loper [mailto:mail@change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 9:36 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

BobbyAnn Loper gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Every creature matters."

8480 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Bonnee Jones [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 4:34 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Bonnee Jones gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"We Must save our fresh water from salt water adn degradation
"

9348 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosasa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

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and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Bonnie Baird [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 8:40 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Bonnie Baird gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"These gentle creatures were here first. These endangered creatures are at our mercy and NEED to be saved. If it wasn't for us, they would not be endangered."

7161 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Bonnie Headley [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 6:06 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Bonnie Headley gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I have watched the wildlife habitats of Florida's wildlife shrink or disappear all together during my lifetime and I would like to know that they will still be around for my children and grandchildren. We have to put a stop to it or we will all lose. "

6340 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Bonnie Readinger [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Monday, October 29, 2012 3:15 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Bonnie Readinger gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"When we don't protect natural habitat it is not only the plants and wildlife that are injured. Ultimately we will suffer the consequence. We are killing our planet and killing ourselves."

10821 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Bradley Powers [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Monday, October 29, 2012 3:23 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Bradley Powers gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Natural ecosystem and habitat survival."

10832 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Brandy Cannon [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 1:58 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Brandy Cannon gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I am. Florida resident, I love our natural resources and wildlife. Please do all that we can to preserve both."

3194 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Brenda Breil [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:33 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Brenda Breil gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"It is part of the heart of Florida."

4113 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Brenda James [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 4:14 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Brenda James gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"This is important for Manatees. Rick Scott is destroying the Great State of Florida! by the time he leaves office Florida will be owned by his cronies not the tax-payers!!!"

5474 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Brenda Reeves [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 3:23 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Brenda Reeves gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Because Manatees are wonderful for Florida."

4886 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

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and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Brett Shaffer [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Monday, October 29, 2012 3:39 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Brett Shaffer gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"The homosassa springs area is full of childhood memories, I want to help preserve it."

10029 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Brian Belton [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 7:49 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Brian Belton gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Protect natural condition of Florida resources"

9612 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Brian Dearwater [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 9:13 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Brian Dearwater gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Spring fed rivers are treasures to be preserved for future generations."

9751 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Brian Klein [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Monday, October 29, 2012 1:23 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Brian Klein gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"We need to keep natural flow of the river for the balance of nature"

10699 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Brian Suttles [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:06 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Brian Suttles gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I believe that we need to protect the habitat for such wonderful creatures as the manatee."

3446 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Brigitte Steinmann Riddle [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Monday, October 29, 2012 9:34 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Brigitte Steinmann Riddle gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Manatees are a major Florida natural resource and tourism magnet"

10302 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Bruce Florek [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 8:32 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Bruce Florek gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"This is MY back yard. Don't mess around in my back yard."

7116 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Bruce Gaba [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 7:37 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Bruce Gaba gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"these animals are our Florida heritage; Rick Scott has gotten to big for his britches, He's already gotten rid of our bullet train, What else Will he get rid of that we need ??"

6849 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Brucie Cummings [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:56 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Brucie Cummings gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"We all too often make "improvements" without considering the whole picture."

4531 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Bryan Ott [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 9:46 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Bryan Ott gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Wildlife can't help themselves we must do it for them."

8507 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: BRYCE GALLENINE [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Friday, October 26, 2012 7:30 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

BRYCE GALLENINE gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I LOVE THE MANATEES! "

2336 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Burgess Newcomb [mailto:mail@change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 10:34 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Burgess Newcomb gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"It's my backyard, ,life style and my choice to not agree with the direction SWFWMD is heading in."

8640 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: C G [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:45 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

C G gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Rick Scott, how dare you further endanger these magnificent creatures?"

4344 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Cailin Callahan [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:57 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Cailin Callahan gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Mamatees are emblematic for Florida. We must save their over wintering springs and protect both the local habitat of these springs and watershed that affect water quality in these critical over-wintering waterways."

4541 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Callie Riley [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 8:43 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Callie Riley gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Manatees are an endangered species, that must be protected."

7176 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Calvin Hayes [mailto:cal@change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 9:49 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Calvin Hayes gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"It is important to the manatees."

7464 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: cammie burke [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 4:54 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

cammie burke gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Because manatees are AWESOME and they need protection!"

9375 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Candy Lambourn [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 3:36 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Candy Lambourn gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Because if we don't start saving our species we won't have anything left on this earth, including us. Stop screwing up nature and the way things are supposed to be!!!"

5058 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Candy Strafford [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 8:38 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Candy Strafford gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Once gone, we can never recover destroyed habitats or extinct species. We need to live simply, so others can simply live. "

7150 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Capt Marvin Siple [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 6:41 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Capt Marvin Siple gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"As a USCG licensed master, and 3rd generation native, the water is in my blood. This sort of reckless activity makes me "bleed" too. If the state needs more potable water, have all the new residents bring their own!! "

6551 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Capt. Rich Vierra [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Monday, October 29, 2012 1:57 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Capt. Rich Vierra gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"manatees are Gods creatures. Why should we always care about ourselves first?"

10737 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Cara L. Campbell [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:10 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Cara L. Campbell gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Stop destroying Florida's natural resources !!"

3579 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Cara Read [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:36 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Cara Read gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I've lived in Florida for over 30 years and I feel we should do everything in our power to protect the amazing creatures for we are the reason there are so few now, therefore it is our responsibility to help them as much as we can!"

4187 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

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The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: carl brewer [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 12:02 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

carl brewer gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I live here"

2623 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Carl Veaux [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Monday, October 29, 2012 12:53 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Carl Veaux gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"We need adequate flows so the Manatees have enough water to live in during their visits to these springs . Especially when its cold for they will die from overlong exposures chilly water . And you will be killing the tourist trade to these areas with no Manatees to see ."

10664 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Carlos Quiroga-Lassepas [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 3:42 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Carlos Quiroga-Lassepas gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"On occasion it would be nice to do something that is not harmful to other creatures."

5144 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Carlos Sanchez [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 4:47 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Carlos Sanchez gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"

Manatees are a part of FL and we must protect and preserve them."

5770 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Carlos Vega [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 1:53 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Carlos Vega gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Save nature.. Also please stop destroying entire forests. We need the oxygen and animals need their homes. Build up, not out."

2979 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Carlotta Marshall [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Monday, October 29, 2012 12:22 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Carlotta Marshall gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I grew up in florida and this was all part of my childhood and I'd hate to think it wasn't part of the life of children to come"

10616 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Carmel Severson [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 3:34 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Carmel Severson gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Manatees are endangered because of our bad choices, we need to make better choices that will ensure their future."

5025 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: carmen micheletti [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 12:07 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

carmen micheletti gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Need to save our springs"

2631 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Carol Allegretti [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 11:39 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Carol Allegretti gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"We need to do whatever we can to save these very delicate creatures that are so much a part of our Florida waterways."

8807 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

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and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Carol Andrews [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:58 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Carol Andrews gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I live in Homosassa; I came here because I love nature. Do not take that away!"

4555 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: CAROL BECHT [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 5:13 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

CAROL BECHT gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"The manatees need to keep that habitat."

9400 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: carol braspennickx [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 1:53 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

carol braspennickx gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"because the govenor is so stupid and has no feelings for humans let alone animals."

2995 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: carol chapin [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 6:35 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

carol chapin gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I kayaked near Homosassa last year and loved seeing and being around the manatees."

6520 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Carol Clark [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 7:03 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Carol Clark gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"How could this not be important?"

6682 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Carol Dewing [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 9:08 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Carol Dewing gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Manatees are beautiful creatures that need protecting!!"

9742 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Carol DiSibio [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Monday, October 29, 2012 11:13 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Carol DiSibio gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"It's their world too; and we need to help preserve it for them."

10507 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: CAROL MACIK [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 12:01 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

CAROL MACIK gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Manatees are just big old softies and should be protected from harm."

7868 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Carol Schleuning [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:53 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Carol Schleuning gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Manatees are unique and wonderful to observe. They must be protected at all cost."

4483 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Carol Walton [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 7:16 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Carol Walton gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"We have to be the voices for the wildlife."

9566 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Carol Warren [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 8:49 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Carol Warren gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I grew up in FL with the Manatees and until my Mom got sick with cancer we went to Melbourne to see them frequently. They are loving and trusting and often clowns, especially the babies. We got so much joy just watching them."

7207 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees, and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Carole Berk [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:36 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Carole Berk gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"We spend a lot of time in Homosassa and the manatees are an asset that needs protection!!!"

4188 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Carole Kirkpatrick [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 4:57 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Carole Kirkpatrick gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"We canoe a lot on the Chassahowitzka, and cannot fathom how badly this is going to impact the environment. You are going to completely spoil a wonderful place."

9379 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Carole L Esley [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 12:51 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Carole L Esley gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I am firmly on the side of Manatees and any other species endangered by the callousness of humans who believe the earth is theirs to plunder. We need to have a world in ecological balance and protect every species in danger. These springs are essential to the survival of the Manatees ~ such beautiful creatures!

"

2883 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Carole Moore [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:04 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Carole Moore gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Saving wildlife is urgent."

3404 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Carole Schaffer [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Friday, October 26, 2012 8:34 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Carole Schaffer gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Save an endangered animal!"

2428 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Carole Smith [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 2:05 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Carole Smith gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"What is Beauty ?, God makes these Animals !!!"

9115 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Carolyn Biddle [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Monday, October 29, 2012 9:22 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Carolyn Biddle gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"This effects everything we do. If we don't protect our recourses, there will be nothing. "

10276 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Carolyn Desmarais [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 5:49 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Carolyn Desmarais gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Time to stand up for the Manatees that have NO VOICE! Have visited when the Manatees where wintering in the spring, with out of state family. We were BLESSED to have our boat held up for 20 mins while the docile creatures swam around doing what we humans call making LOVE!

Let's make sure we have Manatees for the future generations to see, not just to read about in a book, because they are extinct!"

6251 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees, and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Cary Christenson [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 10:43 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Cary Christenson gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I think we TAKE, TAKE, TAKE! We must slow down!"

8663 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Cassandra Curtis [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 7:49 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Cassandra Curtis gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I have visited these places and they are some of the most special spots I have visited in the world. We need to preserve the diversity or special places"

8239 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Cassandra Godfrey [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Monday, October 29, 2012 1:31 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Cassandra Godfrey gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Manatees are unable to help themselves so we need to stand up for these beautiful creatures before it is too late."

9998 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Cassy Watson [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 1:52 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Cassy Watson gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Preserving these Manatees for future generations should be important to everyone!"

2952 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: catherine christensen [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Friday, October 26, 2012 9:00 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

catherine christensen gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Their habitat relies on our protection from civilization's destructive priorities"

2467 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Catherine figieri damron [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Friday, October 26, 2012 6:16 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Catherine figieri damron gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"To save them all"

2196 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Catherine Harrelson [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Friday, October 26, 2012 5:58 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Catherine Harrelson gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Florida's freshwater springs and rivers are critical to the health and economic vitality of the state. And most are in serious decline, yet the powers that be want to continue withdrawing water at an unsustainable rate. Floridians understand the importance of water. It's time to stand up to protect it."

2155 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Catherine Kaylor-South [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 1:06 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Catherine Kaylor-South gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I Love the Manatees I want them to be around for my Grandchildren and my Great grandchildren ."

7977 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Catherine Mills [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Monday, October 29, 2012 10:54 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Catherine Mills gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I am a resident of Chassahowitzka and I feel that any reductions in the flow of the spring will adversely effect our spring and river and the wildlife around us. "

10465 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Catherine Newbill [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 8:02 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Catherine Newbill gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Manatees are amazing and deserve to survive in the native habitat. There are many ways to conserve water so less is needed. Having a green lawn not only pollutes the waterways by fertilizer run-off, a green lawn also depletes the water table. Conservation is key. "

9640 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees, and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Cathy Baker [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Monday, October 29, 2012 5:50 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Cathy Baker gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Save Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for Florida's Manatees and for future generations"

10045 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Cecelia Conley [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 10:11 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Cecelia Conley gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I Love Manatees they are so sweet and spiritual"

7544 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Chad Bower [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 12:08 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Chad Bower gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I fish SW florida (catch and release) We need to be focusing on ways to IMPROVE our environment, not destroying it."

2632 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Chad Herman [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Monday, October 29, 2012 9:01 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Chad Herman gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"It's sad we have to work to save creatures that ask only to live and simply be."

10224 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Charles Botts III [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Monday, October 29, 2012 8:40 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Charles Botts III gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I and my family live on the Withalacoochee River and I work for the Town of Yankeetown, also on the Withalacoochee River, and I am concerned that SWFWMD is moore concerned for the short- term commercial use of our resources than the long-term impact for all of the citizens and the environment we live in."

10194 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosasa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Charles Levy [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 2:03 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Charles Levy gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Protection of this amazing species is good for our souls and our economy."

9111 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Charles Pfeifer [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 11:50 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Charles Pfeifer gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I like to visit Florida to see the wildlife and nature of this unique state. I will stop going and spending my money there if Florida will not take care of this important natural asset"

7834 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

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The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Charles Savoree [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Friday, October 26, 2012 6:18 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Charles Savoree gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Because there is No excuse to endanger these Gentle Animals. Florida needs to learn to Quit playing God with the Enviroment, and let nature take it's course. You would think they would have learned from the Everglades...but No.

"

2200 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosasa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: charles scott [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 4:50 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

charles scott gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"What happens to our non-human friends will soon happen to us!"

9368 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Charles Snyder [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Friday, October 26, 2012 7:06 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Charles Snyder gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I live in Citrus county and a 15 % reduction in habitat on these rivers is unacceptable. "

2297 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Charles Wiggins [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:56 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Charles Wiggins gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"It does not take a rocket scientist to understand the ramifications involved to the wildlife. They are much more important than someone making money off of this."

4533 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: charlie mann [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 4:12 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

charlie mann gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"We alter natural habitats enough just by developing land. Leave the water ecosystems alone"

5458 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Charlie McCoy [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Friday, October 26, 2012 6:58 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Charlie McCoy gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"When will "staff" (the usual scapegoat when elected official want their way anonymously) actually use lack of natural resources as a reason to discourage growth, and save wildlife habitat to boot?"

2280 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Charlotte Fant [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Friday, October 26, 2012 5:21 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Charlotte Fant gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"There is little space left for the manatees to congregate in warm water."

2029 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Charlotte Fleming [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 5:26 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Charlotte Fleming gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Manatees are a sacred symbol of Florida, and how we treat them matters both to them and to the people of Florida. Don't let a little girl say to her grandmother, "Nana, were there ever really manatees, and did they dance and swim in this spring?""

6081 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Charlotte Wright [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 4:27 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Charlotte Wright gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Manatees are a native Florida species. They are also endangered. I would like to think we as caretakers of these beautiful animals, will do what we can to help them. It is up to us to protect them so future generations can enjoy them."

5600 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Chelsea McMillan [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Friday, October 26, 2012 10:57 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Chelsea McMillan gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I grew up with Manatees in Chassahowitzka. Say NO to reductions in flow."

2595 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Cheri Bickley [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 8:29 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Cheri Bickley gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I don't think any of God's creature's should be hurt
"

7096 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: cherlynn seroski [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 5:47 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

cherlynn seroski gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I love all of gods creatures and think there is room for all to live..."

6237 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

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FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Cheryl Long [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 4:21 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Cheryl Long gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"These gentle animals need to be saved."

5533 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

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and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Chris Erwin [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 9:04 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Chris Erwin gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"We should take care of the world we live in and those who live in it even though it might not be "cost-effective" to the greedy politicians who just seek to stuff their own pockets with cash they don't need. "

8392 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Chris Redding [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 7:53 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Chris Redding gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Manatees seem to think I'm one of the. They used to gravitate towards me at Port Canaveral. They let me pet them and swim with them. They love being scratched on their backs. They were beautiful!!! and very gentle."

6929 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Christina Reed [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 10:39 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Christina Reed gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Manatees have no way to speak up for themselves"

2813 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: christine ellis [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 1:34 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

christine ellis gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"This is a beautiful part of our world it is our duty to protect them"

9068 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: christine hayes [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 12:09 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

christine hayes gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"the manatees are suppose to be protected and especially here in citrus county. we can not do anything like reduce their water ways that can jepordize their existence."

8892 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Christine Thomas [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 4:31 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Christine Thomas gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"These gentle creatures need our help, we are the ones that have endangered them."

5638 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Christopher Reiss [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Monday, October 29, 2012 9:20 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Christopher Reiss gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"It is essential to have a healthy natural environment that supports a diversity of flora and fauna ~ for far too long human water greed has been allowed to dominate Florida's water management agencies. There are now compelling reasons to preserve/restore natural habitats, especially surface and subterranean aquatic systems The Manatees deserve our protection."

10268 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees, and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Christopher Wilson [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Monday, October 29, 2012 2:44 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Christopher Wilson gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I grew up on the Chassahowitzka and have already seen the flow greatly reduced. Enough is enough. "

10799 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Christy Fayard [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 3:59 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Christy Fayard gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Leave Mother Nature alone!!! Let HER decide!! NOT the stupid humans!Please!!"

9294 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Chuck Diehl [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 9:23 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Chuck Diehl gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"We , as the public , should do everything possible to maintain these special wildlife areas."

7356 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Cindy Bradley [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 4:19 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Cindy Bradley gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I oppose reducing the flow of water to the manatee habitat ... I really, really oppose it and I remember an elected officials record each and every time I vote."

5520 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Cindy Johnson [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 4:37 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Cindy Johnson gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Man needs to leave nature alone."

5689 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: cindy klein [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 7:57 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

cindy klein gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"chassahowitzka is my home, i have seen first hand, over many years the flow of our springs decline, not just here, but statewide. coastal springs will die first, then our interior springs will cease. ground water pumping will continue, then, when we suck it all dry, we will begin what we should have already started years ago. desalinization, it will come to that eventually anyway, why not start now. lets lead the way to the future and restore our springs, i say no to increased pumping of our most precious recourse, stop ground water pumping now. given the chance, nature will heal itself, it would be a great loss if we continue on the current path.

"

9629 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Cindy Maxwell [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 4:34 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Cindy Maxwell gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"They are part of FLorida's wild life and need to be kept there."

5665 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: cindy nichols [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 4:05 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

cindy nichols gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"because I love manatees, they deserve to be treated humanly...they need a place to go where the water is warm, we brought them here, they did not ask to come..."

5381 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: cindy stoppa [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Monday, October 29, 2012 3:34 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

cindy stoppa gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Manatees are an endangered species,,,and one of Florida icons.
Do not reduce the the flow to the HOMOSASSA and CHASSAHOWITZKA RIVERS.... "

10844 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: CJ King [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:29 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

CJ King gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Please, don't do this. You will be hurting a treasure of the Florida wildlife."

4046 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Claire Cowart [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 8:37 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Claire Cowart gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"We need to stop messing with nature and accept our role as protector instead of usurper."

7138 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

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Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Claire Ford [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Monday, October 29, 2012 11:19 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Claire Ford gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"These gentle and wonderful creatures have no one else to help them but us."

10514 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Clarence Sweet [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 9:03 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Clarence Sweet gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Because people keep F ing with nature and need to stop!!!!"

8390 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Claudia Howat [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 9:28 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Claudia Howat gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Why mess with nature, when it's going to make things worse?"

9771 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Claudia Smith [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 1:51 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Claudia Smith gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"We must preserve the species for the next generation."

2942 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Claudia Todd [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:08 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Claudia Todd gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"why in the world would you want a reduction in flow to the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka"

3505 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Clay Steinmann [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 8:29 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Clay Steinmann gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"We must save what little natural habitat thats left."

2744 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: CLYDE P ADAMS Jr [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 11:35 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

CLYDE P ADAMS Jr gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"they were here before He was."

7796 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Cody Bellamy [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 9:58 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Cody Bellamy gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Natural wildlife needs to be saved. Especially if they are going extinct."

7505 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Colette Wilt [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 8:58 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Colette Wilt gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Because I love the manatee."

8382 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Colleen Randolph [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 5:27 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Colleen Randolph gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I love the mammals!!!!"

6095 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Colleen Veard [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 11:51 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Colleen Veard gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Because preserving wildlife matters!"

8839 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: connie boppre [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 1:57 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

connie boppre gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"we MUST avoid reducing any manatee habitat !!!!"

3139 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: constance mc donnell [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 4:42 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

constance mc donnell gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Please save what few creatures we have left in Florida....please"

5737 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Cori Register [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 1:16 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Cori Register gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I love the manatees!"

7986 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Cory Mead [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 3:07 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Cory Mead gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I love all the wild life in the Florida creeks and rivers while I'm out fishing. I can't tell you how many times I have wanted to give jerks in power boat and jet skis that whip up and down the back creeks with no regard for other boaters or wildlife. Do not endanger our water system wild life with your actions. They have enough to battle with out there with stupid inconsiderate humans as it is. "

9208 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees, and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: courtney sapp [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Monday, October 29, 2012 10:43 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

courtney sapp gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Manatees need a home too!! "

10446 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Covington Campbell [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Friday, October 26, 2012 7:28 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Covington Campbell gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Manatees are an important part of our ecosystem."

2327 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: creston tanner [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:31 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

creston tanner gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"No To Reductions in Flow, these animals need our help!"

4086 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Crystal Schroeder [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 11:04 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Crystal Schroeder gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Manatees need to be safe. They are beautiful harmless creatures."

7713 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Cyndi Winton [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 1:26 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Cyndi Winton gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"ALL wildlife should be important to ALL people!!"

7996 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Cynthia Alexander [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:01 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Cynthia Alexander gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"They are our Mermaids and they are we love them here in FL and they are so gentle they swim with us all the time. "

3310 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: CYNTHIA BROWN [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:55 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

CYNTHIA BROWN gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"in this day and age, there are too many humans, and all the population does is, KEEP expanding. Time to put a stop to it and make all our efforts go towards preserving our natural resources. Duh. "

4511 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Cynthia Doyle [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Friday, October 26, 2012 5:19 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Cynthia Doyle gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I love our manatees!"

2015 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: cynthia hoch [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 6:50 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

cynthia hoch gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"i love manatees
"

6613 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Cynthia Mayes [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 7:25 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Cynthia Mayes gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I am a true native Floridian who has never lived outside of Florida at all. Native Floridians are as rare as the manatees themselves. The manatees deserve as much protection as possible."

6801 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Cynthia Spiller [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 10:21 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Cynthia Spiller gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Manatees ARE quintessential Florida Let's save what is left of this resource. Ecotourism will bring in billions of dollars but only if there is an ecosystem left to visit. "

8612 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: D Wyatt [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 5:33 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

D Wyatt gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"How could this not be important to a Floridian? The manatee is the absolute symbol of our state, and we must do everything we can to protect them and their habitat."

6147 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: D. Vermeal [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Friday, October 26, 2012 5:11 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

D. Vermeal gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Manatees are innocent.

Floridians love the manatees.

We need to protect them and watch out for them. We get as much pleasure in them as they get when they swim around and enjoying and residing in their habitat."

1963 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

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The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: DALE CRAVEN [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 9:48 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

DALE CRAVEN gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"It is every bodys responsibility to protect and preserve the wildlife in Florida."

8509 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Damaris Krois [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Friday, October 26, 2012 5:54 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Damaris Krois gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"We need to protect these gentle creatures!"

2146 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Damian Beu [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 7:22 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Damian Beu gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Being a Florida resident, myself, I value our habitat, and the lives within our ecosystem. Follow an Ego-System, and everyone and everything suffers at the expense of making oneself look good to the rest of the gang. We have enough problems as they are (on the political front, especially), and sanctuaries are few enough, as is. To eliminate our habitats, for the sake of looking good for your peers is a dick move, especially towards nature in this case.

Be wise about this. I can guarantee your kids/grandkids would want to see manatees and dolphins. If you want to stay good with them, I suggest you listen to us, and don't go through with the reduction."

6792 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Dan Howard [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 7:52 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Dan Howard gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"We must protect the endangered Manatees."

6920 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Dan Racine [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Friday, October 26, 2012 4:53 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Dan Racine gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Mother Nature KNOWS BEST. So, don't mess with Mom."

1933 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Dana House [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 5:54 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Dana House gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"My family has been here since the 1880's. I continue to watch the destruction on our ecosystem. Since politicians seem to respond to dollars, have you considered the billions that will be lost to Florida's major income source by this continued destruction?"

9454 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees, and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Dana Nielsen [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Friday, October 26, 2012 4:39 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Dana Nielsen gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"OK YOU'RE NOT ALLOWED TO TOUCH THEM... WHAT ON EARTH IS THAT LADY DOING?
(BREAKING THE LAW!!!!)"

1924 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Dana Shreve [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Monday, October 29, 2012 10:31 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Dana Shreve gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I have been protecting manatees since I was a little girl. "

10429 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Daniel Campos [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 10:52 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Daniel Campos gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Manatees are important species in our Florida waters!"

7676 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Daniel Haber [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 7:15 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Daniel Haber gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"When I was growing up, these animals were so plentiful, it was common to have a herd of them grazing on the banks while we were fishing. Now to see the population decimated to this point is just wrong. We need to make sure they have every chance possible to survive and rebound."

8197 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Daniel McNally [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 5:40 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Daniel McNally gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I grew up on the Homosassa River and the manatee where there before any of us and we should protect these innocent mammals. "

6193 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Daniel Spink [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 4:56 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Daniel Spink gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I love the natural wildlife of Florida and do not want to have it put into a position of peril by decreasing the flow of water."

5839 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life-saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worst-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: danielle colucci [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 12:04 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

danielle colucci gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"RICK SCOTT IS AN ASS!!!! I hope he is out this election day!!!! Can't wait to see that"

2857 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Daun Elias [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:44 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Daun Elias gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"We need to protect these gentle mammals and prevent from unnecessary injuries and ensure they are in a safe environment for their future."

4337 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Dave Abel [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 6:06 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Dave Abel gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I VISIT THESE SPRINGS REGULARLY AND KAYAK DOWN THE RIVERS. LEAVE THEM ALONE"

6346 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Dave Kirby [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 4:43 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Dave Kirby gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Everybody who comes to Florida wants to see the manatees. Please, don't chase them away."

5747 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: David Beahn [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:46 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

David Beahn gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I'm so tired of the GOP being so self absorbed in themselves and their cronies, It sure would be nice to see some compassion for others."

4363 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: David Carroll [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 4:39 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

David Carroll gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Rick Scott hates manatees almost as much as poor people."

5712 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: David Dehner [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 11:40 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

David Dehner gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"It's important to save the area's where the Mantee live. "

7808 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: David Jeffreys [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 8:42 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

David Jeffreys gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Manatees are gentle aquatic mammals who should not be endangered."

7175 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: David Mark [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 8:08 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

David Mark gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Care for creation is a faith commitment."

6997 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: David Ogden [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 6:22 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

David Ogden gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Because manatees are part of the Florida wildlife system and should be preserved."

6439 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: david parks [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 3:18 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

david parks gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I KNOW your decision will be based on only two things.

1. Your "PERCEIVED " political gain.
2. The amount of financial gain."

4824 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees, and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: David Raines [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 6:10 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

David Raines gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"If we don't love nature we need to get a change of Attitude! Loving nature is akin to loving ourselves and not is akin to planing our own murder."

6374 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: DAVID ROYALE [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 4:40 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

DAVID ROYALE gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"The springs must be saved."

5716 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: David Stewart [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 4:24 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

David Stewart gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"We have made great strides in saving the Manatees. Don't return to the mistakes of the past and endanger the ecosystem "

5576 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: David Vance [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 12:16 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

David Vance gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"they are beautiful!"

2862 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Dawn Sedlock [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 1:58 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Dawn Sedlock gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"The manatee is my favorite gentle giant!"

3196 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Deanna Trier [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 12:57 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Deanna Trier gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I've swam with the manatees in Homosassa springs Florida and they need to to be protected from any invironmental changes to help increase their numbers. There are very few manatees left in this area and we need to help them not hurt them!"

7963 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosasa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees, and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Debbie Coulseley [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Monday, October 29, 2012 12:27 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Debbie Coulseley gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I am tired of Our government not thinking ahead and instead thinking money all the time. We already know these animals are endangered so why would you even think of changing there living space? You also affect every other animal, Birds, fish they all live in harmony which it seems humans can't seem to understand. WE have to STOP infringing on there homes!!!"

10625 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees, and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Debbie Krolikiewicz [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 5:20 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Debbie Krolikiewicz gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Love the manatees, they need our protection."

6037 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Debbie LaFlam [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 7:01 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Debbie LaFlam gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Without the warm water the Manatees will die!"

6672 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

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and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Debbie Martin [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 6:47 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Debbie Martin gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"The Florida Manatee is an important part of our ecosystem."

8177 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: debbie senta [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:23 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

debbie senta gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I want to protect these creatures for future generations, we can live without them but who wants to? "

3919 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

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FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Debbie Taylor [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Monday, October 29, 2012 12:48 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Debbie Taylor gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Once these gentle giants are gone.....they are gone forever."

9977 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Deborah Anderson [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 7:50 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Deborah Anderson gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Manatees are a Florida treasure and should always be protected!"

6912 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Deborah Butler [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 10:30 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Deborah Butler gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Manatees are an endangered species. If they don't have an appropriate environment to live in they cannot survive. SAVE THEIR ENVIRONMENT!"

9860 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Deborah CHARLOW [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 5:23 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Deborah CHARLOW gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I don't want to implore or beg anybody about this issue. I demand they look at this situation and use some common sense. The People demand it."

6059 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Deborah Hardy [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 9:11 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Deborah Hardy gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"life
"

8417 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Deborah London [mailto:mail@change.org]
Sent: Monday, October 29, 2012 12:41 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Deborah London gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"These prehistoric animals face great challenges due to human beings boating activity - because humans want to live a boating lifestyle these animals are suffering."

10646 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Deborah Switzer [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:05 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Deborah Switzer gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"These animal have already had to met with challenges with our land developing, their instincts direct them and it's a fragile situation to preventing them to go through their cycle. We need to save these lovely creatures. i was fortunate to swim with these animals, it was a moving eperience. I would love to think that my grandchildren could also someday have the experience. When you make changes in the ecosystem, we change things that in the long run cost us more, not to mention destroy life that can't be replaced"

3417 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosasa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees, and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Debra L Gomes [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 4:17 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Debra L Gomes gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"No reduction in flow to Manatees!"

5498 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Debra Weiss [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 5:24 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Debra Weiss gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"

Any reduction in the flow of our waterways will negatively affect the marine life and the lives of all the other birds and animals in our surrounding areas."

9416 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees, and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Dee Atkins [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Friday, October 26, 2012 9:12 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Dee Atkins gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Our rivers are already in critical condition and to allow any percentage at all in flow reduction is unconscionable. SWFWMD already allows water use permits to be issued for the cost to \$50 and no metering when someone 'says' they are only going to take 50,000 gallons per day. Of course, with no metering, how do they know how much water is being taken? Crystal River is going to be the next for MFL's to be set, and if permits without metering are already being issued, it scares me to death what they will do setting MFL's. The water permit issued recently is being transported to Ocala to be sold as bottled water. Water transfer!! And no metering on how much is really being taken. SWFWMD is allowing flow reduction in rivers that are already dying or dead. Data that is being used to justify this action can be manipulated to provide the desired results. Use common sense....look at the rivers....look at the lack of aquatic plants that are conducive to the rivers.....look at the salinity in areas that used to be fresh water....look at the decrease in wild life, fish, and flora and fauna, look at the degradation of our springs. It is obvious to the lay person what it happening...surely the scientists are smart enough to see what's going on without graphs and numbers and such. If we, the people who love are waterways can see what's happening, there's no data in the world that can change what is obvious to those of us who are aware and feel the pain of watching our rivers and our wildlife die."

2487 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: dee sweet [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 10:58 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

dee sweet gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"manatees are endangered and we need to protect their springs and waterways for their survival."

8710 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Del Mucci [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Monday, October 29, 2012 9:40 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Del Mucci gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"It's time to stop encroaching on our environment because government can't manage the population growth and have it conform to being sustained by the environment. We need to take responsibility for balancing our intake and refuse with what the land will support instead of allowing big businesses to rape and plunder the land for profit at the expense of tax payers who continue to support these projects without having a vote. "

10324 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees, and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: DELORIS GUTIERREZ [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Friday, October 26, 2012 5:15 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

DELORIS GUTIERREZ gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"we need are manatees so keep the water flowing please"

1989 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Denis Hanlon [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 3:47 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Denis Hanlon gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"SAVE THE MANATEES AND OTHER SPECIES, NOT MENTION THE ECOSYSTEM ITSELF!!!"

5192 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Denise Key [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Monday, October 29, 2012 12:06 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Denise Key gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Anything that endangers our beautiful wildlife should be a NO. There is a way for all of us to be sustainable."

9953 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

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The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Denise Ragsdale [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 8:04 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Denise Ragsdale gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"The destruction of wildlife habitat in Florida must end. All creatures on this planet deserve the right to exist - not just humans! Some control of the water use by humans needs to be exerted as soon as possible. Haven't we pumped enough water to St. Petersburg and surrounding areas from outside their borders? When will the development end. Stop killing the wildlife that makes this planet worth living on."

6970 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees, and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Denise Rivera [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 10:33 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Denise Rivera gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Weve already destroyed SO many animals habitats we need to stop! "

7618 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Dennis Barron [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 3:39 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Dennis Barron gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Once these animals are gone, they're gone. Short term benefit for long term disaster. Good thinking. Shame on you. "

5097 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: dennis dye [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 4:00 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

dennis dye gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Because it is life
"

5330 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Dennis Phelan [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:28 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Dennis Phelan gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Clear, fresh water habitats are hard to find in Florida and should be preserved to protect to habitat, manatees and other species, as well as for continued recreational use."

4030 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Diana David [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Monday, October 29, 2012 3:44 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Diana David gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I LOVE manatees. They are the epitomy of all that is good in a creature. I have been very proud my parents lived in Manatee County."

10030 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: diana drake [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 10:22 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

diana drake gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Love to see them well and swimming along!"

2799 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: diana iturralde [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Monday, October 29, 2012 9:35 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

diana iturralde gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Manatees have always been a big part of my life and are of huge importance to the balance of the Florida ecosystem. I think they deserve for us to help maintain their environment."

10307 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Diana Law [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Friday, October 26, 2012 9:07 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Diana Law gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I am a former FL resident and my family still lives there. I would like to see the natural places protected for future generations."

2476 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Diana Lineback [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Monday, October 29, 2012 12:33 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Diana Lineback gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"In Area we have taken to much land and water away from aniamals. We need to clean up areas that are abandon and buld there and not go for wetlands to build."

10635 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosasa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

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The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Diana Wolak [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 3:44 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Diana Wolak gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Save the manatees!"

5161 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: diane beechner [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 12:25 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

diane beechner gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I believe strongly in preserving and providing the habitats of our native Florida species."

8927 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Diane Dequevedo [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 10:54 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Diane Dequevedo gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"They are gentle; they are endangered. I don't know if they are unique to Florida, but they are certainly a tourist draw."

9893 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Diane Lewis [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Friday, October 26, 2012 5:48 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Diane Lewis gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I am a 5th generation FL native. I have seen too much of my precious state destroyed, it needs to be stopped. I am also an avid kayaker and amateur photographer and enjoy combining both of these activities. If they continue to reduce flows I will not be able to enjoy kayaking on some of my local rivers."

2132 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees, and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Diane Schroeder [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Friday, October 26, 2012 5:40 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Diane Schroeder gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"WE need to be smart and quite destroying what is good for us. Nature only has us to help ."

2099 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

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The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Diane Zodda [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Friday, October 26, 2012 6:21 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Diane Zodda gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Manatees are wonderful, and love to go down to the springs to watch them"

2206 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Diann Bimmerle [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:15 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Diann Bimmerle gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Because they don't hurt the environment only the boaters hurt them. "

3712 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: dianna XXX [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 7:09 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

dianna XXX gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"they are so important to save. this is only place we find manatees. protect protect protect "

6722 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Dick Costello [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 2:13 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Dick Costello gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"The manatee is more important than any other animal in Florida. It is a symbol of what is Florida's unique place in the world.
"

8039 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Dietmar Fuchs [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Monday, October 29, 2012 7:09 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Dietmar Fuchs gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"As a resident of Florida, as a friend of this earth and of the environment I strongly condemn your efforts to further damage Florida's unique gifts from God, namely its springs. May God who made mankind stewards over His creation be your judge."

10084 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Dillon Mooney [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 12:45 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Dillon Mooney gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"life "

7945 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Dolores Hesselbrock [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 7:45 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Dolores Hesselbrock gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I care about all living things on this planet and I believe they have a right to live out their lives as nature intends. We have options and can change our habits to accomodate them whereas they can live only as their species and bodies allow."

9606 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees, and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Dominique Vendetta [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 10:18 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Dominique Vendetta gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Save the animals!!!"

7562 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Don GREIWE [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Monday, October 29, 2012 2:42 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Don GREIWE gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Great part of Florida's natural history. Preservation a must"

10794 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Don Hanover [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 6:36 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Don Hanover gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Old Florida needs to be saved and it runs on water, too.

"

6524 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Don Jackson [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Monday, October 29, 2012 12:41 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Don Jackson gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"This is a Florida animal and should be saved at all costs!"

9974 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Don Love [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 5:33 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Don Love gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Enough is enough."

9430 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: DON RICHERT [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 3:57 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

DON RICHERT gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Love the manatees!"

5303 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Dona Gould [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 12:13 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Dona Gould gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Why do they want to reduce the flow? For business? For farming? It really seems more important than either of those to protect our waterways natural flow and stop destroying our habitat. All the little things are already adding up and showing how quickly we are destroying the beautiful world we are supposed to be protecting. Quality of life is more important than money."

7886 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Donna Carroll [mailto:mail@change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:01 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Donna Carroll gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Manatees are such gentle and innocent mammals. They need our protection and assistance whenever possible! Shame on Gov Scott!!!!!"

3303 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Donna Fisher [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 3:41 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Donna Fisher gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"love the animals"

5129 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Donna Greene [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:11 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Donna Greene gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"These animals need a safe habitat with room to thrive."

3593 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Donna Herriman [mailto:mail@change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 9:51 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Donna Herriman gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Because manatees are such gentle creatures that they don't deserve this!!!"

7476 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Donna J Watson [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 8:47 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Donna J Watson gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I spend a lot of time on the river and want to preserve it"

9706 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Donna Marcialis [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 5:10 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Donna Marcialis gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Manatees are a natural part of Florida; how much of our State are we willing to sacrificer to highways and shopping malls?"

5958 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosasa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Donna Mavity [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 12:21 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Donna Mavity gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I don't believe in human progress destroying wildlife. Why are humans more important than animals? We are supposed to be the caretakers of the earth and its inhabitants. Not destroyers"

8922 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: donna otero [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 8:30 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

donna otero gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"The manatees r important to me, Gov Scott should be ashamed of himself"

7107 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: donna wholihan [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 8:31 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

donna wholihan gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Wildlife is just as important as mankind and if the two are not supported together, neither one thrives."

8316 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Doris Aquije [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:56 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Doris Aquije gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Amo a los animales, pobrecitos, están a merced del hombre."

4535 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Doris Cox [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 5:44 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Doris Cox gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"There is not much of the wild Florida left, what we have we must protect."

6216 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Doris Osburn [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 10:10 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Doris Osburn gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"One of the primary reasons we moved to this area was because of the wonderful rivers here. We fish, paddle and enjoy these waters tremendously and feel that every effort should be made towards restoration, and that water flow reduction is not consistent with that goal."

8584 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees, and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Dorothy Segel [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 2:17 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Dorothy Segel gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I always loved those sea cows. "

9130 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Dorrie Kanofsky [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:00 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Dorrie Kanofsky gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Our manatees are sacred..in Florida we should be doing everything possible to help them thrive!"

3253 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Dory Carone Suttle [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 10:03 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Dory Carone Suttle gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Manatees are our neighbors, and an important part of our ecosystem."

8560 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Dot Riffel [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:12 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Dot Riffel gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"For all the reasons stated in the letter. We need the companionship of God's creatures"

3625 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Doug Coleman [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Friday, October 26, 2012 10:35 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Doug Coleman gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Aside from recreational use and natural beauty, these springs depletion signal an unsustainable drawdown of the aquifer...a very bad scenario. "

2574 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Dr Corey Wolff [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 9:08 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Dr Corey Wolff gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Because Florida's manatees are a vitally important part of our State's unique heritage as well as a beautiful, gentle mammal that deserves protection."

8406 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Drew Martin [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 5:10 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Drew Martin gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"We need to protect these rivers."

5963 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Eddie Stamborski [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 10:02 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Eddie Stamborski gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters. Florida's Gulf waters get too cold for Manatees during winter months, and manatees unable to find thermal refuge in coastal springs like Chassahowitzka and Homosassa would certainly perish."

7516 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees, and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Eduardo Rubiera [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 4:32 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Eduardo Rubiera gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Frankly, you never know if the science behind these assertions are correct or not, but I do endorse the thinking of not messing with the natural flow of springs, including 'sucking' water to fill plastic bottles to sell."

5649 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Edward Anderson [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 6:58 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Edward Anderson gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Manatees are cool, and endangered"

6657 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Edward Norcross [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Monday, October 29, 2012 6:38 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Edward Norcross gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"The water in the springs stays warm enough in the winter to give the manatees a place to go where there is fresh water and vegetation"

10068 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Edward Temple [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 6:45 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Edward Temple gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"These gentle mammals are a joy to behold"

9517 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Eileen Hilliard [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 6:32 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Eileen Hilliard gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Because every life has a value."

8163 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Eileen Kimsey [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 5:31 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Eileen Kimsey gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"These springs are refuge for imperiled and endangered species of flora and fauna. They MUST NOT reduce the flow of fresh water. There will be loss of life of plants and animals. Please don't reduce the water flow."

6129 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Eileen Lowe [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 5:37 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Eileen Lowe gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Because they're manatees!"

6176 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Eilene Glick [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Friday, October 26, 2012 6:10 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Eilene Glick gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Eilene A. Glick "

2180 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Elaine Burr [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 8:23 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Elaine Burr gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Fishing"

7067 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Elena Santiago [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Monday, October 29, 2012 12:01 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Elena Santiago gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Manatees (and many others) rely on the spring runs and fresh water "

10585 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Elenora Sabin [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Friday, October 26, 2012 8:49 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Elenora Sabin gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"As a Floridian living on the Gulf Coast I love to see manatees. These endangered sea mammals deserve more protection, not further endangerment."

2449 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Elisabeth Perras [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 7:51 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Elisabeth Perras gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"For the late ann Thomas , my mentor.For our song Let the rivers run Free and for the Manatees, the real mermaids our grandchildren and their children need to see....
"

6913 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees, and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Elizabeth Balbin [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Friday, October 26, 2012 10:21 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Elizabeth Balbin gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"FLorida manatees are one of the most beautiful and gentle creatures. We should do everything in our power to protect them and their environment. "

2567 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Elizabeth Griffith [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 5:33 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Elizabeth Griffith gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I want my grandchildren to experience the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa, and their wildlife, healthy and beautiful."

6151 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Elizabeth Jenkins [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 7:08 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Elizabeth Jenkins gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"all animals"

6713 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Elizabeth Smyth [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Friday, October 26, 2012 5:08 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Elizabeth Smyth gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I live off Dixie Bay at the Islands and even here we see the results of water quality and supply. Oten there are manatee here mating, otters and dolphins. Don't let them ruin our waters."

1955 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosasa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees, and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Elizabeth Steib [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 8:21 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Elizabeth Steib gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I support preserving the habitats that wildlife, especially those which are endangered depend. We cannot allow the Florida manatee to become another tragic statistic in this state."

9669 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Ellen Bukstel [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:00 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Ellen Bukstel gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Save Florida Wildlife"

3261 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Ellen Dalbo [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 3:41 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Ellen Dalbo gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I live in Florida. It would be nice if Gov. Scott actually did the right thing for once."

5131 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Ellen Klee [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 3:58 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Ellen Klee gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Reducing the water flow of our rivers and springs will increase influx of saltwater intrusion to our coastal areas and stagnate our waterways with runoff contaminants."

9290 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Ellen Koven [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:23 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Ellen Koven gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I have lived in Florida for 34 years and my family and I have enjoyed the beauty of springs like Blue Spring, Gemini Spring, DeLeon Springs, Rock Springs, etc. We love to watch the gentle sea cows each year as they make their way back to the Blue Spring run. They cannot protect themselves; please protect them and Florida's fragile ecosystem."

3936 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Ellen Norbom [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 5:39 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Ellen Norbom gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Because the manatees are endangered and are a very special anima."

6187 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Ellen Saunders [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 1:30 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Ellen Saunders gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I own property in Seabring Florida and have seen the devastation caused to the wild life. Please protect the environment."

2667 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Elsie Miranda [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 6:30 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Elsie Miranda gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Governor-- have a conscience. The world is so much bigger than ourselves, and manatees remind us of that by their very history."

6491 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Elwyn Green [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 5:16 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Elwyn Green gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"As a native of South Florida I have grown up with the manatees and watched as careless boaters and other enemies have hurt their population severely. Every effort to help these slow docile creatures is a blessing within itself."

9406 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees, and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Emily DeLattre [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 5:25 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Emily DeLattre gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Because I grew up in Florida and love the manatees and natural rivers there. Always! "

8133 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Emily Hoon [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 6:50 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Emily Hoon gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Manatees are one of the first attractions to Florida for me. Aside from wanting to save the species, I want others to be attracted to our state to see them."

6612 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

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The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Emily Nice [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 7:40 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Emily Nice gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Florida's wildlife should be protected because it preserves our economy of tourism and mostly, it's the right thing to do."

6865 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Eric Dietrich [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 4:05 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Eric Dietrich gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Manatees are important to eco system of Florida."

5384 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Eric Durham [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Friday, October 26, 2012 5:33 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Eric Durham gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"No further reductions should be allowed. These spring fed fresh water ecosystems need to be protected from further degradation. "

2079 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: erica nord [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Monday, October 29, 2012 12:01 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

erica nord gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Manatees are beautiful endangered species

"

10586 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Erin Newbeck [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:04 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Erin Newbeck gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I live near the indian river, and i see them all the time. Animals need places to live just like we do. Please don't destroy their homes."

3401 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Ethian Hugo Carvajal [mailto:mail@change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 10:12 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Ethian Hugo Carvajal gave the following reason for signing this petition:

["etiennehugo@yahoo.com"](mailto:etiennehugo@yahoo.com)

7550 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: EVA CORDOVA [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Monday, October 29, 2012 9:20 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

EVA CORDOVA gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I love manatees!"

10272 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Evelyn Ruiz [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Monday, October 29, 2012 8:24 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Evelyn Ruiz gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Love to save the manatees."

10170 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Faith Ralston [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 3:32 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Faith Ralston gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Our waterways is what makes US special, and to share the waters is esential to our own survival.

"

4997 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosasa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees, and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Fawn Scher [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Friday, October 26, 2012 10:58 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Fawn Scher gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I lived in Fl my whole life and i love manatees, they deserve respect"

2597 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Frances Larson [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 7:23 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Frances Larson gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Natures beauty and water clarity"

9576 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: francine slack [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Friday, October 26, 2012 5:29 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

francine slack gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"We need to save our springs and the wildlife which depends upon it because our health and our state's economy are prime beneficiaries as well."

2067 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: francis butera [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 2:55 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

francis butera gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Minimum Flow levels were set to protect the biological health for entire ecosystems. Disregarding these levels will cause a permanent and acute negative reduction in the biological health and balance of these systems. "

8073 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Frank Espinoza [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:48 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Frank Espinoza gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"We need Manatees for the future generation to experience them."

4403 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: frank fojtik [mailto:frank@change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 3:47 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

frank fojtik gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"because rick scott is a weeniehead"

5188 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Frank Kopczynski [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Friday, October 26, 2012 5:44 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Frank Kopczynski gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I would like to leave at least one or two of the things I love about Florida for my grandchildren"

2116 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Frank Reyes [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:31 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Frank Reyes gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"because i was born dade county fl"

4084 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: frank slate [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 6:43 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

frank slate gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"you know PINK slip has destroyed enough in the state.. he needs to keep his grubby hands off or stop this operation completely"

6568 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Frank Staff [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 3:10 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Frank Staff gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Frank Staff"

9215 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Fred Price [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Friday, October 26, 2012 8:23 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Fred Price gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"to save the manatee's"

2417 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Gabe Freund [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 10:31 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Gabe Freund gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I am a Floridian that cares for the environment."

9862 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: gabe miller [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 3:07 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

gabe miller gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Because it disgusts me that my governor wouldn't take the necessary steps to help protect an endangered species. If this goes through he will have forever lost my vote."

4688 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Gaby Melzer [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Friday, October 26, 2012 6:52 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Gaby Melzer gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Manatees are such gentle, amazing creatures - Please don't cause them to freeze to death in the Winter - they need to be able to seek refuge from the cold in the springs! Manatees already have so much working against them - I urge you not to add another thing to the list!"

2266 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees, and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Gail Currie [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 8:39 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Gail Currie gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"These waterways are the habitat to numerous wildlife, waterlife, trees, flowers, etc. To decrease the flow will certainly kill off a lot of these Federally Endangered Species and ruin Florida's Outstanding Waterways."

8340 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

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The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Gail Hickman [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 7:43 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Gail Hickman gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I love our wildlife. Manatees are special to the State of Florida. I'm not happy with the idea the governor of the state, would Not protect these special animals. Please avoid the reduction of flow to these rivers. "

6881 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Gail Knight [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:45 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Gail Knight gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"The manatees are already in trouble please don't allow them to be endangered further. Do no reduce the water flow to their habitat."

4347 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

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and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Gail Nadeau [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Friday, October 26, 2012 6:04 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Gail Nadeau gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I live in Florida & think that people are taking to much of essential habitats away from wonderful animals like the Manatees & Want them to be here for future generations so it is important to preserve & help them in little ways like this. "

2168 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

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Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Gale Lee [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 8:55 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Gale Lee gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Manatees are a Florida treasure. Let's do our best to protect them!"

7236 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Garry W. Spencer [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 5:08 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Garry W. Spencer gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Less flow means greater concentration of pollution."

5945 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Gary Henderson [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 3:57 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Gary Henderson gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"The entire state of Florida is under siege from developers. These remaining wild places that provide food, water and shelter for Florida's indigenous wildlife need to be preserved, or we are ALL diminished. "

5307 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Gayle Sheets [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 6:55 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Gayle Sheets gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"The Homosassa and Chassowitzka are a natural treasure and must be saved. "

8182 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: George Harbin [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 12:01 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

George Harbin gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I live nearby and use them frequently. I refuse to let our river flows be reduced for commercial and other than residential and local business uses"

2855 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: GEORGE LEONI [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:51 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

GEORGE LEONI gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"all animals, as well as manatees should have the right to live

"

4444 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: George Mackison [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 1:56 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

George Mackison gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"We must all strive to do everything we can to preserve all the diverse species that still remain on this earth."

3091 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: George Ruman [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 1:00 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

George Ruman gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Important native mamal - a resource that must be preserved"

7966 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: GEORGIA KAKAROUKAS [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Friday, October 26, 2012 6:35 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

GEORGIA KAKAROUKAS gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Manatees are a part of Florida's natural environment and a thing of beauty. Why do people like Rick Scott want to destroy our national treasures? Probably to put more money in his pocket. Stop thinking about yourself and your lobbyist and start thinking about our state. Cannot wait to vote you out of office."

2232 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees, and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Gerald Green [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Friday, October 26, 2012 7:45 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Gerald Green gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Save the manatees and our springs. Stop the cheap sale of our spring waters to commercial bottles. "

2360 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Gerald Stanley [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 8:43 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Gerald Stanley gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I own property on Crawford Creek that empties into the Chassahowitzka River. The degradation of the trees along Crawford Creek is terrible and anymore reduction in the flow of fresh water form the springs will only increase the degradation of our coastal rivers and creeks."

9702 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees, and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Geraldine Carboni [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 2:54 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Geraldine Carboni gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I am both a resident of NYC and Florida. Until about 20 years ago, I didn't even know manatees existed. We need to preserve these "gentle giants" for our grandchildren's grandchildren."

9196 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Geraldine Remington [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 3:31 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Geraldine Remington gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Manatees are beautiful, gentle, and endangered living creatures - shame on you for even considering with reductions in flow! Please use your power to SAVE these creatures, not to make them extinct!"

4977 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

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and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Gerri DiBartolo [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 10:16 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Gerri DiBartolo gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"As a nature lover, I am asking that veyou do whatever it takes to save the manatees' habitat."

8601 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Gilbert Curry [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 4:49 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Gilbert Curry gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"As a lifelong citizen of the State of Florida I have enjoyed the beauty, flora, and wildlife of both the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers and their estuary system since I was a child. I consider the health of these ecosystems as part of my natural heritage and feel strongly that it is something that should be passed intact to future generations."

5783 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees, and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Gilbert Hall [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 3:29 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Gilbert Hall gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Manatees need a safe place with clean warm water to survive. Let us stop helping the big corporations who steal our water supply to provide their crops, cattle cheap water while helping to make the Manatees extinct. It is time to put a STOP to all of this. Big corporation governor Scott only has the interests of the big money like himself in mind - not the environment or the people who live here."

4956 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees, and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Gina Caracci [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 6:51 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Gina Caracci gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"The manatees are endangered as it is, reducing their habitat will NOT help the situation. Im guessing politics doesnt care much about anything other than their bottom line though. Floridas waterways are shrinking as it is so THEY must be preserved before the state is dry. STOP ALLOWING GREED TO DESTROY EVERYTHING!"

6617 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Ginger Thompson [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Monday, October 29, 2012 1:21 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Ginger Thompson gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"The manatees need a place to stay warm in the winter. It's not our right to take their home!"

10697 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: giselle fetigan [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 4:53 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

giselle fetigan gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"It is important to maintain a habitat for our florida manatees. These beautiful creatures need a place to live and breed to assure their existence for future generations"

5822 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Gloria Morotti [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 1:53 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Gloria Morotti gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Our manatees are so precious. "

2979 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Grace McCullohs [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 6:50 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Grace McCullohs gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"manatees are already threatened by human actions and they have nowhere else to go
"

6613 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Grant Campbell [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 11:56 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Grant Campbell gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Florida's manatee population is already stressed. We should be cleaning our waters and giving them more."

7858 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

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and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Greg holemanGregHoleman [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Friday, October 26, 2012 7:01 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Greg holemanGregHoleman gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I live here"

2284 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: gregory smith [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 6:16 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

gregory smith gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"all life is precious but the slower ones need a better break."

9483 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Guillermo Secola [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 5:04 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Guillermo Secola gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"They are pretty animals and help the environment, and just because they deserve to live they are protected animals and is our responsibility."

5910 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Gwen Dunlop [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 9:33 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Gwen Dunlop gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"We need to protect our environment AND our manatees!"

7394 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Harriet Toretzky [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 1:55 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Harriet Toretzky gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I feel that all animals that live in the ocean sea and rivers need to be protected"

3047 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Hawk Pat [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Monday, October 29, 2012 6:37 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Hawk Pat gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Why should we be the last generation to see Florida Manatees of clear flowing springs?"

10067 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Heather Bell [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 7:09 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Heather Bell gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Because we are mismanaging our water and manatees shouldn't suffer."

8192 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Heather Campbell [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Friday, October 26, 2012 9:42 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Heather Campbell gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Rick Scott has no regard for the environment what-so-ever. Good luck with this petition against his anti-green administration. "

2530 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Heather Donnelly [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Friday, October 26, 2012 5:23 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Heather Donnelly gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Here's the thing: It's wrong to put the manatee on a license plate and then not protect it's habitat. You shouldn't get to be proud of a creature you are imperiling with extinction."

2037 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Heather Hintz [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 1:20 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Heather Hintz gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Manatees are special and need help"

7992 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Heidi King [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 5:31 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Heidi King gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I believe that sustainability is a balance between nature and people, and I believe the board can make savvy decisions that reflect concern for both. "

6132 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

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and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Helen Ciampi [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:59 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Helen Ciampi gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"We need to keep our waterways the way they were meant to be."

4574 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Helen Cuan [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Friday, October 26, 2012 7:09 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Helen Cuan gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"We need to protect species that are in danger. As a result, they need of fresh water habitats for their continued survival. "

2298 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Helen Mertz [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:32 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Helen Mertz gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"The manatee is an integral part of Florida's Eco system. We should do all we can to protect them."

4106 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Helen Powers [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 3:25 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Helen Powers gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"As a Florida native, I am saddened by the lack of respect that Rick Scott, big business and big developers have for the wildlife and environment here in Florida. The environment here is what makes Florida Paradise!"

4913 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Helene Donovan [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 12:53 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Helene Donovan gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I cannot even believe that there would be a need for a petition to save Florida's Gentle Giants. These mammals bring millions of tourism dollars to the state, are an endangered species and we have to petition our elected governor to protect their habitat? Is he crazy, dumb, or simply in the pockets of those who benefit? If someone can provide me with any other rational explanation, I will listen. However, this should not even be up for discussion. NO REDUCTIONS IN FLOW!!!!!"

7960 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees, and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: herb shelton [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 4:44 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

herb shelton gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Scott, leave it alone!"

5755 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Hilary Kacser [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 12:39 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Hilary Kacser gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Manatees are endangered. Reducing fresh water flow to the two spring-fed rivers will let the water get too cold for the manatees and too brackish for fresh water species to survive.

Numerous rare and imperiled species of plants and animals -- from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to Southeastern Fresh Water Mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, and Manatees (and many, many more) -- rely for survival on the spring runs and fresh water habitats of the greater Chassahowitzka-Homosassa spring-fed Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and associated fresh water forested wetlands.

Do not further "degrade" the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems. Do not risk "extirpating" forever these spring-fed fresh water ecosystems by increased salt water intrusion. "

7935 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees, and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Holly Farish-Hunt [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 9:50 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Holly Farish-Hunt gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"These beautiful creatures are an integral part of my FL environment and contribute to the beauty and balance of nature. Please do all you can to protect them as they are gentle creatures."

7470 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Hope Gormandy [mailto:mail@change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 4:29 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Hope Gormandy gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"It's important to our biodiversity and our ecological systems to keep Manatees safe and in their habitats."

5619 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Ian Jarrett [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 10:51 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Ian Jarrett gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"We need to reduce our use of water, not increase supply. manatees are just one species that suffer as we mess with the delicate balance of South Florida water systems."

7674 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: ida mackey [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 11:52 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

ida mackey gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Because manatees are God's most beautiful creatures"

7839 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: ileana pieze [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 3:39 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

ileana pieze gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"is our wildlife!we have to do as much as we can! lovely animal :)"

5095 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Ingrid Hinkemann [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 11:48 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Ingrid Hinkemann gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"keep all wildlife safe, ban hunting altogether of any species"

8834 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Irene Pilinger [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Friday, October 26, 2012 10:07 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Irene Pilinger gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I love manatees and go to visit the parks to see them every winter."

2556 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Irene Pousette [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:20 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Irene Pousette gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"All animals are important to me. And manatees are beautiful creatures."

3857 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Iris Meyer [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 3:51 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Iris Meyer gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"We need to protect and respect our wildlife,once they are gone, we are next."

5253 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Irma Quiroz [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 7:12 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Irma Quiroz gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"when I came to USA, back in the 72's..I was so delighted for the view of such a wonderful animals. and like this I want my grand children be able to see the wonders of Florida..."

8195 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Isabella Fernandez [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 6:05 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Isabella Fernandez gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Manatees are beautiful and peaceful creatures that have a right to their homes and well being. Humans do not have the right to rob them of this. "

6332 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Isabella Welsh [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 10:13 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Isabella Welsh gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Manatees are such wonderful animals. They are capable of teaching destructive humans great lessons. Gentle, paced, and beautiful, the fact that they are at risk of extinction is sickening. Sea cows are just absolutely wonderful."

9834 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Ivan Mago [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 8:48 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Ivan Mago gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Wild life is part of our planet's ecosystem. They all deserve our respect and protection"

9707 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: J Bell [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Friday, October 26, 2012 8:49 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

J Bell gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Manatees deserve our protections... As it is humans that made them endangered and destroyed their homes!"

2450 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: J. L. Blinne [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 3:01 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

J. L. Blinne gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Manatees are natural dwellers in our Florida waters and should be protected no matter what."

4612 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Jack Rogers [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:14 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Jack Rogers gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"In the last decades we have seen continued degradation of our precious springs across Florida. We need to stop the damage now. I ask that you act now to preserve these most precious resources before they are lost. "

3672 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Jack Schofield [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 12:25 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Jack Schofield gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Maintaining existing flows is important to the economy of Florida. While populations will increase in the state the reduction of our flow levels of our rivers and springs to provide water resources is not an effective way to provide for future growth. In fact it will affect the areas in the state that provide an opportunity to view Florida in its natural state.

Living on the Withlacoochee River in Yankeetown for the first time since I moved here we had salt water intrusion at our property. Maintaining current flow levels is a must.

Jack Schofield

"

8928 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: jacki Gilson [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 1:57 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

jacki Gilson gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"The manatees need all the help we can give them, NOT more challenges to overcome!"

3160 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Jacki Wilmot [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 8:40 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Jacki Wilmot gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"love manatees and all wildlife
"

8344 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Jackie Williams [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 8:16 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Jackie Williams gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"NO, NO, NO. PLEASE SIGN!"

9659 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Jacob Magnuson [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 3:40 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Jacob Magnuson gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I like manatees."

5107 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: jacqueline berghorn [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:51 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

jacqueline berghorn gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"WE ALL NEED FRESH WATER TO DRINK!"

4441 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Jacqueline Casey [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 9:19 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Jacqueline Casey gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"This is important to me because sea creatures are an irreplaceable part of the state's beauty. Lacking these wondrous creatures is simply unacceptable!"

9753 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Jacqueline Day [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 11:04 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Jacqueline Day gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"gentle giants. "

8724 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Jacqueline Georgi [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Friday, October 26, 2012 6:38 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Jacqueline Georgi gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"As a resident of Florida, it is of great importance to me that we protect the natural environment of the state as well as the wild life. The manatees are a beautiful part of Florida."

2241 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Jacqueline Jeffries [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 9:48 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Jacqueline Jeffries gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"It's my river."

8511 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Jacqueline Mathis [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 1:08 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Jacqueline Mathis gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I have been going to the springs since I was a little girl, always say "you can't experience Florida until you've been to the springs." Our manatees are a Florida asset and should be protected at any cost."

9022 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: jacquelyn hubbard [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 7:40 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

jacquelyn hubbard gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I am a kayaker and love the outdoors. 15% reduction is unacceptable."

9599 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Jacquelyn Rein [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Monday, October 29, 2012 8:03 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Jacquelyn Rein gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Please do not further endanger the manatees by increasing the river flow. Please save our natural resources & manatees for future generations."

10133 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Jacqui Thomas [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 1:03 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Jacqui Thomas gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"If we do not protect God's creations, then what good are we to God>"

2661 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Jada Vanpelt [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 9:05 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Jada Vanpelt gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Because I live there"

8399 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Jaime Morales [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 1:16 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Jaime Morales gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Everything about nature is very important to me."

9037 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: James Branaman [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Friday, October 26, 2012 5:16 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

James Branaman gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"This could allow salt water intrusion and affect many plants and animals in the ecosystem. "

1996 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: James Clark [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Monday, October 29, 2012 2:02 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

James Clark gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Why would anyone not support maintaining natural habitat for an endangered species when there is no negative impact for humans by doing so...."

10746 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: James Doud [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 9:50 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

James Doud gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"We need to do all we can to save the manatees!"

7472 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: James Downey [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 8:37 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

James Downey gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"All life, not just human life, has value on Earth. We are custodians of something unique and precious in this universe."

8338 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: James Igler [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 11:06 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

James Igler gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"The health of the environment...this place we call home... is far more important then anything else.... with out it...what do we have... a concrete jungle.... NO THANK YOU!!!! Please do NOT allow this reduction to happen"

8727 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: james monroe [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 3:07 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

james monroe gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Am tired of humans stealing and degrading the habitats of God's beautiful creatures, usually for greedy motives."

4686 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: JAMES N BRICAULT [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:09 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

JAMES N BRICAULT gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Life should come before fuel. All forms of life."

3542 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

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The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: James Norman [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 7:09 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

James Norman gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"We already have barnacle's on our dock. The saltwater is already intruding where it should only be fresh water."

6722 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: James Sasser [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 7:33 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

James Sasser gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Helps environment and wildlife."

9591 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: James Stewart [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Monday, October 29, 2012 12:50 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

James Stewart gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I am both a kayaker and a drinker of this water. It needs protected!"

10658 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: james vessell [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 4:57 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

james vessell gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"as the humans in this world continue to get reckless with out any regards. to our children .there is nothing left but meanness towards each other"

5855 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: James Yarwood [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 11:34 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

James Yarwood gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Manatee's bring many out of state tourists to these areas.
Manatee's hurt no one, and their needed enviroment should not be compremized."

2842 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Jamie Beineke [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 3:38 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Jamie Beineke gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"We need to save our wild life areas that are still natural for our future generations"

5079 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Jamie Sandstedt [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Friday, October 26, 2012 5:11 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Jamie Sandstedt gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"They are beautiful, peaceful creatures that need and deserve to have their natural habitat."

1961 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Jan Davison [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 8:21 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Jan Davison gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I love the manatees and they need to be protected."

7054 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Janalee F Garwood [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 4:23 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Janalee F Garwood gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I'm interested in the survival of the manatee and very tired of seeing Florida decisions made on behalf of big business and political "friends""

5558 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Jane Ciesielski [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Friday, October 26, 2012 10:38 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Jane Ciesielski gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"and say yes to reduced speed of boats to protect the manatees."

2576 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Jane McKinney [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:00 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Jane McKinney gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"This is their home and many will die without it!!"

3250 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Janet Baksh [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 5:46 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Janet Baksh gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Manatees are very sensitive creatures, and they're having enough trouble surviving without people deliberately altering their habitat!!"

6234 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Janet Croft [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 1:09 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Janet Croft gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"These are unique creature that should be preserved as long as possible. Also natures wonders should not be messed with.. "

9027 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Janet Durgen [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Monday, October 29, 2012 11:37 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Janet Durgen gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I want to protect the Florida wildlife we now have and MAY have in the future by leaving the natural ecosystem ALONE!!! We must find other intelligent means to provide for our needs. Our earth is exhausted and cannot withstand much more of our lack of foresight and respect!"

10546 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: janet gardner [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 8:16 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

janet gardner gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I love the Manatees!!!"

7037 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Janet Hassele [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Friday, October 26, 2012 6:37 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Janet Hassele gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"The Manatees can't speak for themselves so it's up to us to be their voice."

2235 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Janet Penrose [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 5:31 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Janet Penrose gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"The Chassahowitzka River is down significantly from just a few years ago. It needs to be restored and protected before it is too late."

9428 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Janet Rectenwald [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:41 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Janet Rectenwald gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I believe all of nature should be respected and cared for."

4270 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Janice Brooks [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 6:08 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Janice Brooks gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"The manatees are worth a lot more to the Florida tourism economy in the long term, so they need to have their habitat protected, not further degraded."

6354 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Janice LeBlanc [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 3:02 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Janice LeBlanc gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"The cruelty to animals has got to stop."

9202 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Janice McSween [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 9:30 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Janice McSween gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Haven't we destroyed enough of Florida's wilds and wildlife? "

7386 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Janice Montalto [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 10:09 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Janice Montalto gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Leave these gentle giants homes alone. They need protection."

8582 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Janice Smith [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 4:24 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Janice Smith gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I want the manatees around for generations to come!"

5577 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Janice Stralow [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Monday, October 29, 2012 6:21 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Janice Stralow gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"We have to preserve our wildlife not only so future generations can enjoy sharing what nature has to offer in our very unique Florida, but also to preserve our planet. We cannot continue to degrade the balance of nature thru man made efforts and expect the planet to be here for future generations. "

10060 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees, and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: JaQuanda Perry [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Monday, October 29, 2012 9:13 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

JaQuanda Perry gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I Want My Kids Too Be Able Too See These Animals That People Are Trying Too Kill Off"

10246 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Jared Kimble [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 10:29 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Jared Kimble gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"We have to practice love for all creatures and life. We have to learn to respect the environment better than we have in the past."

2806 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Jarell Fox [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 2:36 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Jarell Fox gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Because I LOVE seacows (manatees)."

9160 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Jaren Vitale [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 3:24 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Jaren Vitale gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Manatees are a key connection and honored residents. We have no right to limit their quality of life or terminate their life. "

4890 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Jasmine Grandcourt [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 2:35 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Jasmine Grandcourt gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"protection animal and heart"

8060 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Jaxs Powell [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Friday, October 26, 2012 5:39 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Jaxs Powell gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Manatees are an endangered species and therefore are protected. Reducing the fresh water flow destroys their home and the homes of many other wildlife. It is irresponsible and a crime against earth, animals and humans. "

2097 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

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The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Jay Allbritton [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:17 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Jay Allbritton gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Manatees rule! Save them now! "

3772 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Jean Alford [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 7:02 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Jean Alford gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"We have a responsibility to protect Florida wildlife."

6677 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Jean Holbrook [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Monday, October 29, 2012 8:53 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Jean Holbrook gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I fear for the future of our wildlife, our clean water, and our coastal ecology. We cannot continue to destroy these resources."

10216 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: jeanette mayer [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 9:21 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

jeanette mayer gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"if we don't save in the wild, they may go the way of the passenger pigeon EXTINCT !!!!"

9756 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Jeanette Nicotra [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 10:36 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Jeanette Nicotra gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"We should do whatever possible to ensure the safety and preservation of our wildlife."

9867 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Jeani Johnson [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 9:18 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Jeani Johnson gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"People must STOP KILLING our beloved animals & fowl & sea life - LIVE and LET LIVE! STOP KILLING!

What has happened to the people in this killing world! All they want to do is to over populate the world with PEOPLE and kill off all of our wild life! STOP PBEING HOGS - SHARE THIS WORLD WITH ANIMALS, WE NEED THEM!!"

7337 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: jeanne hopwood [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 10:04 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

jeanne hopwood gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"We need to save these animals"

8567 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Jeff Abbott [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 4:21 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Jeff Abbott gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"These reductions must stop. It is not just about manatees but the commercial fishing industry as well. Oysters, scallops, stone crabs, are just examples of sea food that requires fresh water to thrive. Take a holistic approach, study the implications."

5544 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: JEFF ADAMS [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 4:50 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

JEFF ADAMS gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"ALL SEA CREATURES ARE IMPORTANT is this important to you?"

5788 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: jeff bernstein [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 8:39 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

jeff bernstein gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I love our rivers!"

9696 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Jeff Glitzenstein [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 6:40 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Jeff Glitzenstein gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I'm a plant conservation biologist. Preservation of rare species and habitats is what I do. "

9505 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Jeff McGriff [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 10:07 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Jeff McGriff gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Preservation. "

8578 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Jeffrey Haarsma [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 8:01 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Jeffrey Haarsma gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Manatees are almost endangered. We must protect them."

8261 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

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The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Jeffrey Nelson [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 11:30 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Jeffrey Nelson gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Because we have already damaged our environment too much already. And because I have compassion and concerns about other living things on this planet. "

9927 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Jennifer Bordner [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Monday, October 29, 2012 7:26 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Jennifer Bordner gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I'm tired of people disregarding homes of the wildlife as if it doesn't matter. It's like the government doesn't even care about that being a home for manatees. They are already at huge risk with the boaters. They don't need a man made risk that doesn't have to be. "

10090 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees, and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Jennifer Calder [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 6:20 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Jennifer Calder gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Our Florida springs are natural treasures. "

6427 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Jennifer Ellerman-Queen [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:09 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Jennifer Ellerman-Queen gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Manatees are important to natural Florida!"

3534 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Jennifer Marsh [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Friday, October 26, 2012 9:04 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Jennifer Marsh gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"The manatees are special animals that should be protected."

2471 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Jennifer Meyer [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 8:01 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Jennifer Meyer gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Because I love going there to canoe and get back to nature, so to speak. This is just crazy! Why mess with mother nature and the flow of anything. Government sucks if you guys do this!"

6952 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Jennifer Robson [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 10:51 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Jennifer Robson gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Love the manatees & would hate to see their numbers diminish because of more intrusion on their homes by humans!"

8686 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Jenny Bast [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Monday, October 29, 2012 10:17 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Jenny Bast gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Because it is the right thing to do. Besides God put us in charge of all the animals, not to let them die, to keep them alive."

10404 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: jerry weinstock [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 3:55 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

jerry weinstock gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I think they are a part of the eco-system we live in----and they come into my canal and I love them"

5284 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Jessica M [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:38 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Jessica M gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Quit screwing with the rivers! "

4233 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

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and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: jewel grubman [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 9:58 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

jewel grubman gave the following reason for signing this petition:

" uniuqr , harmless life form should be saved not killed carelessly"

2787 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Jhan Snyder [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 10:19 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Jhan Snyder gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Diversity of life should be a priority to all americans. Not only that but the Manatee has become an ambassador for the tourist industry in Florida just like the Dolphin and as such should be protected and their habitat cared for accordingly."

8607 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees, and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Jill Jacoby [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Friday, October 26, 2012 5:19 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Jill Jacoby gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"We are the only place in the world where you can swim in the springs with the Manatee! We love them and they love us!"

2009 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Jill Kunesh [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 3:52 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Jill Kunesh gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"We need to protect manatee environment, not pass things that reduce the amount of it."

5261 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Jim McElveen [mailto:mail@change.org]
Sent: Monday, October 29, 2012 8:12 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Jim McElveen gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Save the manatees, not kill them! "

10145 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Jim Stevenson [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Monday, October 29, 2012 6:43 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Jim Stevenson gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"To protect public lands that were acquired to protect Florida's waters especially springs."

10072 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: jim whitehead [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 3:30 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

jim whitehead gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Rick Scott is an idiot?"

4967 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Jimmy Carrell [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 9:02 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Jimmy Carrell gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I go to Homosassa Springs State Park often, and there are always tourists there. Why would anyone go if the ecology changes due to reduced flows?"

9736 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: jimmy liu [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 8:43 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

jimmy liu gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"its not right to reduce the water when endangered manatees need it to live in the winter"

8356 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: JOAN BRYANT [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Monday, October 29, 2012 11:23 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

JOAN BRYANT gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"FLORIDA'S ENTIRE FUTURE IS DEPENDENT ON OUR SPRINGS, RIVERS AND AQUIFER BEING HEALTHY. THE ANIMALS EFFECTED ARE INDICATIVE OF THE HEALTH OF THE WATER SYSTEMS."

10522 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees, and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Joan Davis [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 1:27 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Joan Davis gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"It would be a travesty to not protect the integrity of Florida's springs. Shame on the SWFWMD for not doing its job responsibly. We must demand that this does not happen."

7998 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Joan Wertheimer [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Monday, October 29, 2012 8:19 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Joan Wertheimer gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"We need to save all of our wildlife before it is too late which sometimes happens"

10160 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: joan wolff [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 1:53 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

joan wolff gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"all wild life balances the environment."

2993 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: JoAnn Deckant [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 4:48 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

JoAnn Deckant gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Please, don't do this, can we push all of our wildlife away. Water is vital for both human life and marine life."

5778 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: joann fasulo-armstrong [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 6:03 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

joann fasulo-armstrong gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"beautiful creatures need these homes."

6321 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: joann wells [mailto:joann@change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 5:38 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

joann wells gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"i thought we were supposed to protect florida, not kill it...stop this stupid micromanagement."

6180 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Joanna Caputa [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 8:02 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Joanna Caputa gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"How could the SWFWMD and Rick Scott jeopardize the things that make our state worth living here? And, if you have to look at the "bottom line", what tourist would want to come and visit, knowing we are purposely destroying our own precious rivers and wildlife? "

6958 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees, and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Joaquin del Cueto [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:02 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Joaquin del Cueto gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Save Big Bird and the West Indian Manatees!"

3320 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

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and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Joaquin Sanchez [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 8:56 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Joaquin Sanchez gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I am opposed to giving away millions of gallons of spring water to foreign bottlers and foreign billionaires that want to take our water to over develop my state. "

9720 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Jocelyn Slater [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 11:01 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Jocelyn Slater gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"West Indian Manatees are a Federally recognised endangered species. That should, by the same federal laws that protect the manatees, automatically protect all elements of their habitat which fall under United States control. They already have enough trouble with boat strikes. They don't need us to add cold stress and habitat degradation onto that."

9899 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Joe Snavely [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 7:24 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Joe Snavely gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"We need to do all that we can to protect these wonderful and majestic creatures. We need to respect our wonderful natural resources and these magnificent animals are unique in all the world."

8210 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Jo-Ellen Cox [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 9:00 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Jo-Ellen Cox gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"for the simplest reasons, we need to protect our wildlife from extinction and deminishing habitats whether on land or in the water. This spring is vital to the manatees survival. Please spare these creatures."

9729 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: john barrieau [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 7:17 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

john barrieau gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"YA JUST GOTTA LOVE MANATEES,OTHERWISE.LIKE GOVERNOR SCOTT,YOU SUCK!"

6758 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: John Carter [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 6:36 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

John Carter gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"To much development has already damaged both the lands and water resources of this state. It is time to realize that these things belong to the future. Regreates do not repair damages that could have been avoided if we only halted and considered the negative results of our decesions"

9504 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosasa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: john channell [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 4:47 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

john channell gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"nature can take care of it's self
"

8116 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: John Dooley [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 3:50 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

John Dooley gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Overuse of water has consequences."

5231 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: John Felice [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 3:02 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

John Felice gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"This is an irresponsible decision to reduce the flow level that has little upside benefit with a substantial amount of risk. "

4622 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: John Fletcher [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 8:10 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

John Fletcher gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Aid the fresh water environment and stop salt water intrusion and destruction
"

7008 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: John H Shaver [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 3:22 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

John H Shaver gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"This is near my home; I see these gentle creatures quite often. "

4869 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: John Humphrey [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Monday, October 29, 2012 7:52 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

John Humphrey gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Beautiful, peaceful animals. Their native territory."

10116 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: John J. Lynagh [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 8:15 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

John J. Lynagh gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"We have lost enough of our wildlife and animals. "

7033 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: John Lord [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 12:45 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

John Lord gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Our rivers are dying as things are know, why is the government advocating speeding up the process rather than looking for a solution? Are golf courses that important?"

2879 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: John Malaney [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:11 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

John Malaney gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Our natural resources are not only vital to mammals such as the Manatee, but to human beings as well. By destroying these precious resources we are slowly destroying ourselves. They should be protected and conserved for future generations."

3584 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees, and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: John O'Keefe [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Friday, October 26, 2012 4:53 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

John O'Keefe gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"While it has been many years since I last visited Homosassa Springs, I still vividly remember the almost ethereal manatees there. They are among the gentlest and most helpless creatures to be found, but we humans seen determined to wipe them out through both thoughtless and planned actions. We must come to understand that there are consequences to our actions -- in this case, bad consequences!"

1934 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees, and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: John Simon [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 6:11 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

John Simon gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"We have visited the area and wish to help save the manatees."

6377 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Jon Boliek [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 10:21 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Jon Boliek gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"We need Manatees!"

7571 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Jon Reynolds [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 8:04 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Jon Reynolds gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Because Manatees kick ass!"

6968 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: JON SODERLUND [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:35 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

JON SODERLUND gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I went swimming with the Manatees and I had a baby and an adult Manatee come up to me and both kissed me and the adult hugged me!"

4163 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Jonathan Gentle [mailto:mail@change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 1:56 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Jonathan Gentle gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I live in Fort Myers and do not want to see any loss of wildlife
"

3084 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: jorge j tamargo [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 7:29 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

jorge j tamargo gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"ONCE ALLOWED TO RESTRICT IT CAN EASLY BE MADE WORSE."

9587 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

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The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Jose Perez [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:00 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Jose Perez gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Save these magnificent creatures, stop your insanity governor, we had enough."

3264 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Joseph Duncan [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 9:39 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Joseph Duncan gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I am sick of Rick Scott's inept rule in my state of Florida!"

7418 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Joseph Tarach [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Monday, October 29, 2012 10:19 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Joseph Tarach gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"we've harmed, endangered , and killed to many of God's creatures... it needs to stop"

10405 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Josh Houston [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 1:40 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Josh Houston gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I live in Citrus County."

9076 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Joy Priem [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 7:56 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Joy Priem gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"When the manatees and the elephants go.....We're done for!!!!"

6940 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: joy zacharia [mailto:joy@change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:04 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

joy zacharia gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Because they are precious members of our planet and deserve equal right to fresh, clean water. Besides, I see them every weekend at the Safety Harbor pier and feel a kinship to them."

3388 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Joyce Bowers [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 6:13 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Joyce Bowers gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Manatees are harmless animals and I enjoy seeing their playful behavior in the canals we must protect them! "

6388 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Joyce Smith [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 6:39 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Joyce Smith gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Changing the environment of the rivers will have an adverse effect on the wild life, fauna, and all aquatic life. Building more home in areas that don't have adequate water, while homes and shopping centers sit vacant; is not a judicious use of our natural resources. "

6542 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees, and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Joyce Soutar [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Monday, October 29, 2012 9:56 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Joyce Soutar gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I don't want to see the Manatees become extinct."

10355 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Joyce Swaim [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 12:02 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Joyce Swaim gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Our manatees are such gentle giants...a gift from God to our waters. Why do some humans always hold such disregard for simple & kind forms of life? SWFTMUD has too much political power & influence. Let the manatees live in their habitat."

8871 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees, and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: juan rodriguez [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 11:30 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

juan rodriguez gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"protect fauna"

7778 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Judi Stephens [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Friday, October 26, 2012 5:53 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Judi Stephens gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"They are gentle giants. To take away their water is to try to kill them. We have to learn to share the earth with the animals - not continue to take everything, without care. "

2139 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Judi Weiss [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:53 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Judi Weiss gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"These magnificent, slow moving creatures must be saved. Manatees are Florida."

4482 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Judith Be [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 3:45 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Judith Be gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"We love the manatees. They are wondrous beings in our world and their environment must be protected."

5166 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Judith Cannon [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 10:59 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Judith Cannon gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"If you reduce the natural existence of life on Earth, you reduce your own existence. Like gravity, it's the simplest law of the universe - even kids in a ghetto understand 'what goes around, comes around.'"

2824 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Judith Raymond [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 4:38 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Judith Raymond gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I live 10 mins. away from Blue Spr. State Park, and the manatees are the park's "claim to fame." For a well used state park, I want manatees in the water! Judy"

5698 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Judith Schnee [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 3:11 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Judith Schnee gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I want to preserve the manatees, and keep them from becoming an extinct species. Too many species of animal life have become extinct. Let's all save our manatees!"

4744 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Judith Warren [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 6:47 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Judith Warren gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"We Floridians need to work together to protect the wild life that share this land, this environment with us. "

8176 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Judy Albury [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 4:04 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Judy Albury gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Manatees are a Florida treasure. Please protect them."

5362 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Judy Foster [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 6:01 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Judy Foster gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"It Really seems like we need to protect our waterways and animals so we can preserve this way of life before it is all taken away.."

9469 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

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The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: judy goodson [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Monday, October 29, 2012 2:15 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

judy goodson gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"manatees r a part of fla. heritiage."

10769 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Judy Stimson [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 4:18 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Judy Stimson gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Manatees are part of our FL assets and support the tourist industry."

5509 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Judy Wallace [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Monday, October 29, 2012 1:13 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Judy Wallace gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I was born here in 1940 and remain vigilant on our natural habitat and environment."

10685 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Julia Aires [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 3:11 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Julia Aires gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I have taken my grandchildren there to see the Manatees and would like to continue!!!"

4750 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: julie moss [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 3:26 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

julie moss gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"safe places for manatees is very important."

4928 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Julie Pisani [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 7:21 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Julie Pisani gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"People owe respect to nature, to manatees and all non people animals. We take so much, time to give back. Time to say thankyou to all the beauty & innocence people destroy everyday for selfish needs..."

6784 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

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The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Julie Scheurich [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Monday, October 29, 2012 10:36 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Julie Scheurich gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"It's their Florida too!"

10436 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Julie Shepherd [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 6:43 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Julie Shepherd gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"These beautiful creatures are a Florida treasure and indigenous to this area, we have a responsibility to care for them."

8171 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: June Dawson [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 1:57 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

June Dawson gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Loss of flow will cause problems for the ecosystems of which the Manatee are a very important part!"

3146 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: K. J. [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 5:04 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

K. J. gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I have lived in FL my whole life and FL's unique wildlife is important to me and my family. We need to protect these beautiful treasures -now- "

5906 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Kandi Davis [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 6:06 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Kandi Davis gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"these animals are beautiful animals.They depend on those warmer waters in the winter.Our government has no right to change the way water flows.Leave well enough alone."

8152 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Kara Hammar [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 6:21 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Kara Hammar gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Manatees are Florida's unique "gentle giants", which need our natural Springs to thrive, even in a mild winter. Huge safety haven for these amazing creatures!"

6437 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Karen Boudrie [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 3:50 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Karen Boudrie gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Our Springs in Florida are our life blood"

5232 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Karen Burroughs [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:27 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Karen Burroughs gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Florida is no longer paradise for wildlife or residents. We MUST start protecting what abundance we were given or we will lose it all."

3998 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Karen Johnson [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 11:21 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Karen Johnson gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I'm so sick of the conservative, anti environmental Florida government destroying everything in the name of greed."

9916 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: karen klimaszewski [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 11:45 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

karen klimaszewski gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"This animal is particular to the Florida waters"

8826 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: karen meeks [mailto:karen@change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 2:48 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

karen meeks gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I live in Fla. on the bimini basin and watch manatees here."

9184 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Karen Stover [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Monday, October 29, 2012 1:05 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Karen Stover gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Endangered species protection is a priority!"

10677 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Karen Taragowski [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 1:56 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Karen Taragowski gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"All wildlife should be protected."

3119 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: KAREN TURNER [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Friday, October 26, 2012 8:19 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

KAREN TURNER gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"To many people are not even aware these cuties exist. Let's change that! I was born & raised in Fl. so it is very important to me."

2410 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Karin Mari [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 3:06 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Karin Mari gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"THEY HAVE ALREADY TAKEN PATHS FOR PANTHERS FOR THE FT. MYERS AIRPORT AND NOW THIS. TIRED OF DISTRUCTION FOR THE ANIMALS TO SURVIVE."

8077 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Karina Parmenter [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 3:10 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Karina Parmenter gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Who in their right mind would consider reducing the flow of springs? Haven't we learned anything from the Everglades? We need to leave what animal habitats we have alone."

4733 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: karl paniczny [mailto:karl@change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 7:37 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

karl paniczny gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Save the Manatees, at ALL costs!!"

6852 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Karla Garcia [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 4:03 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Karla Garcia gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"These animals are important to our ecosystems, without them it could have an impact on the habitat and also impact humans. But mainly because they deserve to be here just as much as humans."

5359 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Karleah Sidky [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 1:46 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Karleah Sidky gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"To save the manatees!!!!!"

9082 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Karolina Quearry [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Monday, October 29, 2012 12:07 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Karolina Quearry gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"preservation should be important to everyone"

10593 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

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The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Katelyn Baxter [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 6:31 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Katelyn Baxter gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"These are endangered species ... our job is to protect these beautiful kind creatures. Please do not endanger them further by changing the environment in which they live. "

6493 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Katherine Booth [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 4:49 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Katherine Booth gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Manatees are my favorite of all aquatic mammals, and I have an adopted "daughter"/ manatee, named Ariel, in Homosassa Springs!"

5787 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Katherine Leech [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 8:24 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Katherine Leech gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I conserve water and think if we all did more conservation water would not need to be taken from one area to another which is expensive and masks the real need to focus on living with the water we have in our own area."

9673 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Katherine mayers [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 12:47 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Katherine mayers gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Absolutely No Leave the Manatee Alone its bad enough when MORONS try to ride them Don't go after their habitat "

8975 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Katherine Vale [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 4:01 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Katherine Vale gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"To avoid further environmental degradation and reduction of species I feel we all have a moral and aesthetic imperative to preserve nature's gifts."

9299 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: kathie vogel [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Monday, October 29, 2012 12:30 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

kathie vogel gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Protect these gentle giants!"

10628 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Kathleen Bacheller [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 2:24 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Kathleen Bacheller gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"This iconic mammal has no one but us to speak for it. It needs these springs for its winter refuge. I love to walk the trails at Homosasa and see them, I've grown up with that and future generations deserve that too!"

9139 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosasa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Kathleen Eickwort [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 6:48 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Kathleen Eickwort gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Enough degradation of wildlife habitat has happened already.."

6596 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Kathleen Galgano [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 1:27 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Kathleen Galgano gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"The old growth cypress and many species that reside therein is a treasure not only to Florida, but to our nation. Please do not degrade this important ecosystem. This is important. Thank you."

9056 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Kathleen Johnson [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Monday, October 29, 2012 1:38 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Kathleen Johnson gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"We came from PA in 2001 and never saw a manatee. Now we just love watching them and hope they'll be here forever."

10721 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Kathleen Martin [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Monday, October 29, 2012 9:26 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Kathleen Martin gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"because wild life and nature are important to the balance, humans aren't"

10284 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Kathleen Myers [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Friday, October 26, 2012 7:01 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Kathleen Myers gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I am a resident of Florida and believe that our wildlife should be protected, not endangered. "

2283 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Kathleen Spinks [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Monday, October 29, 2012 8:16 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Kathleen Spinks gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"We need to stop messing with nature and leave it alone. These are beautiful rivers which house the gentle, peaceful manatees other animals and of course fish."

10154 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Kathleen Wedzik [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:39 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Kathleen Wedzik gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"reduction in natural spring flow will cause loss of natural habitat in each of these fragile spring-fed fresh water coastal ecosystems."

4236 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

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and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Kathryn Berendes [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 4:45 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Kathryn Berendes gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Manatees are very special to our state. They have been endangered for some time. Now they will essentially be deprived of their habitat."

9364 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Kathryn D'Ambrosio [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 3:51 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Kathryn D'Ambrosio gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Grew up in Florida and the springs are the home to many amazing creatures and is one of Floridas natural beauties"

5245 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Kathryn Konigsberger [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 4:36 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Kathryn Konigsberger gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"History! Wild Life! Preservation of the original Florida is more important than some developers getting even richer. Oops I forgot my audience..."

9351 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Kathryn Onorata [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 11:29 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Kathryn Onorata gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"We need to protect what we have - before it's all gone."

8785 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Kathryn Roan [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 6:29 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Kathryn Roan gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I've lived in Florida all my life and I love the manatees! Please save them!"

6479 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Kathy Gutierrez [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 6:33 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Kathy Gutierrez gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Saving any living entity is crucial for this world. We need more compassion toward life of any kind. Please, let us all do our job and save the manatees and all animals. We are their voice."

6503 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Kathy Jameson [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 4:36 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Kathy Jameson gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Manatees need to be protected in anyway we can. "

5680 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Kathy Manning [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Monday, October 29, 2012 9:28 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Kathy Manning gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Endangered Manatees need our protection!"

10294 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: kathy nichols [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:00 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

kathy nichols gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"i have lived in Florida for two years and i have not seen very many of them yet "

3259 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Kathy Sheerin [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 7:13 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Kathy Sheerin gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I lived in Homosassa Springs and know its natural beauty and these magnificent mammals. It must be protected!"

6742 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Kathy Sherrod [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Friday, October 26, 2012 8:45 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Kathy Sherrod gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Our economy is dependent upon our tropical and subtropical ecology. We must be good stewards of the Garden we were entrusted with."

2440 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Kathy Skipper [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Friday, October 26, 2012 8:00 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Kathy Skipper gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I think we should do all we can to preserve the natural waterways of Florida & it's habitat. Plus Endangered species such as the manatee depend on these waterways & endangered species should be protected"

2379 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Kathy Sutton [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 9:30 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Kathy Sutton gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"All wild animals are precious and we must preserve their habitats. We must also preserve our natural springs for ourselves and our offspring. We must save the beauty of nature and the wild places left in Florida as they are treasures for recreation and tourism."

9776 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Kathy Taggi [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Monday, October 29, 2012 11:54 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Kathy Taggi gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Numerous rare and endangered species of animals and plants require adequate levels of water; reduction in fresh water could eliminate these species/plants/animals."

10572 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Kathy Vaughn [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 8:02 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Kathy Vaughn gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"As a kayaker, I cherish FL waterways and am dismayed at their decline over the last decade. Please work to preserve these ecosystems for all!!!"

9639 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Katie Williams [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 3:45 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Katie Williams gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I kind of wish the photo to the petition didn't show someone breaking manatee harassment laws, but photo aside, this petition should be important to every Floridian. It's our duty to protect these gentle giants, especially in a time when the current governing powers in Florida are thwarting environmental efforts left and right. "

5169 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees, and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Kay Frysinger [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 8:43 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Kay Frysinger gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"This is important to me because it is not up to the water management board to make life and death sentences for manatees, the manatees are very affected by temperature differences and they need the protection of the warmer waters in the winter. "

7182 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Kaylynn Niggle [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:53 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Kaylynn Niggle gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"These are the nicest creatures--
nothing bad should happen to them."

4487 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Keith Flotte [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 3:17 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Keith Flotte gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"One of the most docile creatures you'll ever see and/or meet sometime!"

4818 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Keith Hayden [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 12:28 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Keith Hayden gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"We need to protect our endangered species anyway we can, for future generations to enjoy."

8933 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Keith Larson [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 12:35 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Keith Larson gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I live and fish here and enjoy the wildlife. Instead of pumping more water out, start restricting subdivisions and require new residents to acquire more land, like all 10 acre parcels and that would start helping our water situation. Also quit pumping to other counties. If a county can not provide enough water for a new resident, than they can't sell another building permit until they figure another way, like desal plants."

8952 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

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Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: kelly dean [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 4:36 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

kelly dean gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I Love going out on the river's and seeing the manate's and swimming with them."

5679 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Kelly Fogarty [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 5:26 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Kelly Fogarty gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"These areas and endangered species need to be protected and maintained for our future generations. "

6089 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Kelly Greene [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 6:01 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Kelly Greene gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Manatees are nearly extinct. I don't want to see this beautiful mammal disappear from the face of the earth. They should be protected for future generations."

9468 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Kelly Smith [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Monday, October 29, 2012 10:21 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Kelly Smith gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I grew up playing in those springs as well as enjoying the wildlife along the runs and rivers associated with them."

10407 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Ken Coviello [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Monday, October 29, 2012 10:53 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Ken Coviello gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"we need to protect these beautiful gentle creatures and keep their rivers clear and safe. Dont reduce the flow."

10463 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: ken Howell [mailto:ken@change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 7:22 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

ken Howell gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Florida manatee populations need all the help they can get"

6793 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Ken Stewart [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 11:46 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Ken Stewart gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I am a diver and have dived these springs for many years and have watched there decline, it's time to do something to restore them not harm them."

8830 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

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The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Kenneth Jaquith [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 9:07 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Kenneth Jaquith gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Swflwmd has shown that its "studies" and "best available data and assumptions" have not stood the test of time. Just look at the sad state of the Everglades flow, St. Lucie and Caloosahatchee rivers with the blooms and salt water intrusion. Yes, we have a water flow problem due to the population explosion of our great state. I fear that it is only a matter of time before the state is tapped of the things that make it Florida. What will be left? Beaches and Condominiums? Start by getting rid of the sugarcane fields! "

8403 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Kenneth Penrose [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 5:25 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Kenneth Penrose gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"The waters are already low enough to cause problems for boating and recreation. Salt water already comes up the Chassahowitzka River almost to the springs at high tide. Don't tamper with the natural flow."

9417 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Kerri Hite [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 3:44 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Kerri Hite gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"they are part of the history and culture of the great areas that they live in."

5157 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: kevin hurley [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 7:35 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

kevin hurley gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I live in their habitat. They love in mine."

8222 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Kim A [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 10:11 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Kim A gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Have we not made enough species extinct by hunting and taking away their environment. The human race and the bodies that govern are the ones to blame. YOU can make a difference. NO REDUCTION IN FLOW TO THE HOMOSASSA AND CHASSAHOWITZKA RIVERS....."

8585 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees, and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Kim Berryhill [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 8:53 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Kim Berryhill gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"They play in our marina everyday , they are beautiful!"

9715 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Kim Carless [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:20 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Kim Carless gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Why is it so important to stem the flow?"

3852 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Kim Savino [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Friday, October 26, 2012 9:38 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Kim Savino gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I'm a water loving Floridian and I have never seen a Manatee in the wild! They are scarce enough.. lets not put them at more of a risk! "

2525 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Kim Schulz [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 10:22 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Kim Schulz gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"We have polluted the Gulf of Mexico beyond belief. There has to be a push to allow her to heal. I say, "NO to reductions in flow!"

8614 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Kim Simmonds [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 4:21 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Kim Simmonds gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Manatees are MAJESTIC, AWESOME creatures!"

8106 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Kimberly Bigler [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Monday, October 29, 2012 3:11 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Kimberly Bigler gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Spend alot of time on these rivers...the Manatees have had enough!"

10024 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Kimberly Jarvis [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 5:12 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Kimberly Jarvis gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I am a resident of Florida & it is extremely important to me that we do everything in our power to protect the natural environment of our state and the wildlife that depends on it. Reducing the flow of water into the springs would further endanger the manatee, a federally protected species. We need to do more, not less, to protect our rivers, streams and springs as well as the wildlife that depends on them. "

5985 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees, and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: kirk miller [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:16 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

kirk miller gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"we need to protect the manatees."

3762 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Kris Kelley [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Friday, October 26, 2012 8:29 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Kris Kelley gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"We need to protect these areas for the next generation and for the wildlife"

2421 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Kris Lee [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 8:06 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Kris Lee gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Manatees need refuge "

6980 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Kristen Cavallini-Soothill [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 11:22 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Kristen Cavallini-Soothill gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Balance of Nature is teetering, and these beautiful animals need somewhere to live. And...We are ALL God's creatures which certain profiteering individuals seem to forget some of whom also PREACH a good line! Greed must GO."

8775 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Kyle Pazian [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:48 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Kyle Pazian gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Because I care about marine life."

4404 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: L J [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 8:10 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

L J gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Please you have a moral and ethical responsibility to do the right thing.
Stop the insanity"

7010 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

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We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Larry Goodman [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 8:16 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Larry Goodman gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"The endangered manatee has enough stressors already. Please do not allow reduction of flow in these rivers that are home to the manatees during a critical part of the year. Thanks, Larry"

7042 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Larry Hartman [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 11:17 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Larry Hartman gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I live in Citrus County the manatees are an important part of our water ways."

7744 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: lashands grady [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Monday, October 29, 2012 12:03 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

lashands grady gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Maintaining a healthy natural resource is vital to all of our future. And it is important that we protect the wildlife that helps to maintain the proper balance in nature."

10589 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

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The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Lassie Lee [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 10:50 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Lassie Lee gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Florida requires water - pure, clean water - for life. Too many people and too many "business" demands are killing this state. We have to stop the downward trend now to have a liveable future."

8682 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: laura abrisch [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 9:53 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

laura abrisch gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I love all animals and i am sick of hearing all the abuse, neglect and killings so i will do what it takes to save what animals we do have left in this now pathetic world."

9808 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Laura Barbot [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 2:20 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Laura Barbot gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I'm unsure as to why this stance is necessary in the first place. Then, when one considers the estimated 15% loss of indigenous species, I then find this to be an unacceptable situation. Are we simply going to annihilate anything and everything, one by one, until there is nothing left?"

8049 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Laura Bork [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 1:03 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Laura Bork gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I have lived in Miami my whole life and am thankful that the "sea cows" are rebounding...this is a great tribute to protection laws...Thanks to everyone involved in the protection of this gentle creature..."

2660 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Laura McDonald [mailto:mail@change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:42 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Laura McDonald gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"How many species must we lose forever before mankind realizes his time here on earth is up as a result?"

4291 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Laura Schneider [mailto:mail@change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 8:12 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Laura Schneider gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I love all wildlife and this species deserves to be saved."

7017 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Lauren Leitkowski [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Friday, October 26, 2012 7:03 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Lauren Leitkowski gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Every time man tried to manipulate nature, it backfires. Changing the flow of a river or its natural course will only do harm. I am familiar with these springs and rivers which are incredible, beautiful places which must NOT be tampered with. Haven't we done enough damage to our planet?!"

2286 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Laurie Humphrey [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Monday, October 29, 2012 9:49 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Laurie Humphrey gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Because they are an incredible critter and have a right to live as any living creature. They need that water during the winter months to survive.

Its not all about humans even though many people think it is.

"

10342 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees, and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Laurie Venable [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:10 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Laurie Venable gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I believe the Manatee should be protected from the SWFWMD. They have no right to endanger the Manatee's habitat. We must protect our wildlife for future generations."

3572 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life-saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Laverne Garrett [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 5:29 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Laverne Garrett gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"We own property on the Chassahowitzka River our future home. We are concern about the damage to the river."

9425 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Lawrence Feldhusen [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 1:05 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Lawrence Feldhusen gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Our Outstanding Florida Waters are already degraded. No additional reduction in flow or habitat is acceptable. The goal should be to INCREASE flow to these waters."

9016 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Leah Bailey [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 4:26 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Leah Bailey gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"All life is important! These manatees deserve their natural habitat without human interference!"

5594 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Leata Rich [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 7:36 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Leata Rich gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"They were here first."

6843 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Lee Breyer [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:18 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Lee Breyer gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"The Manatee is a national symbol of Florida, the name of my county, as well as the name of the river on whose bank we built Mercy-on-the-Manatee. Tourists, including family and friends from Chicago love to come to Florida to see the manatees. We don't need to endanger them any more than they already are by human actions."

3796 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees, and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: leif dereng [mailto:leif@change.org]
Sent: Monday, October 29, 2012 1:57 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

leif dereng gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"NO TO FLOW REDUCTION!!!!!!!!!!!!!! We have to add to the endangered species list: spring fed rivers!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

t
only is the Manatee endangered, but the Rivers are indangered

"

10736 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Leila Kayser [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Monday, October 29, 2012 11:51 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Leila Kayser gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"they need our protection and can't protect themselves!"

10567 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Leilani Zidan [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:15 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Leilani Zidan gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"We love our gentle manatees in Florida!"

3726 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Leisha Eastergard [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Monday, October 29, 2012 11:03 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Leisha Eastergard gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Manatees are wonderful creatures that are deserving of our respect and protection."

10482 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Leitha Bowles [mailto:mail@change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 12:09 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Leitha Bowles gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"These are spring fed coastal rivers, which need to be protected from further salt water encroachment, they are habitat to fresh water species and the cold provides live- saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

"

2634 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Leo Souto [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 8:09 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Leo Souto gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"We must care for our manatees !"

7005 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Lesia Schulha-Bobrek [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 11:27 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Lesia Schulha-Bobrek gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Any further reduction of such a necessary habitat is short sighted. "

9924 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: leslie a. barth [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:11 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

leslie a. barth gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"My husband & I purchased our first home on a canal in Riverhaven 28 years ago. The water in in the canals was clean & clear as it was in the River. We have witnessed first hand the destruction of our River and canals. We now spend hours cleaning barnacles of our boat which we never did at all for the first 25 years! The clean water act was passed 40 years ago and yet you have trashed the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka since this was passed. Shame on you!"

3596 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Leslie Halstedt [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Monday, October 29, 2012 8:33 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Leslie Halstedt gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I love all animals and the Springs"

10184 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: leslie white [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 11:18 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

leslie white gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"the gov't needs to allow nature to balance the water!"

8762 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Letitia Wszolek [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 3:36 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Letitia Wszolek gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I live in the areas where manatees swim in our canals leading to the sea and can see indifference by some of boaters. Frustrating...."

9251 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Libby Glass [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 4:31 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Libby Glass gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I've had the pleasure to swim with them in nature, unexpected, untainted... why should they be put at risk??"

5635 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Linda Bailey [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 12:14 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Linda Bailey gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"To save the manatees"

7888 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Linda Bystrak [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 2:30 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Linda Bystrak gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I frequently paddle in this area and enjoy the wildlife, which is already stressed by too much water pollution. Less water means less likely to meet TMDL goals."

9146 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Linda Caruso [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Monday, October 29, 2012 9:38 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Linda Caruso gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I have loved animals since I was a little girl and I will do all I can to help them"

10318 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Linda Cohan [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Monday, October 29, 2012 12:41 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Linda Cohan gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"The springs and waters and the wildlife they support are an important part of Florida. The beauty of our Outstanding Waterways attract visitors and add to the reasons for living in Florida."

10644 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Linda Culhane [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:12 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Linda Culhane gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"This is important because the natural resources of FL should be protected. Once we lose them they are gone, not to be recovered. "

3635 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: linda doss [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 8:11 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

linda doss gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"the manatees need to be protected"

7013 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Linda Farin [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Friday, October 26, 2012 7:32 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Linda Farin gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"The manatees are national treasures, so peaceful."

2341 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Linda Firestone [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 8:26 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Linda Firestone gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"The manatees and the Everglades are part of the natural beauty and wonder of Florida. They both need to be nurtured."

8309 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Linda Frease [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 5:15 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Linda Frease gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Perhaps we should limit water flow to superfluous golf courses and lawns so the natural habitats may be preserved"

6002 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Linda Golden [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 8:35 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Linda Golden gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"We are losing too much of our natural habitats."

8330 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Linda Heck [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 6:42 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Linda Heck gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Shouldn't we be doing all we can to protect our wild life."

6561 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Linda Kyvik [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 7:13 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Linda Kyvik gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Enough is enough! This short term governor cares NOTHING about Florida or its residents, merely lining his pockets for his wealthy retirement."

6738 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Linda Liptak [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 6:11 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Linda Liptak gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I love manatees They are amazing gentle creatures and deserve our help"

6380 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Linda Putzel [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 8:07 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Linda Putzel gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I am a Floridian and these beautiful, gentle creatures are endangered as it is from boating, loss of habitat, fishing, and other human hazards. We need not further compromise these animals by challenging and perhaps destroying the ecosystem that sustains them."

6988 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Linda Ritchie [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:28 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Linda Ritchie gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I love manatees!"

4025 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Linda Robinson [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 9:29 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Linda Robinson gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I love these animals. They are so awesome."

8462 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Linda Sanford [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 3:25 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Linda Sanford gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"i love manatees and our wild life, and want to keep them safe for our future. "

4913 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Linda Sobel [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 12:07 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Linda Sobel gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"They are beautiful creatures and deserve to be protected. Please Help!"

2630 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: LINDA STAPLETON [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 10:37 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

LINDA STAPLETON gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I live here, and am tired of seeing the natural beauty of our state's flora and fauna being destroyed for no good reason. Usually it's from big business and to preserve wealthy residents lakefront property, but this degradation serves no purpose at all (unless it's one we haven't learned yet)."

9869 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

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The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Linda Sue Fowler Lloyd [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 1:19 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Linda Sue Fowler Lloyd gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Will Someone please tell me why mankind has to go in and change things that God created ? And why we will not be happy until we wipe out every living creature on the face of the earth? Leave the flow alone and help protect what is left of a already fading population!"

9043 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees, and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Linda Teeter [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 7:03 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Linda Teeter gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Our springs are a very important natural resource-no excessive withdrawals of more water or reduced flow. These can never recover if destroyed by humans."

6680 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Linda Terrell [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:04 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Linda Terrell gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Struggling in an ever hostile environment these wonderful creatures deserve our support and attention. Boaters continue to cruise full throttle in manatee zones so often injuring them don't force them out of Chassahowitzka-Homosassa. These are important issues to myself an my family and do affect my voting patterns."

3390 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Linda Whalen [mailto:mail@change.org]
Sent: Monday, October 29, 2012 1:17 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Linda Whalen gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Born and raised in MANATEE county Florida. The Manatee is dear to my heart."

10691 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Lindsay Carson [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Friday, October 26, 2012 5:45 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Lindsay Carson gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"We should protect animals, but that aside...Beautiful places and animals in Florida nature offer priceless memories for families, appreciation for nature and tourism. "

2124 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Lindsay Peeples [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 10:37 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Lindsay Peeples gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Because I care."

8643 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Lisa Crosson [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Monday, October 29, 2012 9:16 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Lisa Crosson gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Protect endangered species"

10258 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: LISA HILL [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 8:30 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

LISA HILL gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Without our unique wildlife Florida would be just any other urban sprawl anywhere in the world! Please keep this place special."

8315 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Lisa Hoffman [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 10:10 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Lisa Hoffman gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"As Floridians, we should be protecting our wildlife especially endangered."

2792 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Lisa Jasay [mailto:mail@change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 3:59 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Lisa Jasay gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Please protect what makes Florida such a unique and beautiful place. "

5318 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Lisa King [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Friday, October 26, 2012 9:11 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Lisa King gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Manatees are one of the Florida icons..we have to help them"

2486 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Lisa Mazzola [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 5:48 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Lisa Mazzola gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I love Manatee, wildlife, all animals and nature. We must protect and preserve their environment."

6244 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: lisa sullivan [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 12:52 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

lisa sullivan gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I live in florida and it wouldnt be florida without our wildlife!!"

2656 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: lisa tweedell [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 5:23 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

lisa tweedell gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Its very important NOT TO MESS with" mother nature""

6062 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: lisa watson [mailto:lisa@change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 11:54 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

lisa watson gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Degradation of our Florida Waters should be a concern and outrage to all. I'd like to protect our echo system as well as the animals who live in our waterways or utilize our springs. The bottom line is that it is just "the right thing to do!"

7851 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees, and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: lisa williams [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 12:45 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

lisa williams gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"i live in fl and love the gentle manatees."

8970 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: lizabeth johnson [mailto:mail@change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 10:25 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

lizabeth johnson gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I love animals and they need us to help protect them!!"

9853 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Lizbeth Besok [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 6:43 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Lizbeth Besok gave the following reason for signing this petition:

" Would like to help preserve the manatees for future generations to also enjoy."

8170 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

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and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Lizzy Stein [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 3:19 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Lizzy Stein gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Everything "

4841 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Lois Gillette [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 11:29 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Lois Gillette gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Manatees are docile and defenseless. They can't protect themselves, we must protect these wonderful beings. "

9926 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: lois kyes [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 4:05 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

lois kyes gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Leave the flow to the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka rivers alone."

5379 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Lois Wright [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Friday, October 26, 2012 5:51 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Lois Wright gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"We need to protect the manatees."

2137 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: loraine gomez [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 3:14 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

loraine gomez gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I care about animals. We need to stop playing with this creatures life. "

4783 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Loretta E. Beacon [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 3:48 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Loretta E. Beacon gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"To cherish what remains of the Earth & to foster its renewal is our only legitimate hope of survival. NO REDUCTIONS IN FLOW!"

9276 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

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FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

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and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Lori Hannah [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 6:09 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Lori Hannah gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"The manatee is a beautiful, gentle, and rare creature that needs to be protected."

6368 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Lorna Hopwood [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 10:08 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Lorna Hopwood gave the following reason for signing this petition:

" We frequently visit FL and appreciate the natural areas and diverse wildlife."

8579 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Lorraine Panagos [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 8:51 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Lorraine Panagos gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I love all animals and Manatees are wonderful, unique and peaceful!!"

2755 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Louis Clayton [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 5:07 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Louis Clayton gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"The Manatees been here before us and lets not screw up the spring waters because of stupidity.I would like my grandchildren enjoy what we have."

9395 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Louise Colegrove [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Friday, October 26, 2012 6:23 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Louise Colegrove gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I think it goes without saying. SAVE THE MANATEES."

2209 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Louise Collins [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Friday, October 26, 2012 11:51 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Louise Collins gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"WE are over running all of natural habitats leading to endangered species and it has got to stop!"

2619 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Louise Plessala [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 12:03 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Louise Plessala gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"For GOD'S sake Governor and Board!!! What are ya'll trying to do to these ENDANGERED Manatees??? I guess NONE of you CARE about FUTURE generations because if you DO cut back the FLOW of these two fresh water rivers, you WILL WRECKEN with MOTHER NATURE!!! DON'T MESS WITH HER!!! Let these LIVE!!!"

2856 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees, and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Lourdes Bulnes [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 8:53 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Lourdes Bulnes gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Because we are responsible for those gentle creatures and they have their homes there. Why take away their livelihood if they do not harm anyone."

8374 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: luana Miller [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 7:22 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

luana Miller gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"we can't keep destroying natural habitats.."

8206 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

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Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Lucia McTague [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 4:39 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Lucia McTague gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"the homosassa and the Chassahowitzka provide refuge for our population of manatees by thir presence they keep our eco systems clear. i have brought my children here many times and its a great lesson just watching how nurturing they are . You don't find many other places where this is so apparent. My children are grown and take their own kids to this wonderful place"

5708 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

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We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Lucia Ross [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:04 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Lucia Ross gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"If not for the intrinsic value of the animals themselves -- which in my mind is paramount -- Florida is a tourist economy. If you don't protect the very things that draw tourists to a particular area, you will lose money. Hopefully, I've put my argument in terms that politicians understand -- economic."

3394 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Luis Otero [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 8:58 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Luis Otero gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Wildlife conservation and natural resources preservation go hand in hand in the total scheme of things. We, as human are the most important link, and I feel responsible to do my part in this collective effort. "

7246 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

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Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: luisa ramirez [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 6:34 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

luisa ramirez gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"nature"

9500 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

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Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Lynanne Lawhead [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Monday, October 29, 2012 11:12 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Lynanne Lawhead gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"SWFWM and our state government over the years has already proven mismanagement of our wetland habitats as well as our fishing grounds through over-development or re-routing change of water flow which has caused major damage to the indigenous land/resources. Seems they would have recognized they are part of the problem however, when profit is higher to protection and true management of the land and its resources - money has won so far and our state becomes mired in toxicity/waste/loss of habitat-resources for all levels. "

10503 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

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FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees, and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Lynda Alfson [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 6:48 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Lynda Alfson gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"This is what keeps happening in our state. The animals that depend on humans to care enough to protect them find themselves out of luck, as well as water. Stop letting politics dictate your every move, Governor, and try to find in your heart, if you even have one, the correct actions to be taken for our marine life which is what FL is all about. Do this to help this state, not something to destroy this state, as you have ever since you came into office. "

6593 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees, and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Lynette Van Baber [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 10:47 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Lynette Van Baber gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Man needs to quit destroying the earth and wildlife, especially when it is due to greed (as most things are either directly or indirectly.)"

2818 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Lynn Cantrell [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Monday, October 29, 2012 9:30 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Lynn Cantrell gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"They are endangered already!

"

10297 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Lynn Glorieux [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 5:13 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Lynn Glorieux gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"My favorite vacation activity is paddling on Florida's beautiful rivers, and I don't want them to suffer from reduced flow from the springs that feed them."

9401 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Lynn LaMar [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 9:42 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Lynn LaMar gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"All natural resources MUST be protected for our future...and our children's future..."

7433 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Lynn Polke [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Monday, October 29, 2012 7:52 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Lynn Polke gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Nature nurtures and supports us all. "

10120 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Lynn Reeser [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 3:36 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Lynn Reeser gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"The Planet is in peril! With the current rate of pollution, environmental scientists say we only have until 2017! WHEN then, would be your idea of when to start paying attention? And Nestles must be stopped sucking the aquifers dry!"

5059 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Lysebeth Herry [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Monday, October 29, 2012 6:40 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Lysebeth Herry gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Yes for animal's to planète"

10070 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: M. Gregory [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 8:51 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

M. Gregory gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"FL must do everything in its power to preserve manatees!"

8370 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Madeline Gutierrez [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 5:29 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Madeline Gutierrez gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"here are only plus or minus about 5,000 West Indian Manatees.

The springs covered in this petition – the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs - are very important to the species survival.

Two reasons for example are:

One reason is because when water temperatures drop to unusually harsh for standard Florida winter months, manatees must seek warmer waterways to stay alive.

Manatees, though large, are not well protected by a blubber layer unlike many sea mammals. Manatees can't take waters colder than 68 degrees F. for more than a few hours. They are warm blooded animals and will freeze to death or become mortally ill from the cold just like a human being would. The Homosassa and Chassahowitzka springs are some of the few warm water areas instinctually used by the Manatees during these times.

The second issue is that these waterways are what are keeping the manatee populations at their current levels.

For animals to survive scientists and naturalists have discovered that any species needs a certain amount of their unique supporting habitats where they can live in to survive. This is called their "support level." Human beings are very adaptable and can mold areas to support them with electricity, heaters, and foods trucked in to them, etc. Manatees don't. Without spring systems the manatees will lose a drastic amount of sheltering and feeding places.

Please see this article specifically mentioning "the spring at Ellie Schiller Homosassa Springs Wildlife State Park" as being influential in attempts to stop Manatee deaths during unusually cold weather:
<http://bit.ly/OrlSentManateesWarm>

How important is this to the manatee's population and survival?

The answer can be found in another quote from a well researched and well respected news source: "A record-topping 767 manatees died in 2010, with cold stress accounting for as many as 500 deaths, say figures released Wednesday by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Research Institute in St. Petersburg."
<http://bit.ly/TampaBay767DeadManatee> . That means at least a 10th of the Indian Manatee population, possibly almost twice that much.

Is saving the manatees important?

If you are not concerned about the extinction of a large warm blooded species that only lives primarily in one of our states – Florida - out of all the world, you may perhaps be concerned about the welfare of humans that live

in Florida.

Manatee Ecotourism

Do manatees really matter all that much?

“Manatees are also worth a fortune. Though there are no exact numbers on how much revenue manatee ecotourism generates for the State of Florida, in 2008 the Sierra Club reported that wildlife viewing generated more than \$3.1 billion in total economic impact for the state. With manatees being a major draw, some significant portion of that is, undoubtedly, going to counties that market their winter habitat for manatees.” This was reported in a Living Green Magazine July, 2012, article. <http://bit.ly/Y8aj31>

These springs are significantly located right alongside the same coast where so many livelihoods were destroyed by the BP oil spill. BP acknowledges they made a mistake in maintaining their oil drilling.

Mistakes like the BP oil spill happen and can that cause irreparable damage.

Please do not allow the mistake of these springs, which have already been Federally designated as "Florida Outstanding Waterways, to be decided by as small and self focused a group as the “Governing Board of the South West Florida Water Management District” (SWFWMD). These waterways and many of the animals that live there, such as the Indian Manatee, are unique and once gone – irreplaceable.

An excellent review has been conducted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS, Service, or USFWS) staff from the Jacksonville and Caribbean Ecological Services offices and answers many questions about Florida manatees.

It can be found at: <http://1.usa.gov/S4bLzt>

I hope my writing gives you some of the information needed to understand why concerned citizens should respond to the SWFWMD's Governing Board and tell the Governor of Florida: “NO reduction in flow to the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka River.”

That can be done on this petition at:

<http://chn.ge/XBfV6H>

or tweeting Florida Governor Rick Scott at:

<https://twitter.com/FLGovScott> or @FLGovScott

"

6114 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Mahlerie Smith [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 4:43 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Mahlerie Smith gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Because the manatees are so important and are in need of this water flow."

5745 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Marc Norris [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 3:34 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Marc Norris gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"We need to save the Manatees for future generations"

5023 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Marc Urban [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Monday, October 29, 2012 9:39 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Marc Urban gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Governor Scott is a corporate puppet. Ask him about sinkhole coverage and being in the back pocket of insurers. He's should be ashamed of himself."

10319 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Marcia Biggs [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Friday, October 26, 2012 5:20 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Marcia Biggs gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"For the manatees"

2023 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Marcia Burch [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 5:38 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Marcia Burch gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"The manatees are protected and so should the springs they winter in."

9437 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Marcia Warner [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 5:30 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Marcia Warner gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"As a former resident of Florida my family and I enjoyed seeing the wildlife and boating on the river. Manatees are such a gental and very special animal that I feel strongly about there not being any reduction in flow!"

6120 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosasa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Marcy Bernstein [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 8:23 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Marcy Bernstein gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Just leave the water levels alone.
Everytime you all screw with the water levels it messes it up."

7064 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: MARGARET ANDERSON [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 7:03 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

MARGARET ANDERSON gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"There are some things money can't buy!"

9544 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Margaret Keeler [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 7:03 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Margaret Keeler gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I love the Manatees!!!"

6683 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: margaret nelson [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 8:21 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

margaret nelson gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"The wildlife are in constant peril trying to survive in their habitats. Floridas residents need to stand up as their voice to protect and preserve this natural species."

7058 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Margaret Woodruff [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 8:16 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Margaret Woodruff gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I am tired of the government ruining my beautiful state "

9658 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Margarita Ruiz [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 5:13 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Margarita Ruiz gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I love animals and I hope this cruelty stops"

5989 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: margo williams [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Friday, October 26, 2012 7:28 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

margo williams gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"As a college student I visited these springs to enjoy the manatees. I have told my children of the great memories I built there. Please do not cut the flow and endanger the safety and health of these beautiful animals. I want my children to have the opportunity to have the same wonderful experience. "

2330 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Maria Fionda [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 3:44 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Maria Fionda gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"What would we be without nature. We need it. "

5160 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Maria Gavidia [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:23 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Maria Gavidia gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"These are endangered species and unique to Florida. There is no monetary value on the importance of these animals. They are living beings and that is all that should matter. Not how much money will I have because of them."

3927 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees, and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Maria I. Arisso [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 11:50 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Maria I. Arisso gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"We need to maintain our eco system."

8837 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Maria Oliveira [mailto:mail@change.org]
Sent: Monday, October 29, 2012 10:15 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Maria Oliveira gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Manatees are gentle and beautiful creatures and we are pushing them to extinction."

10399 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Maria Savin [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 4:23 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Maria Savin gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"This is important to me because manatees are awesome!"

5555 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: maria uranga [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 3:38 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

maria uranga gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Part of the beauty of Florida is its natural beauty.... Manatees are part of that beauty... They are gentle
FLORIDA SPOKE ANIMALS!"

9255 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Marian Davis [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 7:30 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Marian Davis gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"So few manatees are left and it is up to us to preserve our wildlife.
"

6822 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Marian Wood [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 8:54 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Marian Wood gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I love our rivers and appreciate the pristine beauty that is not found in any other area. We need to protect our beautiful area. "

9716 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Marianne Barto [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 4:59 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Marianne Barto gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"These gentle giants need these springs to survive."

5864 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Marie Neller [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 5:12 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Marie Neller gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Marie Neller"

5980 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Marie Trone [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 8:26 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Marie Trone gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I canoe on Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs regularly. My dogs enjoy swimming there as well. One of my all-time photographs is of a manatee in Chassahowitzka. We cannot afford to reduce the flow of this spring, as it is already incredibly low. We need to conserve this water for the future of not only the wildlife, by our children and grandchildren. Please do not let corporations, large scale ranchers, etc pressure you into giving them a larger allotment of water for the sake of "jobs". That is pure lip-service. Orlando has been listed in the top 10 cities for having demand exceed supply for fresh water by Wall Street. What businesses are going to come to Orlando knowing that the business and its workers have a water shortage???? Please think this through. I have facts, and I can give them to you. I teach Environmental Science at Valencia College in Kissimmee."

7079 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential

that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees, and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Marilyn Fuller [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 3:27 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Marilyn Fuller gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I have visited the Manatees at the Springs in question. They need help and fresh water is the least we can assure them."

4941 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

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The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Marilyn McGriff [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 6:55 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Marilyn McGriff gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I live on a river where I see manatees often. They have no enemies but man. Ruining our rivers by decreasing is flow from the springs does no one any good except put a few dollars in some companies pocket. It's not worth it."

9535 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees, and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Marina Fitoria [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:03 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Marina Fitoria gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"The Bible and the Judaic-Christian tradition teach and command us to treat animals with kindness and respect. The massive abuse and suffering legally inflicted on billions of animals every year is a clear violation of the teachings of our religious faith and cannot be justified by any person of faith and decency. The people for whom the Bible was written thousands of years ago were intimately familiar with wildlife and domestic animals, especially the practice of raising cattle and other animals. The Bible contains strict rules governing the treatment of farmed animals, and indeed all of God's creatures, which were designed to prevent any unnecessary pain and suffering. Modern day animal agriculture violates core Christian values. It wipes out entire populations and species of wildlife, confines huge numbers of animals in miserable conditions on factory farms, damages the environment, squanders scarce resources, and harms the health of people.

The Ten Commandments:

Do Not Overwork

Animals

T

he Mosaic Law in the Hebrew Scriptures forbids overworking animals and requires that people help stray and lost creatures. Many injunctions are clearly written for the sake of the creatures and not the owners.

The Law requires that

one help animals who
belong to enemies to
whom one owes no obligation, as well as those
of friends. One may
not "pass by" an
animal in distress: "If you
meet your
enemy's ox or
his ass going
astray, you shall
bring it back to him."
"

3376 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: marina Sharts [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Friday, October 26, 2012 5:51 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

marina Sharts gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"i visited Homosassa Spings some years ago and loved seeing the manatees up close"

2136 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Mario Cres [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 6:04 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Mario Cres gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Animal have no voice. Who represents them? Someone should defend their right to live."

6329 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: mario Morales [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 6:38 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

mario Morales gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"This creatures are part of an ecosystem."

6532 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Marion Walker [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 3:45 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Marion Walker gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Manatees are important to me!!!"

5167 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Marisol Groshaeny [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:54 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Marisol Groshaeny gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"We need to preserve and protect these wonderful creatures."

4496 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Marissa Bill [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:21 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Marissa Bill gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"These gentle giants need our protection!"

3893 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Maritza Villegas Collins [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:51 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Maritza Villegas Collins gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Respect the Manatees' Home "

4441 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Mark Cookman [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Monday, October 29, 2012 1:14 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Mark Cookman gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Isn't deciding that it is OK that 15% of an ENDANGERED SPECIES DIE by your actions the same thing as KILLING THEM? Isn't this against the LAW? Why aren't every one of these people, including Governor Scott, worried that come OCT 30, the police will arrest them for committing a crime? "

10686 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: MARK ELLIOTT [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 3:06 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

MARK ELLIOTT gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Florida's treasured springs and manatees must be protected. It is far easier to protect and restore them today. It may be too late if we surrender them to temporary desires of those only concerned with temporary priorities. Our legacy and responsibility for the future of our state's treasures is more important. Please protect Florida's unique treasures for all current and future Floridians."

4677 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

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The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Mark England [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 3:33 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Mark England gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"It is just wrong."

2692 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Mark Kafka [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Friday, October 26, 2012 9:10 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Mark Kafka gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Manatees are among the gentlest creatures on earth and we -- as the supposed superior species -- should do everything we can to ensure their safety and survival."

2482 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Mark Retting [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Monday, October 29, 2012 2:30 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Mark Retting gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"My house on a canal near Chaz and there is barely enough water to get my boat out. Any less water and I will be high and dry."

10784 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: mark sauter [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 8:36 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

mark sauter gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Nature got already enough destroyed since humans rules the planet "

8334 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Marla Robb [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:29 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Marla Robb gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Manatees are an important part of our life in Central Florida!"

4056 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Marlen Elias [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Monday, October 29, 2012 9:01 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Marlen Elias gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"because they are in my back yard and they are harmless and loving animals that are needed for our ecosystem - we aer just being to stupid or ignorant to understdsand that we are all connected!"

10225 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

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Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Marlene Gentile [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 5:26 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Marlene Gentile gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"As a former teacher, I can recall how my students admired manatees as one of the oldest and gentlest creatures on earth. Several times there was a public outcry to keep speed boats from mangling these creatures, and the students felt empowered by participating in initiatives to help our earth. It always seems to come down to a toss up between humans getting their way, no matter the reason, and the natural world takes a back seat. Once the planet is decimated, humans will be the one to take the back seat because we will not survive."

6082 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: marsha holbert [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 12:19 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

marsha holbert gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"i have lived in south fla since 1981. the manatees have been here forever. this is their home. need i say more??"

8916 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Marsha Rubin [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 12:22 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Marsha Rubin gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Manatees are gentle giants and a Florida treasure. Enough of them are killed by inconsiderate boaters and a reduction in flow will add to their eventual demise. We should be protecting voiceless, defenseless animals - not killing them!!

"

7907 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Martyn Johnson [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 8:22 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Martyn Johnson gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"PREVENTION of further degradation NOW, is BETTER than CURE at some future date.

There are already too many examples of rivers where the cure is verging on the impossible. Those situations could have been avoided with some thoughts of prevention.

Our neighbors, some who have lived in the area all their lives, tell of the longer term deterioration. The models are questionable as they are based on many assumptions, often made by people at a computer without even having seen the rivers. Look at the real facts not those generated from a myriad of assumptions in a computer model and you will realize how little is known by those computers about these complex spring systems that are so vital to both the ecology and economy of the area.

Please vote to stop Destruction by Suction (destroying the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka by sanctioning more groundwater withdrawals, and let us not forget Crystal River)."

8298 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

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Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Mary Aker [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 11:47 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Mary Aker gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"The people of Florida love the manatees. We love to see them and touch them and preserve them so our children can get to know these wonderful creatures.

"

8832 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

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Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees, and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Mary Anderson [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 11:37 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Mary Anderson gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Water use for humans is not a priority if it robs this precious resource from the animals that cannot live without it!"

9933 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: MARY ANN LAFARO [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 8:31 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

MARY ANN LAFARO gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"IT WILL HELP SAVE MANATEES AND FISH."

7110 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Mary Anne Combs [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 9:29 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Mary Anne Combs gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Humans have no right to harm the manatees who have been in their natural habitat forever."

7380 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: MARY CALVER [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:17 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

MARY CALVER gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I snorkel with the lovely sea creatures and they need our protection from humans ignorance"

3783 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Mary Carrico [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:47 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Mary Carrico gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Anything to do with animals is important to me"

4384 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Mary Conroy [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 4:01 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Mary Conroy gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Saving Manatees"

5340 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Mary D Wells [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Monday, October 29, 2012 9:27 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Mary D Wells gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Love them!"

10287 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Mary Elizabeth Dunlap [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Monday, October 29, 2012 8:42 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Mary Elizabeth Dunlap gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"We are blessed to have these gentle creatures in our waterways. We need to make sure we do all that we can to ensure their well being for future generations.

Karen Nuland"

10197 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Mary Farr [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Monday, October 29, 2012 1:30 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Mary Farr gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Water is the source of life. To maintain a healthy vibrant Florida we need to have our water in Florida providing for Floridians Human, Flora and Fauna. "

10711 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Mary Firminger [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Monday, October 29, 2012 10:51 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Mary Firminger gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Wildlife constitutes "natural resources" as well and we need to stop abusing all creatures.
"

10461 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Mary Harris [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 5:21 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Mary Harris gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"As a north Florida native I grew up watching for manatees in the water. They are beautiful and already endangered animals and I'd hate to see them disappear completely."

6044 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Mary Jacobs [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 1:46 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Mary Jacobs gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"To preserve the natural beauty of Florida & to save the Manatees & fish & the rest of Florida's wild life & beauty."

2671 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

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The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Mary Kemp [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 10:49 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Mary Kemp gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Manatees need help."

9884 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Mary Leonard [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 12:45 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Mary Leonard gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Save the animals ,land or water "

2878 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Mary McBride [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 1:05 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Mary McBride gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"SAVE MANATEES NOW!!!!!!!!!"

9016 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Mary Misiolak [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Friday, October 26, 2012 6:19 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Mary Misiolak gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"They need our help we are destroying our natural wonders"

2204 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Mary Mullins [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 2:15 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Mary Mullins gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"As at least a 4th-generation Floridian, I cannot stand the abuse the current administration is wreaking on our state's environment. We must put a stop to it, now! This is only one of the ways the state's resources are being decimated."

8041 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees, and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Mary Pavitt [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:38 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Mary Pavitt gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"The manatees are a protected species and any changes can impact their survival!"

4214 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Mary Powell [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 9:38 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Mary Powell gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Florida depends on tourism. The beaches, the sea life and the avians are what brings people here. One of the most majestic is the Manatee. To allow it's destruction is not only economically stupid it is truly disgusting for anyone who loves the beautiful creatures of Florida."

7413 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees, and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Mary Remer [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 5:45 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Mary Remer gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Too much of our precious water is being given away."

9445 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Mary Roy [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 8:48 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Mary Roy gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Preservation of our native animal species and the environment is highly important to us and for our future."

7196 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: mary shepherd [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:50 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

mary shepherd gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Manatee need every chance we humans can offer them. Survival of this animal is significant to people. It is critical to understand that we humans can ill afford the destruction of any protected animal. Please: do not reduce this water flow."

4433 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees, and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: mary sperandeo [mailto:mary@change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 7:00 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

mary sperandeo gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"We work on manatee tour boats. It is how we make our living as well as educate people about manatees."

9540 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Mary Sue Baker [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Monday, October 29, 2012 10:22 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Mary Sue Baker gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"If we don't take steps to stop the destruction of the habitats and the animals themselves, they will not die and become extinct. I think that people just don't understand or care about what extinct means."

10414 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: mary telfer [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Friday, October 26, 2012 8:14 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

mary telfer gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"we NEED TO PROTECT THESE CREATURESTHEY ARE DEPENDENTWE MUST SAVE ALL CREATURES IN NATURE"

2401 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Mary Warren [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 8:50 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Mary Warren gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Maintaining the delicate web of life means that we are responsible Earth citizens and are playing our part to foster God's creation."

2753 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Mary Wood [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:01 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Mary Wood gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I was a science teacher for forty years in Central Florida and realize first hand how important it is to value and preserve the waterways of Florida and the animals that live in them."

3314 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Maryellen Catherina [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 2:26 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Maryellen Catherina gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I use the waterways all the time and have seen the deterioration and decrease in wildlife. Please leave the waterways alone"

9140 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Mary-jo Rubin [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 3:14 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Mary-jo Rubin gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"This is a issue which will affect the the tourist trade & income ciming into Florida..beyond the conservation issues!"

4776 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

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and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Mathew Johnson [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:47 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Mathew Johnson gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Manatees are gentle giants who need us to speak for them"

4396 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Matilde cristal [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 3:53 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Matilde cristal gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Because I believe in the right of this beautiful animals to have their place in the world too. We have no human right to take everyting away from any animal or any specie than those not harm to us, on the contrary we are always trying to find ways of mistreating them or eliminating them"

5266 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosasa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Matt Delaney [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 3:06 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Matt Delaney gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I really don't think that it is at all fair that the Manatee's should be harmed in any way as they are living soul's just like the Human Being & deserve the right to have a life as they see fit . I love to be able to see them when I go out on a boat or even when I go to the ocean as they are a beautiful dreation ! "

8079 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Matthew Klein [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 11:52 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Matthew Klein gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Animals are on The Endangered species act."

7842 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Maureen Kearns [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 2:13 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Maureen Kearns gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"The Manatees must be protected!"

9123 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Max Christy [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 7:26 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Max Christy gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Save the manatees"

6805 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Megan Palmer [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 8:57 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Megan Palmer gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I love sea cows...
"

8380 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: melanie kuffell [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 5:04 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

melanie kuffell gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"There are so few of these creatures left, we need to protect the ones we have."

5904 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Melborn Kermit Hunnicutt [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 10:31 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Melborn Kermit Hunnicutt gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Every Fla Spring is an Oasis for several special species. They are one of the geological features that makes Florida special and unique. We must VALUE AND PROTECT them because they are like the canary in the coal mine - they alert us to the conditions of our aquifer from which we get our potable water. They are also a place to go and escape the hectic lifestyle of today!"

8632 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: melinda pampallona [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:58 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

melinda pampallona gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Being good stewards."

4557 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Melissa Bried [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 9:42 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Melissa Bried gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I have lived in this state for almost 40 yrs, alot longer than our govenor I believe. I love our manatees & want them protected. DO NOT REDUCE THE FLOW in our rivers. PROTECT OUR MANATEES."

9794 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Melissa Carroll [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Monday, October 29, 2012 3:35 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Melissa Carroll gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Harming these essential habitats is thoughtless and cruel. To reduce the flow would further infringe upon these endangered species' vital places of refuge, and this carelessness for biodiversity and the natural world will have deeper, more widespread repercussions for the place we all call home. "

10845 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Melissa Forberg [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:05 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Melissa Forberg gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"As a native floridian, I have always loved to see the endangered manatees in central Florida. They are a source of eco-tourism and should be a source of pride for our state."

3430 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Melissa Smith [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 10:25 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Melissa Smith gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"My father worked with The Nature Conservancy all his life. I want to make sure all the he worked so hard for, remains for future generations!"

8623 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: melynda rydbom [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 10:28 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

melynda rydbom gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Florida's environment is important to me
"

7602 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: MERCEDES DIMAIO [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 5:01 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

MERCEDES DIMAIO gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"We speak for those that cannot speak for themselves--We need to save our manatees--Please"

5888 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Mercedes Potter [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 9:02 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Mercedes Potter gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"They are so gracious ,kinf and such a treat to watch them swim right up to you. In the Florida Keys we love them and they are never harmed"

9737 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: meredith Bruder [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 6:33 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

meredith Bruder gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Because the manatees are gentle creatures who deserve our help!!"

6506 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Merrill Pazian [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 4:42 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Merrill Pazian gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"This my home and will be destroyed if reductions continue."

5730 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Michael Anderson [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Monday, October 29, 2012 9:00 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Michael Anderson gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Humans suck!"

10223 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Michael Appino [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Monday, October 29, 2012 7:58 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Michael Appino gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Kayaking, Fishing, protection of the ecosystem.

Chass has been going downhill for years, now SWIFTMD wants to further damage it? Get with it people!!!
"

10123 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Michael Balanoff [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Monday, October 29, 2012 8:45 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Michael Balanoff gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I like the manatees, it's the black bears I like even more"

10201 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Michael Byerly [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Friday, October 26, 2012 10:47 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Michael Byerly gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Having lived in Citrus County for more than 20 years, and seeing the natural beauty of our rivers there, I must add my name to this petition. "

2584 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Michael Edgerley [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 11:08 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Michael Edgerley gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I have kayaked those rivers, please save them!"

7723 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: michael enns [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 7:58 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

michael enns gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"The preservation of natural Florida is at a all time low. Despite a governor's misunderstanding and apathy toward the wildness of the state. He is a zealot buffoon."

8257 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

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The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Michael Flinn [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 10:45 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Michael Flinn gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"You're going to reduce habitat. I don't see the compelling reason, and I don't think you have one other than some people want that. "

7653 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: michael kenny [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:38 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

michael kenny gave the following reason for signing this petition:

" the manatees are important to floridas water eco system"

4214 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Michael Love [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Monday, October 29, 2012 9:25 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Michael Love gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"These are wonderful animals and we need to do everything we can to protect them. This includes not jeopardizing their habitat."

10283 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Michael Lowe [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Monday, October 29, 2012 12:11 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Michael Lowe gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Water, air & land. Everything depends upon them. Especially water."

10601 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Michael Maire [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 3:48 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Michael Maire gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Manatees are such cool & friendly animals. They need safe places to live."

5210 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Michael Martinez [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:52 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Michael Martinez gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"As a native Floridian I love manatees and hate to see how these gentle giants are constantly abused and neglected as a part of our natural Florida ecosystem."

4453 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Michael Masters [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Monday, October 29, 2012 9:40 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Michael Masters gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I grew up in Florida and have seen it degraded primarily by poor management to favor commercial interests."

10323 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Michael Philipp [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 3:34 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Michael Philipp gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Living in Florida, I am keen to preserve all wildlife and important natural environments."

5031 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Michael Sagona [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 7:28 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Michael Sagona gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Preserve wildlife from governments !"

6818 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: MICHAEL SHAFFER [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:21 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

MICHAEL SHAFFER gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Endangers species...docile animals that need protection from humanoids."

3894 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Michael Tracy [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Monday, October 29, 2012 7:52 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Michael Tracy gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Our springs are one of most important natural resources in Florida. If we do not do something to save them now they will be gone. Water is life giving."

10119 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Michele Cooper-Taylor [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Monday, October 29, 2012 8:22 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Michele Cooper-Taylor gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I have swam with the majestic mammals. They are so sweet and beautiful. They need protection and care. They mind their own business and don't bother anyone. If you reduce the flow; where will they end up? There will be a reduction in vegetation and it's hard enough for them to find food. "

10164 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: MICHELE KELLEHER [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 1:15 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

MICHELE KELLEHER gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"YOU CAN NEVER REPLACE A LIVING THING...ONCE ITS GONE THERE IS NO TURNING BACK...SO SO SAD..PLEASE SAVE THESE PEACEFUL SWEET ANIMALS.."

7984 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Michele Pemberton [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 7:37 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Michele Pemberton gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"The Manatees are a part of fla that needs too be preserved."

2725 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: michele sanandajian [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 3:02 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

michele sanandajian gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"i love the environment"

4618 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Michelle Anthony [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Monday, October 29, 2012 2:54 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Michelle Anthony gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I have been a wildlife rehabilitator for 20 years and have seen the devastating effects of humans on wildlife. "

10806 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: michelle bozeman [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 1:05 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

michelle bozeman gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Manatees depend on humans to protect them. they are also a great tourist attraction. why would you endanger them by reducing the water?"

9017 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Michelle Pacheco [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 7:42 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Michelle Pacheco gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I love the manatees."

8235 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Miguel Pacheco Jr [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 11:07 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Miguel Pacheco Jr gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Yes safe our water..Plus we need to be aware and feel the pain of watching our rivers and our wildlife die.
"

8733 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees, and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Mike Flatland [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 3:51 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Mike Flatland gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"We need to save are wildlife. "

5242 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Mike Loscalzo [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 12:05 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Mike Loscalzo gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I dislike gov't controls"

8878 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Mil Zimmer [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 12:18 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Mil Zimmer gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Sufficient clean water is essential for all life, human, animal, plant."

8912 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Milli Gryca [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 1:56 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Milli Gryca gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"How is this not important to the future of Florida???"

3109 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Minnie Ogburn [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Monday, October 29, 2012 9:49 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Minnie Ogburn gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Manatees are close to my heart, as are all of our creatures."

10343 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Missy Patrick [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 1:14 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Missy Patrick gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Because I live here and kayak those springs"

9033 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Molly Yoder-Williams [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 4:15 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Molly Yoder-Williams gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Swimming with the manatees is one of my favorite things to do in this area. They are a National Treasure and their environment needs to be protected!"

5476 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Monica Woll [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 10:25 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Monica Woll gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Florida has more springs than anywhere else in the world. Once we lose them, they may never come back!"

2803 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Mr. Mrs Frank Cassell [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Friday, October 26, 2012 4:33 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Mr. Mrs Frank Cassell gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"We love all animals"

1921 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Ms.Michelle Buck [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 5:45 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Ms.Michelle Buck gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"We need to hang on to our Fresh Water for the Sea Animals that need it."

6224 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Mystina Swaim [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 11:31 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Mystina Swaim gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Manatees have been a great passion of mine from a very young age. When first learning about these amazing gentle giants, I studied about them and dreamed about getting to meet one up close. My dream came true when I swam with wild manatees in Crystal River, FL in 2004. I was able to experience this great opportunity and further extend my dream to working with them during my college internship. Manatees have and always will be an important part of my life and we need to do all we can to protect them for future generations. Manatees are not only an important part of the environment, but an important part of Florida's culture as well as a symbol of gentleness and tranquility we can all learn from. "

9929 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

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Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees, and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Nadira Ali [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 6:45 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Nadira Ali gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"all creatures are precious."

9520 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Nancy Beebe [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 3:31 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Nancy Beebe gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I live in Florida and love it's wild places, especially it's rivers. All life here depends upon our now imperiled waters."

9239 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Nancy Blythe [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 4:49 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Nancy Blythe gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"No reductions in flow!!!!!!!!!!"

8118 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Nancy Elizabeth Markovich [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Friday, October 26, 2012 7:47 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Nancy Elizabeth Markovich gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Manatees are losing population and are unique to Florida. They also eat weeds that choke up beautiful springs"

2361 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Nancy Fecso [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 4:39 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Nancy Fecso gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I live on a canal leading to the Homosassa River. The river is a unique part of this area we call home. We continue to watch the river being damaged. Finally, we can start to reverse some of this and I will urge everyone I know to say no to reductions in flow."

9356 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees, and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Nancy Frank [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 8:50 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Nancy Frank gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"These gentle creatures should not be forced from their homes. Now if we could get the boats to stop running them over."

7210 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Nancy Griffiths [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 9:58 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Nancy Griffiths gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"They are so ugly that they are beautiful, and its a shame to let our younger generation not enjoy these unusual species. The gentle giants deserve more than what man has given them, after all they were here first. Please help these creatures to survive. Its so very important."

8534 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Nancy Haman [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 3:04 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Nancy Haman gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"You are threatening an endangered species habitat."

4647 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Nancy Marshall [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Friday, October 26, 2012 5:20 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Nancy Marshall gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I grew up on the Chaz and the thought of it not being there in its pristine condition for future generation sickens me. I have already begun to notice a difference in the salt content and the clarity of the springs/river...NO more reduction of flow!!!"

2017 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees, and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Nancy Morgan [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 4:34 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Nancy Morgan gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"we must look out for our manatees and others who can't speak for themselves "

5662 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Nancy Noloboff [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 7:15 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Nancy Noloboff gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Protecting our waterways is crucial to the survival of the manatees as well as the health of our entire Florida ecosystem."

9563 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Nancy O'Keefe [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Monday, October 29, 2012 11:33 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Nancy O'Keefe gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"They are beautiful animals!!"

10543 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Nancy Tobergte [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 2:29 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Nancy Tobergte gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Our springs and rivers are vital to the existence of all forms of life, including human forms, and they are already in danger from lack of rainfall replenishment...why on earth would we want to allow further damage!!!"

9143 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

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FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

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The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Nancy W. Fellenz [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:39 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Nancy W. Fellenz gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Man over nature, again. We must stop this."

4250 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Nancy Warlick [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 5:25 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Nancy Warlick gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Manatees are such wonderful creatures which we in Florida are fortunate to have. PLEASE preserve them and their habitat!!"

6078 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Nancy Wilson [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 8:50 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Nancy Wilson gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I remember when the Homosassa was just a "hole in the ground", a spring with no buildings, just a place to swim and enjoy and and I used to go fishing with my parents on the Chassaowitzka. I would like them to stay for us AND the manatees !"

7209 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Nannette Gadomski [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:38 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Nannette Gadomski gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"As a resident of SW FL, this issue is very important to me. Our wildlife is constantly at risk & it's our responsibility to protect it!"

4223 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Natasha Santo [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 1:56 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Natasha Santo gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I live in Florida."

3091 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Neal Wall [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 11:37 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Neal Wall gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Loss of habitat for the manatee"

7800 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Neil Armingeon [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 4:53 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Neil Armingeon gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Why decrease MFLs at the springs? Profit? Greed? Vote NO! Save the manatee."

5819 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Nicole Judkins [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 4:32 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Nicole Judkins gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"As a lifetime Floridian, we should safeguard what natural habits we have left. Manatees are such wonderful, gentle creatures and we should protect their habitats at all costs. Find another solution than this. It is not acceptable."

5643 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees, and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Nikki Gunderson [mailto:mail@change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 9:27 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Nikki Gunderson gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Manatees are endangered and we need to save them."

9769 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Nisa Birnbaum [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 10:23 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Nisa Birnbaum gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Our wildlife is important to me. Please tell woman in picture that it is illegal to touch wildlife."

8616 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: noahdm sanchez [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Friday, October 26, 2012 8:35 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

noahdm sanchez gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Be vegan. Save the manatees. Go green. All to save the planet."

2429 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: northa sanchez [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 5:42 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

northa sanchez gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Save animals"

8138 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Olivia Scott [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 7:31 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Olivia Scott gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Save the manatees!!!"

8217 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Ora Jean Henry [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 9:10 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Ora Jean Henry gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"As a native Floridian, I have long loved these big natives. Once I went swimming with the manatees on my birthday, following the required rules for THEIR safety. (We are proud supporters & members of Mote Marine in Sarasota also. "

7296 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees, and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Pal Mac Neill [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Monday, October 29, 2012 12:55 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Pal Mac Neill gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Manatees are a Fla. signature species and must be protected and nurtured at all costs."

10668 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Pam Brachmann [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 5:01 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Pam Brachmann gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"The rivers are not only a source of refuge and habitat for the manatee and many other creatures; it is a recreational place for kayakers like me. Just check out the nature around you on a paddle through these and other Florida rivers for an up close look at all the creatures that call the river home."

5889 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees, and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Pam Bucci [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 10:53 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Pam Bucci gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Because animals are beautiful and should be protected. They can't defend themselves."

9891 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Pam Cohen [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Monday, October 29, 2012 11:30 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Pam Cohen gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I am extremely concerned that Florida officials do not care about Florida's or any state's natural wildlife and ecosystem.

Marco Rubio just wrote that he's for The Sportsmen's Act of 2012, a very dangerous act that's geared for self-absorbed recreational hunters that will lead to the destruction of animal protection agencies and conservation on public land. Please google this.

Marco Rubio also voted against stronger anti-dog fighting laws.

The people up north say this state is so backwards and I've always defended it, but now, some of the people representing us are embarrassing and I agree it's true.

Do the right thing for our unique and important manatees. At all costs do not reduce the flow to these rivers."

10538 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees, and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: pam mccann [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 6:28 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

pam mccann gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Why wouldn't this be important to me??"

6475 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: pamela alm [mailto:alm@change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 3:51 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

pamela alm gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"the enviroment is important tp me as well as mammal life"

5248 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Pamela Arn [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Monday, October 29, 2012 6:41 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Pamela Arn gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I live in florida"

10071 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Pamela Bennett [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 9:30 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Pamela Bennett gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Our precious wildlife is being obliterated by "progress""

8464 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Pamela Geddis [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Monday, October 29, 2012 2:06 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Pamela Geddis gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"This is an essential habitat for the wildlife in the area, including endangered species, and cannot risk further degradation due to human causes."

10751 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Pamela Monaghan [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:32 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Pamela Monaghan gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"This is a no brainer . . ."

4097 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Pamela Salacka [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Friday, October 26, 2012 7:39 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Pamela Salacka gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"We need to preserve our natural wildlife and the manatees are very important to me."

2349 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Pat Bayers [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 10:02 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Pat Bayers gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Manatees are a treasure and must be protected. Flow reductions will threaten them."

7515 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Pat Bucko [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 1:15 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Pat Bucko gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Do we need to harm or kill everything to save money? Can't a politician cancel one unnecessary trip each and save money there?"

7983 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Pat Manuel [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:43 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Pat Manuel gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"love our beautiful precious gentle manatees"

4304 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Pat Sideravage [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 7:09 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Pat Sideravage gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Because they are a gentle and beautiful species. The younger generation needs to see them. They are endangered and we should do everything to save them."

6723 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Pat Ursomano [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 5:12 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Pat Ursomano gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I am sick and tired of watching the things that once made Florida special disappear. Been here since '59. "

5977 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Pat Weaver [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 4:48 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Pat Weaver gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Please leave well enough alone. "

5775 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Patrice Williams [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Friday, October 26, 2012 10:03 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Patrice Williams gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I'm all for protecting wildlife. "

2549 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Patricia Blakely [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:08 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Patricia Blakely gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Because I have been living here in Titusville, FL. for almost 4 years now. And the Manatees are ONE of the MOST BEAUTIFUL SITESHERE IN Titusville, FL. IF THEY BOTHER ANYONE, THEN THERE IS SOMETHING WRONG WITH THESE PEOPLE. PLEASE DO NOT DO AWAY WITH THE Manatees. I will support the Manatees until the day I die.They are better than peoplebecause they do not hurt you or anyone like people hurt other people. Patricia Ann Blakely"

3522 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosasa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees, and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Patricia Goytre [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 3:37 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Patricia Goytre gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Because every animal life is important for me!!!"

9252 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Patricia Junior [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 12:12 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Patricia Junior gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I live on a canal off the Homosasa River, and I would like to see the quality and quantity of the river not be compromised"

8898 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: PATRICIA KELDER [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 3:12 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

PATRICIA KELDER gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Man needs to leave these habitats alone"

4753 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Patricia McDonald [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:15 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Patricia McDonald gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Please do not jeopardize manatees and other endangered species. I care very much about this."

3726 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: PATRICIA NELSON [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 8:55 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

PATRICIA NELSON gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"As a lifelong resident of Florida, I am concerned with preserving the natural waters of this lovely state."

8377 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Patricia Silbert [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 8:28 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Patricia Silbert gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I'm 72-yrs. old and had never seen a Manatee in my life until I moved to Florida. I was awe-struck by the gentleness and intelligence of those awesome creatures. It would be, in my opinion, criminal to disrupt their habitat. "

8311 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees, and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Patrick Cardwell [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 7:20 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Patrick Cardwell gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"These gentle giants need our help to survive."

8203 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: patrick geraghty [mailto:patrick@change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 5:53 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

patrick geraghty gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I am a Floridian."

6269 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Patrick O'Meara [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Friday, October 26, 2012 6:57 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Patrick O'Meara gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"The last several times I was on the Cassahowitzka it was gray water with so much sewage. Also, one time a manatee swam up to my kayak and hugged it. Manatees and the other animals don't deserve the pollution they are having to endure. "

2278 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees, and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Patrick Thurmond [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 9:23 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Patrick Thurmond gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"the reduction in our waterflow in our streams and rivers hurt Florida's natural habitat. Stop the reduction of fresh water!"

7359 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Patti Holmes [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 10:09 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Patti Holmes gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"because it is, and to nature!"

7539 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Paul Kitwood [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 11:06 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Paul Kitwood gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"We humans are set on this planet to look after and protect it, not destroy it. The manatees can't protect themselves we need to do it."

9906 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Paul Semenec [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 7:23 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Paul Semenec gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"If there is a chance to make manatee life better, let's do it!"

9578 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Paul tarins [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:46 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Paul tarins gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"all wildlife is important to me"

4356 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Paul Toneguzzo [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Friday, October 26, 2012 8:15 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Paul Toneguzzo gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I am a avid defender of wildlife"

2403 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Paul Wolters [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Monday, October 29, 2012 11:22 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Paul Wolters gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"protect the manatees"

10519 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Paul Yingst [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 10:03 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Paul Yingst gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"It is the right thing to do!!!"

7522 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Paula Baxter [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 9:09 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Paula Baxter gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I had the opportunity to swim with these gentle creatures and want to see them protected."

7292 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: PAULA CABRERA [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Monday, October 29, 2012 9:28 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

PAULA CABRERA gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Although I am not a resident of Florida, I believe in protecting and preserving the environment for "all" wildlife. Please stop any form of reductions to the springs for the Manatee's, and the beauty of the rivers!

"

10291 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees, and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: paula cellar [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 3:31 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

paula cellar gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"simply, this is the only planet we hve to live on. we can do better for our childre and future generations."

9240 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Paula Forteza [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Monday, October 29, 2012 12:26 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Paula Forteza gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"The Florida manatees are gentle creatures and a huge part of Floridian culture."

10622 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Pedro Lopez [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 11:58 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Pedro Lopez gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Manatees are some of the gentlest and noblest animals on the planet. We should protect them."

7862 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Peggy Balliett [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Monday, October 29, 2012 2:09 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Peggy Balliett gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"The manatee relies on these springs for survival during the winter months. It would be a shame to take the springs away from them and perhaps cause more deaths among these magnificent mammals. Their numbers have been shrinking in size due to Man over the years. Can the world afford to lose more?"

10755 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees, and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Peggy-Ann Bissell [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 4:14 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Peggy-Ann Bissell gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I love animals and we all need to preserve what God gave us."

8103 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Peter and Jacqueline Silva [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:04 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Peter and Jacqueline Silva gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"We as human beings need to stop messing around with our wildlife! I do not agree with reductions in flow!!!!"

3387 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Peter Arroyo [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Monday, October 29, 2012 9:15 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Peter Arroyo gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"LIFE is important "

10254 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

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FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Peter Barnett [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 11:20 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Peter Barnett gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I love Manatees"

2835 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

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The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: peter fernandez [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 10:39 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

peter fernandez gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"why isn't this important to everyone else"

2812 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Peter Hayton [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 7:36 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Peter Hayton gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"We live surrounded by the beauty of nature.; what will we be surrounded by if we don't cherish and protect that beauty?"

8223 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Peter Mercauto [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 12:42 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Peter Mercauto gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"As a lifelong Florida resident, I treasure both the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers. Some of my earliest memories are of my family making the 60 mile trip to enjoy the (then) pristine Chassahowitzka. Since then, development has abused and degraded both rivers to the point that the last time I visited both rivers, a few years ago, it brought tears to my eyes. The abuse needs to STOP and stop NOW!!"

7940 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees, and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: peter wagner [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 8:53 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

peter wagner gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"When the welfare of noble creatures such as the manatees, bears, cranes, and others are threatened by our proposals, the decisions should be made in their favor, because their survival is at stake!"

7226 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Philip Seissian [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Friday, October 26, 2012 6:56 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Philip Seissian gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Manatees are large gentle creatures that are highly endangered, they must be protected"

2275 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: phillip slimak [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 3:06 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

phillip slimak gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I believe in protecting old Florida"

9205 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Phyllis Bernard [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 2:16 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Phyllis Bernard gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I am a Homosassa resident. The Homosassa River and Chassahowitzka River and the springs they support are essential for the wonderful Florida wildlife species living here. Help us save the real Florida!"

9127 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Phyllis Cole [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 5:54 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Phyllis Cole gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"It is our responsibility to save our lands and its inhabitants not to destroy it. What are we thinking?"

6282 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Phyllis Eagle [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 6:34 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Phyllis Eagle gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"This gentle giant deserves the kind of environment that it needs to thrive"

6509 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Phyllis J Smith [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 1:06 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Phyllis J Smith gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I lived in central Florida for 25 years and still love the manatee's"

7976 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Phyllis Sapienza [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 4:42 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Phyllis Sapienza gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Because the various species require the spring fed fresh water for their very existence."

5740 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Rachael McCrosky [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 9:29 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Rachael McCrosky gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I live in Florida and have gone swimming with the manatees. These are a state resource and the lifeline of many tourist organizations. Also, they are cute."

7376 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Rachel Barnes [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 2:03 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Rachel Barnes gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"love manatees"

9109 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Rafael E Cumplido [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 12:57 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Rafael E Cumplido gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Protection of the environment and the animal species should be a top priority."

7964 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Ralph Mergen [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Monday, October 29, 2012 1:15 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Ralph Mergen gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Manatees are endangered, so you just cannot put them at further risk."

9990 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Ramona White [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Monday, October 29, 2012 12:31 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Ramona White gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Manatees are awesome and they deserve to stay in their habitat!"

10631 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Randall Patsches [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Monday, October 29, 2012 7:08 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Randall Patsches gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Every project the corp of engineers or swfwm have done resulted in disaster. It is appalling that we constantly feel the need to change or control nature, leave it alone."

10082 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Raymond Gibson [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:51 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Raymond Gibson gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"If you can't save our freshwater for sheer potability, maybe saving it for the manatees in it will keep our water drinkable."

4443 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Rebecca Gravely [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 4:16 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Rebecca Gravely gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"This is important to me because manatees are important to Florida!"

5490 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Rebecca Lambert [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 8:30 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Rebecca Lambert gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"This may have been a good year for rain but what happens next year and we receive no rain. This is just plain crazy."

9678 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: rebecca rabinowitz [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Monday, October 29, 2012 1:36 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

rebecca rabinowitz gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"This a no brainer! They were here first AND are part of our world!"

10717 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Rebecca Walker [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 7:17 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Rebecca Walker gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Manatees need us to protect them. They are gentle creatures and do no harm to anyone. Why should we hurt them? "

6760 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Regina Medeiros [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Monday, October 29, 2012 8:41 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Regina Medeiros gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I love Manatees!"

10195 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Rene Tanner [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 12:14 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Rene Tanner gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"The manatees cannot require, request or otherwise communicate their need for habitat. However, we know that they need it to survive. Do the right thing for this species and allow its survival."

2635 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: RENEE BARRIER [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Monday, October 29, 2012 10:05 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

RENEE BARRIER gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"WE NEED TO PROTECT THE MANATEES, THEY ARE HELPLESS CREATURES."

10374 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

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FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Rev. Clyde Sanda [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Friday, October 26, 2012 9:26 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Rev. Clyde Sanda gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Because they can't help themselves. They are one of God's creatures and have the right to live. They were here first."

2509 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Rhonda Baca [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 12:19 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Rhonda Baca gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"There is not many left, don't cut off their sanctuary. "

8919 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Rhonda Taylor [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 10:29 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Rhonda Taylor gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Stop changing the course of the waterways. God had it all figured out, but man thought they could make things better, and the only thing you over educated idiots have done are cause more problems with our habitat. Bunch of idiots, STOP IT.

"

8629 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees, and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: richard bryant [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Monday, October 29, 2012 12:15 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

richard bryant gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"we spend alot ot time at both chassahowitzka and homosassa rivers and springs, in the six years we,ve been here we have noticed a change in the wildlife and marine life due to the changing flows of the rivers. please do not allow the purposed flow limits to be enacted."

10607 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosasa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees, and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Richard Bryant [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Monday, October 29, 2012 6:46 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Richard Bryant gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"As a landowner on the Chassahowitzka River and a biologist, I believe that any reduction of flow will result in Significant Harm to the system."

10075 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: richard castillo [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Monday, October 29, 2012 10:16 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

richard castillo gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I love manatees, gentle giants..."

10402 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Richard Eckler [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 9:25 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Richard Eckler gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"These springs have a limited number of gallons they can provide. Bleeding them off for use that can only increase is a short term solution to a long term problem- like an addict and his drugs. By the nature of the problem,, this solution can't succeed."

8452 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Richard Flynn [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:15 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Richard Flynn gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Saving wildlife is essential. Period."

3701 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Richard McGarrell [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 1:12 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Richard McGarrell gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I do not want to see any loss of natural habitat. Stop the strawberry farmers from emptying the aquifer!"

2895 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Richard Petty [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 5:00 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Richard Petty gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"The springs and the environment need to be protected for future generations."

5883 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Richard Ruman [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 9:06 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Richard Ruman gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Because Manatee are crucial for Florida eco-system."

7273 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Rita Brinkley [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:49 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Rita Brinkley gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"You should never endanger the lives of these beautiful "sea cows." They are an integral part of the ecosystem and to Florida tourism as well. Why would you hurt an animal that is so docile?"

4421 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Rita Chambers [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 7:31 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Rita Chambers gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I live on the Gulf Coast of Florida, and I love seeing the manatees! I want them to be safe!"

6826 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Rob Martin [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 5:19 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Rob Martin gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"WE need to take care of our wildlife"

6030 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Robert & Virginia Svoboda [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 12:58 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Robert & Virginia Svoboda gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"We live on the head of the Halls River, which flows into the Homosassa River. In the twenty years that we have lived here, we have seen the steady decline in the fresh water springs that feed the Halls & Homosassa Rivers. There is more salt water intrusion, lack of fish and natural vegetation, which is essential to the survival of our manatees, Osprey and all wildlife. We feel that any reduction in flow of these rivers, should be stopped immediately."

2884 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees, and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Robert Allen [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 9:49 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Robert Allen gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Our state is running out of fresh water. South Florida have had to shut down wells for salt water intrusion and the Lake Wales Ridge water resources are showing signs of salt water intrusion. The EPA website shows that our states water has some very serious contaminates in the Florida aquifer. Mother nature had a great plan but "man is mans worst enemy". We the people have to step up and protect one of the most important natural resources. We can not sustain life without Clean Breathable AIR & Clean Drinkable WATER. We are all connected. Every action has a reaction."

8515 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosasa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if

possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees, and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Robert Berkley [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Monday, October 29, 2012 9:38 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Robert Berkley gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I live on the Withlacoochee and hate what has happened to it as water flow has been reduced."

10316 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: ROBERT BUNTING [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 9:00 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

ROBERT BUNTING gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I LIVE IN FLORIDA AND HAVE FELT THE IMPACT OF WATER FLOWS AND IT SCARES ME. "

2761 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Robert Carey [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 7:04 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Robert Carey gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I spend much of my spare time on the river and have seen the damage already done. NO MORE reduction in flow."

9548 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Robert Dallas [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Monday, October 29, 2012 11:30 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Robert Dallas gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"These are considered 'Florida Outstanding Waterways' and ome to many endangered species. Nothing should be done to degrade these two waterways. NOTHING!"

10536 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosasa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Robert Grant [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:16 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Robert Grant gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"It is very important to keep these gentle giants thriving for future generations. It is also important because they exist in our world and we have an obligation to keep them safe from harm.

"

3734 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees, and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Robert Hylan [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 8:53 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Robert Hylan gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I am proud of what we have and don't want to lose it."

9712 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Robert Knight [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 2:13 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Robert Knight gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"All springs deserve to be protected and preserved for future generations and for us."

9124 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Robert Kubistek [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Monday, October 29, 2012 3:22 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Robert Kubistek gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"It will effect my and my family's future."

10829 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Robert Lippert [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:12 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Robert Lippert gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Manatees are an important part of the Florida Everglades ecological system and should be protected."

3630 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

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The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Robert McDonnold [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 12:07 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Robert McDonnold gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"If you choose to ignore the manatee, who or what is next? What's so wrong with caring?"

8886 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Robert McFarland [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 3:18 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Robert McFarland gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Because manatees are beautiful gifts to us all."

4833 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Robert Mills [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Monday, October 29, 2012 10:23 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Robert Mills gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I am a resident of Chassahowitzka and I feel that any change to the flow of our spring will be devastating. The spring and river is already severely stressed and any reduction in flow threatens its existence. We must protect this valuable resource and the animals that depend on it. Why do we continue to mess with these springs? The obvious answer is to steal the water for someone else's use. If we continue this trend there will be no spring."
"

10417 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees, and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Robert R Rupe Jr [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:35 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Robert R Rupe Jr gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"We can't keep giving water out to everyone. We have to protect our Aquifers."

4158 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: ROBERT SIEVERT [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 1:03 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

ROBERT SIEVERT gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"All life is important to me."

9013 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: ROBERT WEXLER [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 6:14 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

ROBERT WEXLER gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"CLEAN WATER AND PUBLIC LAND"

9481 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Roberta Bauer [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Friday, October 26, 2012 6:28 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Roberta Bauer gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I am a new resident of Florida (1 year) and I am astounded at the natural beauty and wildlife. It's in our interest to save the springs for the manatees."

2218 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Roberta Gerber [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 3:47 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Roberta Gerber gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"We are fortunate to have these marvelous creatures as our friends.
"

5199 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Roberta Obligen [mailto:mail@change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 5:52 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Roberta Obligen gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"These gentle giants need a safe heaven to swim and live out their lives."

6267 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: roberto soto [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Friday, October 26, 2012 5:33 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

roberto soto gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I'm an animal lover and these creatures need our protection."

2078 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: robet jones [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 5:41 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

robet jones gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"because i care"

9442 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Robin Hudpseth [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 4:48 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Robin Hudpseth gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Life"

9366 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Robin Peterson [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 8:29 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Robin Peterson gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"WILDLIFE"

9676 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Robin Potter [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Monday, October 29, 2012 8:29 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Robin Potter gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"The springs have been around for decades and are a great source of water for the manatees, please leave it alone."

10179 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Robin Sekerak [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 3:41 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Robin Sekerak gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"The vulnerable Florida Manatee remains at great risk and is threatened by urbanization: pollution, reduced spring access/flow, boat strikes, and being "loved to death" by well-meaning but ignorant Floridians and tourists. They are a Florida icon and remain a big tourist attraction. It is up to Florida to protect this special and unique animal and its ecosystem from human encroachment, agricultural pressures and development. In other words, from us. "

5130 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees, and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: ROBIN WITHERINGTON [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 6:10 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

ROBIN WITHERINGTON gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"they need the springs to survive the winter"

8154 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Robyn sparrow [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Friday, October 26, 2012 5:27 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Robyn sparrow gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I love manatees with all my heart and any way I can help them I will!"

2058 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Rocco Mollica [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 11:22 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Rocco Mollica gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"With the changes in climate swinging from above average heat to below average cold, Manatees need a place where they can go to avoid hypothermia during winter."

8774 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Rolaine Smoot [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 7:07 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Rolaine Smoot gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I have have dived with wild Manatees. They are such gentle beings!"

9553 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Ron Browall [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 3:53 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Ron Browall gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I kayak all the rivers in Florida and have seen how low some of them got in the drought. "

9285 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Ron McCracken [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 1:58 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Ron McCracken gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"These mammals bring thousands of tourists to Florida annually. Their welfare impacts the welfare of the state. Please stop messings with water levels."

3192 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Ronald Eike [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 3:10 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Ronald Eike gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Because they can't sign for themselves!"

4731 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Ronald Leh [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Friday, October 26, 2012 5:20 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Ronald Leh gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Because we have to protect the manatees from mans destuctive policies."

2023 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosasa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Ronald Thuemler [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 3:10 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Ronald Thuemler gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Manatees and waterways require a minimum, healthy flow of clean water to exist period."

4733 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Ronda Chewning [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 4:19 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Ronda Chewning gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I love Manatee's. Protect these animals. "

9326 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Ronda Lynch [mailto:mail@change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 10:57 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Ronda Lynch gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"These poor creatures are a gentle and glorious addition to the state of Florida. It is our DUTY to treat our assets in a manner that will preserve them for our future generations and theirs as well. Step up and get a backbone. Save our springs and save our manatees!!"

8705 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees, and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Rosa Fernandez [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Monday, October 29, 2012 8:43 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Rosa Fernandez gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Future generations need to be able to experience beautiful Florida, Manatees, and all the wonderful species of the wetlands. Homosassa springs should be preserved."

10199 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Rosanna Bell [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 3:57 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Rosanna Bell gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Manatees are an important part of Florida. Let's do what we can to protect them. "

5305 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Rosanne Adkins [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 10:52 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Rosanne Adkins gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I love the manatees! "

9888 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Rosanne Ingoglia [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 10:35 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Rosanne Ingoglia gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Wildlife endangerment...please act responsibly and leave the water ways alone. "

8641 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Rosanne Marcello [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Monday, October 29, 2012 3:18 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Rosanne Marcello gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"decreasing flows will disturb natural balances that exist, disrupting the natural flora and fauna that now prevail. We have already destroyed so much of our environments, to continue this, knowingly, would be borderline criminal"

10823 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees, and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: rosemary brandon [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 5:15 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

rosemary brandon gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"how many more must become endangered before something intellegent is done"

6004 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: roy sagarin [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:00 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

roy sagarin gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"To save what's left of natural ecosystems."

3257 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Rufus Shepherd [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 11:48 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Rufus Shepherd gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Life is important on all levels"

7827 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Russell Watrous [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Monday, October 29, 2012 3:14 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Russell Watrous gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I am a 60 year user of Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers I've seen the impact over the years and I don't want to loose another 10% of this Florida resource. "

10820 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Ruth Bullard [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 12:18 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Ruth Bullard gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Our environment and nature are critical"

8914 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Ruth Cassidy [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:11 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Ruth Cassidy gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Manatees are having enough nightmares to even Survive. Hands OFF their sanctuary!!!"

3607 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: S Cruz [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 4:16 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

S Cruz gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"if they reduce this, they will be willing to reduce other animal species. "

9318 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: S Young [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Monday, October 29, 2012 1:36 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

S Young gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"We need to get rid of all the bottling plants, encourage agriculture to employ water-wise irrigation, get golf courses to use reclaimed water, and do all we can to protect our Aquifer - for humans and all of life, not just manatees."

10716 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees, and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: s.a. thompson [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 8:33 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

s.a. thompson gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"i love animals"

7121 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Sally Ann Collins [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Monday, October 29, 2012 1:29 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Sally Ann Collins gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I have lived many years in Broward county and saw what happened to waters and habitat in south Florida when construction destroyed the natural life there. "

9997 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Sally Belton [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 6:40 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Sally Belton gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"The Springs throughout Florida are all suffering and water flow is down at most of them. This is a serious problem not only for our wildlife but a scary problem for our drinking water in the state."

9507 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Sam Gellerstedt [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 4:24 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Sam Gellerstedt gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"We need the springs for the manatees and for the people who enjoy the springs."

9334 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Samantha lubben [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Friday, October 26, 2012 6:18 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Samantha lubben gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Please don't vote for reductions. We can't just let thousands of Manatees die."

2202 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Sandra Defrates [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 9:54 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Sandra Defrates gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I lived in Crystal River, where Manatee moms and their pups literally swam in the canal in our back yard, I got to see first hand how peaceful and gentle these creatures are. We need to protect them from man made dangers. They have no way of recognizing these hazards as life threatening...until it's too late. You are entrusted by the citizens of Florida with protecting these docile creatures. We are counting on you. "

8525 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees, and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Sandra Iardi [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 10:06 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Sandra Iardi gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"We need to protect our wildlife. They are the reason some tourists come to Florida and it's the right thing to do."
"

7532 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: SANDRA JOHNSON [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 10:13 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

SANDRA JOHNSON gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"water must be a protected resource and along with the species dependent on it not just humans"

9835 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Sandra Leaper [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 5:30 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Sandra Leaper gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Manatees are endangered, they rely on essential fresh water and warmth in winter. Gulf is too cold."

6125 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Sandra McConnell [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 12:59 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Sandra McConnell gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"These gentle animals are essential to the Florida eco-structure and they deserve a habitat that is protected."

7965 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Sandra Mondro [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 10:41 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Sandra Mondro gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Animals and People"

8654 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Sandy Cox [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:14 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Sandy Cox gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"We must save these wonderful creatures. Please, let's have no more ignorant decisions coming from this Government office."

3679 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Sandy Cross [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 1:58 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Sandy Cross gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Manatees are endangered and we need to protect this beautiful animal."

9101 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: SARA ALLENGER [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Friday, October 26, 2012 5:18 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

SARA ALLENGER gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"PRESERVE THEIR QUALITY OF LIFE"

2005 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Sara Freeborn [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Monday, October 29, 2012 11:45 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Sara Freeborn gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I went swimming with the manatees last year and it was an incredible experience that I don't want future generations to lose."

10558 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Sara Howland [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 3:27 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Sara Howland gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"We continue to encroach on the natural environment. We need to preserve this one, for its own sake and for the sake of manatees and other wildlife that live there."

4942 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Sara Richarde [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 1:53 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Sara Richarde gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I have grown up and lived here all my life and the manatees are a beautiful part of our springs, I don't want anything to disrupt their habitat any more than what already has. "

2977 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Sara Vinas [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Monday, October 29, 2012 12:50 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Sara Vinas gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Our future is important to me! This is short sighted and wrong"

10657 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Sarah Carter [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Friday, October 26, 2012 5:21 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Sarah Carter gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"No one has said -why- they are suggesting doing this, but there must be another creative solution to whatever the problem is that isn't going to hurt the environment."

2027 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Sarah Dennard [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 9:10 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Sarah Dennard gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"They can't be replaced and man would be responsible for hurting them. That is unacceptable! "

8414 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Sarah Neilly [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 6:27 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Sarah Neilly gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"These gentle creatures are defenseless and deserve our protection. "

6471 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Sarah Robinson [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 11:05 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Sarah Robinson gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Manatees are beautiful innocent creatures man invaded their territory. Reducing the flow in water makes no sense because it rains all the time so the flow should stay exactly like it is."

7714 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Scott Hackenberg [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 1:44 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Scott Hackenberg gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Because Rick Scott is an idiot!"

9079 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: scott reader [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:17 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

scott reader gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Preserving wildlife is always important."

3778 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Sean Harney [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Friday, October 26, 2012 8:40 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Sean Harney gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"For our future"

2433 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Shannon Davies [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 4:18 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Shannon Davies gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"The springs and manatees in Florida are real treasures and need to be protected for future generations!"

5503 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Shari Yudenfreund-Sujka [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 12:44 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Shari Yudenfreund-Sujka gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"A finite amount of water will only go so far so continuing to draw more water from a finite source is a recipe for disaster for everyone."

7942 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Sharon Bramlet [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 3:37 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Sharon Bramlet gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Our natural habitat and beauty is why people want to travel to Florida and want to live here !! Critical thinking for all Floridians !"

9253 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Sharon Cohen [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Friday, October 26, 2012 8:18 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Sharon Cohen gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Manatees have no protection except intelligent and caring humans. Please save them!"

2409 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Sharon freshour [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 2:13 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Sharon freshour gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Water is going to become a huge issue! We need to teach people how to use it responsibly! So that every living thing has what they need. Can we say human population control?"

9125 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

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Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Sharon Higgins [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 3:22 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Sharon Higgins gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Honor for all forms of life. We cannot continue to savage our gentler co-inhabitants on this planet,"

8088 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: sharon holding [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 10:57 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

sharon holding gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"protect florida's waterways & springs from further degradation"

7693 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Sharon Janet Johnson [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 5:28 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Sharon Janet Johnson gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Janet and Dan Johnson"

6106 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Sharon Kermes [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Friday, October 26, 2012 8:37 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Sharon Kermes gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Love our MANATEES! "

2430 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Sharon Rauch [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 5:35 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Sharon Rauch gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"All animals are important to me!"

6156 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Sharon Rines [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 4:55 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Sharon Rines gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"The Manatees are precious and need protection from this..."

5837 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

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FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

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and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Sharon Stiner [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 1:08 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Sharon Stiner gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Because it is the right thing to do"

9024 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

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and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Sharron Buck [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:22 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Sharron Buck gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"The manatee needs all the help it can to survive...man has taken too much of its habitat already."

3908 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: shauna sherman [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Friday, October 26, 2012 5:15 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

shauna sherman gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"so that our future generations can see the beautiful water n animals that i grew up to love n learn from "

1987 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Shea Joy [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 3:43 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Shea Joy gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Swimming with the manatees is one of the most precious memories of my life."

5150 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Sheila Kenny [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 3:13 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Sheila Kenny gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"We must protect our natural resources from over development and short-sighted politicians."

4769 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Sheila Mandell [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 9:46 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Sheila Mandell gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I live in FL and love them."

9801 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Shelley Linden [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 11:59 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Shelley Linden gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Manatees are a protected species and we need to preserve as many animals as possible and not add to the extinction list."

9946 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Sher Briccol [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:49 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Sher Briccol gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Animals have the Right to Life."

4413 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Sheri Ruderman [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 6:01 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Sheri Ruderman gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"So much of our wildlife is being destroyed because of we, the humans needs. The Manatees are a favorite, gentle species who needs our understanding and protection. . .why must we destroy EVERYTHING to make way for our power?"

6316 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

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The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Sherri Davis [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 9:31 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Sherri Davis gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Because our eco-systems are critically important to the health of the planet, animals, and humans!"

8467 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Sherri Louise [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 8:05 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Sherri Louise gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Are we trying to wipe out even more WildLife? Does anyone get it that when we lose our WildLife, we too will perish!?! Wake up SWFWMD's Governing Board and the Governor of Florida - be part of the "solution" NOT the problem!!!"

6971 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: SHERYL ERICKSON [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 7:41 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

SHERYL ERICKSON gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Our poor sea cows have a hard enough time with reckless boaters and pollution. Let's give them some help here. "

6867 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: sheryl willey [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 3:26 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

sheryl willey gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I care about the manatees. How is it the people making these uncaring,thoughtless eco destroying decisions have gotten into these positions? They certainly are not speaking for most Floridians rather their selfish,self serving agendas."

4919 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees, and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Shimon Gottschalk [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 6:35 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Shimon Gottschalk gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I love manatees"

6517 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

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The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Shirley Hartman [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 8:18 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Shirley Hartman gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Manatees are gentle giants. they don't bother anything or anyone..they deserve to live a longer life as we all do."

7044 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: shirley keller [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 8:50 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

shirley keller gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I want to keep optimal environmental conditions for our marine animals.

"

8369 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: SHIRLEY MAKSYMICZ [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 1:29 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

SHIRLEY MAKSYMICZ gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"To save our water life and preserve our water ways as God has intended when He created them."

2666 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Shruti Lakkaniki [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 6:57 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Shruti Lakkaniki gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Manatees should be one of our top concerns as they are a humongous part of the Earth's ecosystem. "

6653 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Sid Kemp [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Monday, October 29, 2012 12:29 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Sid Kemp gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Our natural habitats have already been degraded too many times. Let us be good stewards to the remaining wilderness and life therein."

10627 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Silvia Sardinias [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 7:52 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Silvia Sardinias gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I LOVE MANATEES!...GENTLE CREATURES!...I SAY NO TO REDUCTIONS IN FLOW!...HAVE A HEART!"

6918 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Simone Walters [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Friday, October 26, 2012 9:02 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Simone Walters gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I love animals, since they cannot speak for themselves, we humans have to."

2469 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Sonia Fader [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 4:13 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Sonia Fader gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"These areas and the Manatees are an important part of what makes Florida special. Preserving them is critical... and financially and morally the right thing to do."

5462 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: stacy rowicki [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 3:12 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

stacy rowicki gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Saving the beautiful Fl manatee is of utmost importance to protect yet another unique gift of love to be tortured and killed due to humanity's ignorant selfish decisions."

2688 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Stan Shaft [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 3:47 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Stan Shaft gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"My recent visit to Florida included seeing the Manatees as a planned hi-point. I wrote about the trip and the experience on a travel blog. For the Manatees to lose their life-sustaining habitat, at the whim of an ever-growing power corporation, would be grievous sign that FL puts corporate profits before the well-being of the creatures who call that area home. Not a good message for a State which relies so heavily on happy and hopeful tourists. "

5197 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Stanley Clewett [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 10:22 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Stanley Clewett gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"save our rivers. They are already seriously degraded"

8613 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Stephanie Ford [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Friday, October 26, 2012 7:05 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Stephanie Ford gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"These awesome giants can teach us so much and it's important to stand up for these creatures since we are held responsible for all creatures of the earth. This "

2292 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Stephanie Merryman [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Monday, October 29, 2012 7:40 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Stephanie Merryman gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I have visited this area to see the endangered manatees and love these gentle creatures. Please no reduction in the flow to the rivers as it would be devastating to see these endangered manatee's population be reduced"

10104 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: stephen anderson [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Friday, October 26, 2012 10:50 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

stephen anderson gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Manatees have had a rough time trying to survive as it is.S.F.W.M hasn't helped much"

2586 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Steve Lodle [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 10:05 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Steve Lodle gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"We need to text our rivers and water supplies. "

9825 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Steve Miller [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 6:41 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Steve Miller gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I fish,kayak and drink the water "

9508 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Sue Hoffman [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 6:44 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Sue Hoffman gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I love manatees!!!!!"

6570 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Sue Norman [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:07 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Sue Norman gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"These are odd looking crittters, but they enhance the world down here!@!!"

3473 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Susan Curtis [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 6:27 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Susan Curtis gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"water"

8160 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: susan de nolf [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Friday, October 26, 2012 8:41 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

susan de nolf gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Ever creature has a right to life, Please save the Manatees no reduction to the flow."

2434 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Susan Dietrich [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 8:23 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Susan Dietrich gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"This will not only interfere with only the manatees habitat, it effect hundreds of other living things in the water as well as along the coast of these rivers."

7070 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Susan Fullwood [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 6:24 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Susan Fullwood gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Save the manatees, please."

6459 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Susan LANG [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:05 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Susan LANG gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"We "adopted" a few manatees 40 or so years ago. Beautiful creatures!"

3430 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Susan Sonsini [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 10:05 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Susan Sonsini gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"The natural beauty of Florida's rivers and springs is the main reason my family and I came to North Florida. It is important to preserve this natural resource for future generations. Please do not reduce the flow of any of the rivers!"

9823 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees, and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Susan Steinhorst [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Monday, October 29, 2012 10:43 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Susan Steinhorst gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Fresh water from the rivers are vital to sea life reproduction"

10445 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Suzanne Fejes [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Monday, October 29, 2012 11:57 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Suzanne Fejes gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"It is extremely important to retain these springs and the habitat they provide--much more so than diverting the water."

10579 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Suzanne Pomeroy [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 11:26 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Suzanne Pomeroy gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species including the West Indian Manatee, the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are now at risk of further degradation and loss of essential fresh water habitat if the Southwest Water Management District's ("SWFWMD") Governing Board approves reductions in flow proposed in the Minimum Flows and Levels on October 30, 2012."

8779 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees, and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Suzanne Schnitzer [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 3:24 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Suzanne Schnitzer gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Please don't reduce the flow. It will endanger the manatees and they are a Florida treasure!"

4898 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: sydney bacchus [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 10:29 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

sydney bacchus gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"and the SWFWMD and DEP also have approved the proposed Levy nuke plant that would destroy the manatee nursery area at the Withlacoochee, which goes to a licensing hearing on Halloween Day in Bronson..."

8628 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Sylvia Anglen [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 9:08 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Sylvia Anglen gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"These are beautiful and gentle creatures. Leave them alone!"

2766 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Sylvia Garcia-Smith [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:39 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Sylvia Garcia-Smith gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I've never seen one in the wild and would like to someday...."

4238 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Sylvia Green [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Monday, October 29, 2012 3:36 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Sylvia Green gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"When they are extinct, it will be too late.
Save these magnificent animals!"

10846 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: tabitha messer [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 6:54 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

tabitha messer gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"because I live in Florida and I care about the environment"

9531 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Talya Schultz [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 1:16 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Talya Schultz gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I'd like to see the manatees one day."

7985 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Tamela Dees [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 6:04 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Tamela Dees gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I grew up Swimming at Manatee State Park! I love the animals! Save the Manatee!"

6328 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Tamera Bell [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 1:36 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Tamera Bell gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"because God gave us these waters and these animals and we have to take care of them and do the right thing this is there home and we should protect there home just like we protect our own home."

2669 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Tammy Richardson [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 9:39 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Tammy Richardson gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Because PPI always have to mess with nature and mess everything up. Leave thing alone and there won't be NO problem in the future with are water flow"

7414 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Tara Marr [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Friday, October 26, 2012 9:40 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Tara Marr gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Mess with there waters your messing with me. These awesome mammals deserve better than this sham on you!!!! "

2527 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Tara Wells [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 11:04 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Tara Wells gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"These beautiful gentle giants contribute so much to Florida's bounty."

7712 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Ted Dylewski [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Monday, October 29, 2012 11:17 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Ted Dylewski gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"This is the place for manatees - take care of the creatures - br human"

10511 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Teddie Aggeles [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Monday, October 29, 2012 11:39 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Teddie Aggeles gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I am a Florida native and understand the importance of being good stewards of our resources in this state and country. Manatees cannot speak for themselves, so we must speak up to protect the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs. I have spent time enjoying the natural beauty of both since I was a little girl. "

10549 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees, and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Teresa Cope [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Monday, October 29, 2012 11:11 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Teresa Cope gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I love the manatees!!"

10499 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Teresa Densmore [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 6:00 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Teresa Densmore gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Our manatees depend on the springs. They are their refuge."

8145 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Teresa Murphy [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 3:47 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Teresa Murphy gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"As a native Floridian, they are part of us. We must save them for future generations to enjoy on our waterways. They cannot speak for themselves, so I say please help save our manatees, we need them. Thank you!!"

5184 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Teresa Ordonez [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 12:57 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Teresa Ordonez gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"why change what is natural?"

8996 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

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FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Teresa Powers [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 3:30 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Teresa Powers gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"These are the oldest of creatures that we have, we need to do EVERYTHING in our power to help them. They are just "GENTLE CHILDREN". WE MUST HELP ALWAYS, it's our DUTY!"

9237 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Teresa Gail Stark [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:31 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Teresa Gail Stark gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Teresa Gail stark"

4087 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Teri Fainberg [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Friday, October 26, 2012 10:15 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Teri Fainberg gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I own a boat in the Keys and these sweet mammals swim up to say hi all the time."

2563 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Terra N [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Monday, October 29, 2012 12:38 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Terra N gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I love the area, lots of wildlife. We bought a second home in the area, hoping to retire there in 8 yrs. We need to protect our environment."

10640 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Terri Ackerman [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 7:13 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Terri Ackerman gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"This magical place on the west central coast of Florida is a wonderful family friendly area that needs to be preserved!"

9559 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Terri Nelson-Bunge [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 2:19 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Terri Nelson-Bunge gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"The manatees deserve to retain their already limited habitats. "

9133 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Terri Norton [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Friday, October 26, 2012 9:10 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Terri Norton gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"testing mother nature like this -- is it really necessary?? many areas like this should always be protected- leave them well enough alone. AND YES PROTECTED SHOULD BE DEFINED! the oil drilling mess, now this? whats next? Seriously!"

2481 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Terry Beckwith [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 12:07 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Terry Beckwith gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"The fragile ecosystem of Florida is continually being disturbed by the human population, which includes building, business "wants," governmental restrictions / grants, and I feel that this behavior will lead to devastating implications for future wildlife and natural flow."

8886 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Terry Blaes [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Friday, October 26, 2012 10:50 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Terry Blaes gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Floridians are concerned not just for manatees but for humans too. Don't make your MFLs mean "maximum" flows and levels. Our state will become unlivable without the water God gave us."

2587 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Terry Widener [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Friday, October 26, 2012 6:07 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Terry Widener gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Keep Florida NATURAL!!!!!!!!!"

2174 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Theresa Crater [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 10:29 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Theresa Crater gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I have family in Florida and love to visit the manatees.
"

2805 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Theresa Fleming [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 3:06 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Theresa Fleming gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I love the Manatees, they are beautiful, majestic creatures. They are warm and fun loving and deserve our protection. They have had to fight off people and boats and now this. We need to preserve them for the future"

8079 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Thomas Mealor [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Friday, October 26, 2012 6:23 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Thomas Mealor gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"As a long time resident of the Hillsborough River, I have seen the problems that arise from low flow to the river. All flow should be kept at regular flows for ALL waterways of Florida and the world."

2208 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: thomas spencer [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 3:15 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

thomas spencer gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Some things are obvious."

4794 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

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The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Thomas Williams [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 5:44 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Thomas Williams gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Animals and nature should come before shareholder profit"

6219 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Tiffany Hale [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Monday, October 29, 2012 2:07 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Tiffany Hale gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"We must protect nature and all of it's inhabitants. Man continues to destroy the planet without acknowledging the fact that this will eventually lead to our own destruction. Protect animals. Protect people. Do what is right! These animals lives are depending on us all."

10007 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Tim Brennan [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 4:56 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Tim Brennan gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"The waters of Citrus County are for the use of its residents (consumption, recreation, fish and other marine life) not for some outside entity to use consume, despoil or degrade."

8120 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Tim Coleman [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:21 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Tim Coleman gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Stop the damage to our environment and the wildlife that depend on these critical resources."

3879 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Timothy Outlaw [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Monday, October 29, 2012 7:48 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Timothy Outlaw gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Our natural wonders and resources are more important that we realize."

10110 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Timothy Spurlin [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 11:19 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Timothy Spurlin gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"The Manatee have the same rights to live as humans do!"

8766 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Todd Kincaid [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 1:00 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Todd Kincaid gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I was born and raised in Florida. I grew up swimming and scuba diving in the springs. In many ways they have defined who I am both personally and professionally. I've gone on to explore springs all over the world and know 1st hand that Florida's springs are unique to the world both in terms of magnitude and beauty. I'm now a hydrogeologist that specializes in karst aquifers and springs and my experience tells me that the models that have been used to assess spring impacts in Florida are wrong and that they underpredict those impacts. "

9005 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees, and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Tom Conroy [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 9:28 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Tom Conroy gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Because we are destroying the environment and our health"

8461 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Tracy Stevanov [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Friday, October 26, 2012 5:26 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Tracy Stevanov gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"This is like saving Florida itself. One of the true redeeming features of Florida Wildlife are these majestic docile creatures. That not only never disturb others but live side by side alligators. They are a large animal that needs are protection!"

2057 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees, and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Tracy Torres [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Friday, October 26, 2012 8:01 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Tracy Torres gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I live in fl, I love seeing these sweet creatures! Anything I can do to help I wil!"

2382 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Trina Collins [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Monday, October 29, 2012 1:43 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Trina Collins gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"protect our springs, manatees and wildlife that depends upon the springs for survival"

10724 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: trish oconnell [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 11:06 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

trish oconnell gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"please save the manatees. !!!"

7720 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Tyler Abulencia-Wall [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 7:18 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Tyler Abulencia-Wall gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I love manatees."

9569 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Tyler Deken [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 1:59 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Tyler Deken gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Whatever Sea cow!"

3209 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Valerie Gardiner [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:53 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Valerie Gardiner gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"We must be stewards for the creatures of our planet!"

4485 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Valerie Harwood [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 6:03 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Valerie Harwood gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Florida's waters should not be for sale to developers, industry, or otherwise. They should be protected, not exploited. The environment has received little attention in these times of economic uncertainty, but once we degrade water quality, it will be extraordinarily difficult to improve it."

9471 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life-saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees, and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Valerie Mahoney [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 3:32 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Valerie Mahoney gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I live in Florida and I love the Manatee"

4990 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Varuni Roberts [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Friday, October 26, 2012 9:47 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Varuni Roberts gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Manatees are part of Florida's heritage and need to be saved for the generations still to come."

2535 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Vern Garnett [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 6:50 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Vern Garnett gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"It's important that we conserve our resources."

9525 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Veronica Boyd [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 11:16 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Veronica Boyd gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Manatee's are beautiful creatures that a boreder line extinct. We should be saved."

7741 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: vicki brzezinski [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 5:00 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

vicki brzezinski gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"We must save our manatees, this would be a horrible blow , this must not even be considered !!! "

5887 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Vicki Cowen [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 11:01 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Vicki Cowen gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Manatees are sweet, peaceful animals. They have enough to deal with as it is with the propellers from boats, etc. Please don't endanger their habitat."

7704 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: vicki matheny [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 4:24 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

vicki matheny gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"The manatees are such gentle creatures and deserve our protection. Humans have done them such great harm already."

5573 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Vicki Meyer [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Friday, October 26, 2012 5:26 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Vicki Meyer gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Manatees are wonderful creatures. They need our protection."

2056 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Vicki Parker-Mabe [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 12:42 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Vicki Parker-Mabe gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"We must save these wonderful mammals. They are so friendly and cause no harm to anyone. Gov. Scott get off your butt and save these mammals for our State."

2649 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: vicky eubanks [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Monday, October 29, 2012 10:48 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

vicky eubanks gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Because there is not many manatees left. "

10457 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Victor Pirie [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 3:55 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Victor Pirie gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Florida Manatees are being destroyed by boaters every day. If your Child or Friend was being Cut to Bits by Boat Props, you would think different about making some way to Stop the Slaughter. How about Prop Cages or something like that, to protect them."

5280 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees, and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Victoria Frame [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:16 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Victoria Frame gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Manatees don't deserve to die! Please help save the manatees and protect their habitat!"

3731 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Victoria Tillman [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Monday, October 29, 2012 11:46 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Victoria Tillman gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"It is so important to protect these sea creatures."

10561 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Virginia Baker [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 3:25 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Virginia Baker gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"We love our manatees on Turnbull Bay"

4904 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Virginia Beale [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 5:25 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Virginia Beale gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Manatees are a part of Florida. They hurt no one and they are gentle souls. Why hurt them?"

6080 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Virginia Wirt [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 9:09 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Virginia Wirt gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"The Manatees are amazing mammals and are one of Florida's ancient species. They are intelligent, gentle herbivores. Why would anyone even consider putting them at further risk then we already have. Wake up Governor - some things deserve special care. Do not reduce the flow! "

8408 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees, and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Vivian Barrera [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 7:39 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Vivian Barrera gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I love animals and if God created them it is for a reason"

8230 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Vivian Griffin [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:15 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Vivian Griffin gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"These "gentle giants" are a Florida treasure and need our protection."

3706 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Vivienne Loveland [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 10:32 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Vivienne Loveland gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I live in Florida and know the fragility of this mammal. "

9863 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Vonnie Rogers [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 10:45 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Vonnie Rogers gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Water supply is important to the life that is in the Springs."

9877 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: W. James Brazel [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 10:18 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

W. James Brazel gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Hope my future family to have some healthy environment to live in"

9842 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Walker Banning [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 9:32 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Walker Banning gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Springs are attractive not only to manatees, but also to residents and tourists. They are an economic development engine if we don't kill them."

9781 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Walt Stine [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 4:08 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Walt Stine gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I love Fl. Wild Life!"

5421 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Walter Collins [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:02 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Walter Collins gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Leave nature alone. God meant this earth for all living creatures, not just us."

3342 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Ward Cox [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Monday, October 29, 2012 11:30 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Ward Cox gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Because manatees are gentle creatures that already are victims of our selfishly predatory ways."

10539 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: wei liu [mailto:wei@change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:40 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

wei liu gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I like wildlife."

4266 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Wendy Blanton [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Monday, October 29, 2012 11:06 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Wendy Blanton gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I have grown up enjoying these beautiful creatures, and I would love for my Grandchildren and theirs to as well. Besides that, manatees are amazing, beautiful, gentle and helpless. Is it a must that we destroy every beautiful thing around us to benefit ourselves?!! This is ridiculous. NO to reductions flow- SAVE THE MANATEES! SWFWMD's Governing Board and the Governor of Florida should be ashamed of themselves. "

10489 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees, and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: William Garvin [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Friday, October 26, 2012 10:09 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

William Garvin gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I live in the head waters of the Homosassa River and have been here for ten years. I do Manatee watch and Lake Watch water testing as well as underwater photography. i have seen first hand the degradatin of the river to the point it seems dead. i do nt want to the the coffin nailed shut!!!"

2558 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosasa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: William George [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:02 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

William George gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Love the manatees and used to swim with them"

3329 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: william langley [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Friday, October 26, 2012 8:26 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

william langley gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"own property in chaz someday would like my kids and grand kids to enjoy the beauty of the manatees Be kind respect live life"

2418 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: William Livigni [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Friday, October 26, 2012 6:17 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

William Livigni gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Because the Manatees are important!"

2198 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: William Ross [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:18 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

William Ross gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"The manatees are our children's heritage."

3816 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: william thomas [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 1:35 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

william thomas gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"i grew up in chassahowitzka. the river is dear to me. we need to protect this piece of florida."

9071 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: William Ware II [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 1:40 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

William Ware II gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"All life is precious to me."

2900 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: wilson bagwell [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Monday, October 29, 2012 11:33 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

wilson bagwell gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Science shows salt-water intrusion and lower fresh water flows, already significantly harming flora and wildlife....WHEN DOES THIS STOP !!!"

10542 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Wilson Patrick [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 12:45 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Wilson Patrick gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Common Sense, Peace for the Sea Cows!!!!!"

7947 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Yessenia Navarro [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Monday, October 29, 2012 11:12 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Yessenia Navarro gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Manatees are amazing and gentle creatures. We must preserve them."

10500 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Yvonne Townsley [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 12:05 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Yvonne Townsley gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Manatees are endangered, fragile, and an important part of our ecosystem. Protect them now - they are part of us!!!"

2629 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

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FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

From: Zia Faculjak [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Monday, October 29, 2012 2:44 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Zia Faculjak gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"save these animals, all animals deserve to live just like we do.. "

10798 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

From: [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [Steven Handwerker](#)
To: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now
Date: Friday, October 26, 2012 6:27:56 PM

Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

Dear Leeper,

Florida's springs and rivers are our most unique natural asset, creating vibrant natural environments for recreation and wildlife, and supplying our drinking water. The Homosassa and Chassahowitzka spring-fed river systems provide a home for manatees and a recreational mecca for Floridians and visitors. These springs and rivers supply vital fresh water to the vital estuaries and coastal ecosystems of the Gulf of Mexico along the Nature Coast.

Decades of over-pumping and 20 years of drought have slowed or dried up these magnificent sources of crystal clear water and many are now murky with slime from nitrates fed by over-fertilized lawns, septic tanks, and farm and ranch operations that have no incentive to conserve.

Floridians won't stand for more water giveaways, pollution and decline. Please stop the destruction of our springs and rivers by rejecting the SWFWMD staff recommendation to allow a 15% decline in habitat generated by a 3% flow reduction of the Homosassa River System and call for NO ADDITIONAL WATER LOSS in the Homosassa. Likewise, the Governing Board should reject staff proposals and set a restoration and recovery strategy for the Chassahowitzka River System, which has been reduced to 91% of its natural flow since 1975.

It's time for a mandate to preserve and protect these critical resources for all Floridians. The water management policy must be adaptable to drought, climate change and overpumping. Many springs have ceased to flow or are no longer "connecting" with larger waterways, affecting the downstream systems. The goal of each water management district and the State of Florida should be to restore maximum flows and levels for our most important resource, and reverse conditions of decline and degradation within our freshwater environments.

Sincerely,

Dr. Steven Handwerker
6465 Via Benita
Boca Raton, FL 33433-6421
(561) 417-2494

From: [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [Lee Patrizzi](#)
To: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now
Date: Friday, October 26, 2012 6:36:19 PM

Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

Dear Leeper,

Florida's springs and rivers are our most unique natural asset, creating vibrant natural environments for recreation and wildlife, and supplying our drinking water. The Homosassa and Chassahowitzka spring-fed river systems provide a home for manatees and a recreational mecca for Floridians and visitors. These springs and rivers supply vital fresh water to the vital estuaries and coastal ecosystems of the Gulf of Mexico along the Nature Coast.

Decades of over-pumping and 20 years of drought have slowed or dried up these magnificent sources of crystal clear water and many are now murky with slime from nitrates fed by over-fertilized lawns, septic tanks, and farm and ranch operations that have no incentive to conserve.

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It's time for a mandate to preserve and protect these critical resources for all Floridians. The water management policy must be adaptable to drought, climate change and overpumping. Many springs have ceased to flow or are no longer "connecting" with larger waterways, affecting the downstream systems. The goal of each water management district and the State of Florida should be to restore maximum flows and levels for our most important resource, and reverse conditions of decline and degradation within our freshwater environments.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Lee Patrizzi
265 Riverwoods Trl
Chuluota, FL 32766-9258

From: [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [Keth Luke](#)
To: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now
Date: Friday, October 26, 2012 6:36:36 PM

Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

Dear Leeper,

Florida's springs and rivers are our most unique natural asset, creating vibrant natural environments for recreation and wildlife, and supplying our drinking water. The Homosassa and Chassahowitzka spring-fed river systems provide a home for manatees and a recreational mecca for Floridians and visitors. These springs and rivers supply vital fresh water to the vital estuaries and coastal ecosystems of the Gulf of Mexico along the Nature Coast.

Decades of over-pumping and 20 years of drought have slowed or dried up these magnificent sources of crystal clear water and many are now murky with slime from nitrates fed by over-fertilized lawns, septic tanks, and farm and ranch operations that have no incentive to conserve.

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It's time for a mandate to preserve and protect these critical resources for all Floridians. The water management policy must be adaptable to drought, climate change and overpumping. Many springs have ceased to flow or are no longer "connecting" with larger waterways, affecting the downstream systems. The goal of each water management district and the State of Florida should be to restore maximum flows and levels for our most important resource, and reverse conditions of decline and degradation within our freshwater environments.

Sincerely,

Mr. Keth Luke
5438 Tennessee Ave
New Port Richey, FL 34652-2932
(727) 842-6788

From: [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [Dena Garcia](#)
To: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now
Date: Friday, October 26, 2012 6:36:30 PM

Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

Dear Leeper,

Florida's springs and rivers are our most unique natural asset, creating vibrant natural environments for recreation and wildlife, and supplying our drinking water. The Homosassa and Chassahowitzka spring-fed river systems provide a home for manatees and a recreational mecca for Floridians and visitors. These springs and rivers supply vital fresh water to the vital estuaries and coastal ecosystems of the Gulf of Mexico along the Nature Coast.

Decades of over-pumping and 20 years of drought have slowed or dried up these magnificent sources of crystal clear water and many are now murky with slime from nitrates fed by over-fertilized lawns, septic tanks, and farm and ranch operations that have no incentive to conserve.

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It's time for a mandate to preserve and protect these critical resources for all Floridians. The water management policy must be adaptable to drought, climate change and overpumping. Many springs have ceased to flow or are no longer "connecting" with larger waterways, affecting the downstream systems. The goal of each water management district and the State of Florida should be to restore maximum flows and levels for our most important resource, and reverse conditions of decline and degradation within our freshwater environments.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Dena Garcia
4805 Citrus Oak Ln
Saint Cloud, FL 34771-8900

From: [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [Maggie Davidson](#)
To: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now
Date: Friday, October 26, 2012 6:36:47 PM

Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

Dear Leeper,

Florida's springs and rivers are our most unique natural asset, creating vibrant natural environments for recreation and wildlife, and supplying our drinking water. The Homosassa and Chassahowitzka spring-fed river systems provide a home for manatees and a recreational mecca for Floridians and visitors. These springs and rivers supply vital fresh water to the vital estuaries and coastal ecosystems of the Gulf of Mexico along the Nature Coast.

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Sincerely,

Ms. Maggie Davidson
750 Pine Dr Apt 11
Pompano Beach, FL 33060-7281

From: [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [Maggie Davidson](#)
To: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now
Date: Friday, October 26, 2012 6:36:41 PM

Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

Dear Leeper,

Florida's springs and rivers are our most unique natural asset, creating vibrant natural environments for recreation and wildlife, and supplying our drinking water. The Homosassa and Chassahowitzka spring-fed river systems provide a home for manatees and a recreational mecca for Floridians and visitors. These springs and rivers supply vital fresh water to the vital estuaries and coastal ecosystems of the Gulf of Mexico along the Nature Coast.

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Sincerely,

Ms. Maggie Davidson
750 Pine Dr Apt 11
Pompano Beach, FL 33060-7281

From: [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [Patti Constantino-Martin](#)
To: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now
Date: Friday, October 26, 2012 6:36:58 PM

Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

Dear Leeper,

Florida's springs and rivers are our most unique natural asset, creating vibrant natural environments for recreation and wildlife, and supplying our drinking water. The Homosassa and Chassahowitzka spring-fed river systems provide a home for manatees and a recreational mecca for Floridians and visitors. These springs and rivers supply vital fresh water to the vital estuaries and coastal ecosystems of the Gulf of Mexico along the Nature Coast.

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Sincerely,

Mrs. Patti Constantino-Martin
17249 Helen K Dr
Spring Hill, FL 34610-7720

From: [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [DK Bolen](#)
To: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now
Date: Friday, October 26, 2012 6:36:52 PM

Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

Dear Leeper,

Florida's springs and rivers are our most unique natural asset, creating vibrant natural environments for recreation and wildlife, and supplying our drinking water. The Homosassa and Chassahowitzka spring-fed river systems provide a home for manatees and a recreational mecca for Floridians and visitors. These springs and rivers supply vital fresh water to the vital estuaries and coastal ecosystems of the Gulf of Mexico along the Nature Coast.

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Sincerely,

Ms. DK Bolen
5600 - 59 Way N
St Petersburg, FL 33709

From: [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [Stefan Taylor](#)
To: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now
Date: Friday, October 26, 2012 6:37:03 PM

Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

Dear Leeper,

Florida's springs and rivers are our most unique natural asset, creating vibrant natural environments for recreation and wildlife, and supplying our drinking water. The Homosassa and Chassahowitzka spring-fed river systems provide a home for manatees and a recreational mecca for Floridians and visitors. These springs and rivers supply vital fresh water to the vital estuaries and coastal ecosystems of the Gulf of Mexico along the Nature Coast.

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Sincerely,

Mr. Stefan Taylor
7517 N 40th St Apt F204
Tampa, FL 33604-4514

From: [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [Steven Handwerker](#)
To: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now
Date: Friday, October 26, 2012 6:37:23 PM

Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

Dear Leeper,

Florida's springs and rivers are our most unique natural asset, creating vibrant natural environments for recreation and wildlife, and supplying our drinking water. The Homosassa and Chassahowitzka spring-fed river systems provide a home for manatees and a recreational mecca for Floridians and visitors. These springs and rivers supply vital fresh water to the vital estuaries and coastal ecosystems of the Gulf of Mexico along the Nature Coast.

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Sincerely,

Dr. Steven Handwerker
6465 Via Benita
Boca Raton, FL 33433-6421
(561) 417-2494

From: [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [Steven Handwerker](#)
To: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now
Date: Friday, October 26, 2012 6:37:14 PM

Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

Dear Leeper,

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Sincerely,

Dr. Steven Handwerker
6465 Via Benita
Boca Raton, FL 33433-6421
(561) 417-2494

From: [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [sally harkness](#)
To: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now
Date: Friday, October 26, 2012 6:35:19 PM

Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

Dear Leeper,

Florida's springs and rivers are our most unique natural asset, creating vibrant natural environments for recreation and wildlife, and supplying our drinking water. The Homosassa and Chassahowitzka spring-fed river systems provide a home for manatees and a recreational mecca for Floridians and visitors. These springs and rivers supply vital fresh water to the vital estuaries and coastal ecosystems of the Gulf of Mexico along the Nature Coast.

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Sincerely,

Ms. sally harkness
12400 6th St E
Treasure Island, FL 33706-2925
(727) 368-9113

From: [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [kristina harper](#)
To: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now
Date: Friday, October 26, 2012 6:37:46 PM

Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

Dear Leeper,

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Sincerely,

Ms. kristina harper
1818 E Oakland Park Blvd
Oakland Park, FL 33306-1146

From: [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [Patricia Cooke](#)
To: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now
Date: Friday, October 26, 2012 6:37:29 PM

Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

Dear Leeper,

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I remember a time when the governing board members of SWFWMD stood for maintaining and improving the water quality of those lakes and rivers within the District's boundary. More and more citizens of Florida are watching carefully how you act to protect those water bodies, and will respond at the ballot box when it is time to elect those persons who appoint governing board members.

Floridians won't stand for more water giveaways, pollution and decline. Please stop the destruction of our springs and rivers by rejecting the SWFWMD staff recommendation to allow a 15% decline in habitat generated by a 3% flow reduction of the Homosassa River System and call for NO ADDITIONAL WATER LOSS in the Homosassa. Likewise, the Governing Board should reject staff proposals and set a restoration and recovery strategy for the Chassahowitzka River System, which has been reduced to 91% of its natural flow since 1975.

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Sincerely,

Mrs. Patricia Cooke
2263 Batten Rd
Brooksville, FL 34602-8325

From: [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [Rebekah Walters](#)
To: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now
Date: Friday, October 26, 2012 6:37:58 PM

Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

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Sincerely,

Ms. Rebekah Walters
200 Agnes Ct Apt 25
Orlando, FL 32801-3834

From: [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [Karen Ahlers](#)
To: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now
Date: Friday, October 26, 2012 6:38:13 PM

Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

Dear Leeper,

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Sincerely,

Ms. Karen Ahlers
124 Vause Lake Rd
Hawthorne, FL 32640-6108

From: [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [Steven Handwerker](#)
To: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now
Date: Friday, October 26, 2012 6:38:07 PM

Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

Dear Leeper,

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Sincerely,

Dr. Steven Handwerker
6465 Via Benita
Boca Raton, FL 33433-6421
(561) 417-2494

From: [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [Barbara Fite](#)
To: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now
Date: Friday, October 26, 2012 6:38:41 PM

Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

Dear Leeper,

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Sincerely,

Mrs. Barbara Fite
PO Box 1766
Lutz, FL 33548-1766

From: [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [Candace Arnold](#)
To: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now
Date: Friday, October 26, 2012 6:38:55 PM

Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

Dear Leeper,

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Sincerely,

Mrs. Candace Arnold
5380 Alcola Way S
St Petersburg, FL 33712-4930
(727) 867-9149

From: [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [Candace Arnold](#)
To: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now
Date: Friday, October 26, 2012 6:38:49 PM

Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

Dear Leeper,

Florida's springs and rivers are our most unique natural asset, creating vibrant natural environments for recreation and wildlife, and supplying our drinking water. The Homosassa and Chassahowitzka spring-fed river systems provide a home for manatees and a recreational mecca for Floridians and visitors. These springs and rivers supply vital fresh water to the vital estuaries and coastal ecosystems of the Gulf of Mexico along the Nature Coast.

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Floridians won't stand for more water giveaways, pollution and decline. Please stop the destruction of our springs and rivers by rejecting the SWFWMD staff recommendation to allow a 15% decline in habitat generated by a 3% flow reduction of the Homosassa River System and call for NO ADDITIONAL WATER LOSS in the Homosassa. Likewise, the Governing Board should reject staff proposals and set a restoration and recovery strategy for the Chassahowitzka River System, which has been reduced to 91% of its natural flow since 1975.

It's time for a mandate to preserve and protect these critical resources for all Floridians. The water management policy must be adaptable to drought, climate change and overpumping. Many springs have ceased to flow or are no longer "connecting" with larger waterways, affecting the downstream systems. The goal of each water management district and the State of Florida should be to restore maximum flows and levels for our most important resource, and reverse conditions of decline and degradation within our freshwater environments.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Candace Arnold
5380 Alcola Way S
St Petersburg, FL 33712-4930
(727) 867-9149

From: [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [Benjamin Joannou Jr](#)
To: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now
Date: Friday, October 26, 2012 6:39:07 PM

Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

Dear Leeper,

Florida's springs and rivers are our most unique natural asset, creating vibrant natural environments for recreation and wildlife, and supplying our drinking water. The Homosassa and Chassahowitzka spring-fed river systems provide a home for manatees and a recreational mecca for Floridians and visitors. These springs and rivers supply vital fresh water to the vital estuaries and coastal ecosystems of the Gulf of Mexico along the Nature Coast.

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Sincerely,

Mr. Benjamin Joannou Jr
6401 SW 134th Dr
Pinecrest, FL 33156-7046
(305) 663-1890

From: [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [Candace Arnold](#)
To: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now
Date: Friday, October 26, 2012 6:39:01 PM

Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

Dear Leeper,

Florida's springs and rivers are our most unique natural asset, creating vibrant natural environments for recreation and wildlife, and supplying our drinking water. The Homosassa and Chassahowitzka spring-fed river systems provide a home for manatees and a recreational mecca for Floridians and visitors. These springs and rivers supply vital fresh water to the vital estuaries and coastal ecosystems of the Gulf of Mexico along the Nature Coast.

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Sincerely,

Mrs. Candace Arnold
5380 Alcola Way S
St Petersburg, FL 33712-4930
(727) 867-9149

From: [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [Vaughan Greene](#)
To: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now
Date: Friday, October 26, 2012 6:35:35 PM

Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

Dear Leeper,

Florida's springs and rivers are our most unique natural asset, creating vibrant natural environments for recreation and wildlife, and supplying our drinking water. The Homosassa and Chassahowitzka spring-fed river systems provide a home for manatees and a recreational mecca for Floridians and visitors. These springs and rivers supply vital fresh water to the vital estuaries and coastal ecosystems of the Gulf of Mexico along the Nature Coast.

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Sincerely,

Ms. Vaughan Greene
217 Walton Rose Ln
Panama City Beach, FL 32413-7249
(850) 231-0956

From: [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [M S Dillon III](#)
To: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now
Date: Friday, October 26, 2012 6:39:24 PM

Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

Dear Leeper,

Florida's springs and rivers are our most unique natural asset, creating vibrant natural environments for recreation and wildlife, and supplying our drinking water. The Homosassa and Chassahowitzka spring-fed river systems provide a home for manatees and a recreational mecca for Floridians and visitors. These springs and rivers supply vital fresh water to the vital estuaries and coastal ecosystems of the Gulf of Mexico along the Nature Coast.

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Sincerely,

Mr. M S Dillon III
4100 Malaga Ave
Coconut Grove, FL 33133-6325

From: [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [margaret silver](#)
To: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now
Date: Friday, October 26, 2012 6:39:18 PM

Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

Dear Leeper,

Florida's springs and rivers are our most unique natural asset, creating vibrant natural environments for recreation and wildlife, and supplying our drinking water. The Homosassa and Chassahowitzka spring-fed river systems provide a home for manatees and a recreational mecca for Floridians and visitors. These springs and rivers supply vital fresh water to the vital estuaries and coastal ecosystems of the Gulf of Mexico along the Nature Coast.

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Sincerely,

Mrs. margaret silver
1829 Sea Oats Dr
Atlantic Beach, FL 32233-4511

From: [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [Candace Arnold](#)
To: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now
Date: Friday, October 26, 2012 6:39:13 PM

Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

Dear Leeper,

Florida's springs and rivers are our most unique natural asset, creating vibrant natural environments for recreation and wildlife, and supplying our drinking water. The Homosassa and Chassahowitzka spring-fed river systems provide a home for manatees and a recreational mecca for Floridians and visitors. These springs and rivers supply vital fresh water to the vital estuaries and coastal ecosystems of the Gulf of Mexico along the Nature Coast.

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Sincerely,

Mrs. Candace Arnold
5380 Alcola Way S
St Petersburg, FL 33712-4930
(727) 867-9149

From: [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [Ronald H. Silver, CEP](#)
To: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now
Date: Friday, October 26, 2012 6:39:35 PM

Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

Dear Leeper,

Florida's springs and rivers are our most unique natural asset, creating vibrant natural environments for recreation and wildlife, and supplying our drinking water. The Homosassa and Chassahowitzka spring-fed river systems provide a home for manatees and a recreational mecca for Floridians and visitors. These springs and rivers supply vital fresh water to the vital estuaries and coastal ecosystems of the Gulf of Mexico along the Nature Coast.

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Sincerely,

Mr. Ronald H. Silver, CEP
1829 Sea Oats Dr
Atlantic Beach, FL 32233-4511

From: [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [Candace Arnold](#)
To: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now
Date: Friday, October 26, 2012 6:39:30 PM

Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

Dear Leeper,

Florida's springs and rivers are our most unique natural asset, creating vibrant natural environments for recreation and wildlife, and supplying our drinking water. The Homosassa and Chassahowitzka spring-fed river systems provide a home for manatees and a recreational mecca for Floridians and visitors. These springs and rivers supply vital fresh water to the vital estuaries and coastal ecosystems of the Gulf of Mexico along the Nature Coast.

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Sincerely,

Mrs. Candace Arnold
5380 Alcola Way S
St Petersburg, FL 33712-4930
(727) 867-9149

From: [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [Genevieve Woolsey](#)
To: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now
Date: Friday, October 26, 2012 6:40:04 PM

Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

Dear Leeper,

Florida's springs and rivers are our most unique natural asset, creating vibrant natural environments for recreation and wildlife, and supplying our drinking water. The Homosassa and Chassahowitzka spring-fed river systems provide a home for manatees and a recreational mecca for Floridians and visitors. These springs and rivers supply vital fresh water to the vital estuaries and coastal ecosystems of the Gulf of Mexico along the Nature Coast.

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Sincerely,

Ms. Genevieve Woolsey
714 Granite Rd
Brandon, FL 33510-3543

From: [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [Paula Powers](#)
To: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now
Date: Friday, October 26, 2012 6:39:59 PM

Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

Dear Leeper,

Florida's springs and rivers are our most unique natural asset, creating vibrant natural environments for recreation and wildlife, and supplying our drinking water. The Homosassa and Chassahowitzka spring-fed river systems provide a home for manatees and a recreational mecca for Floridians and visitors. These springs and rivers supply vital fresh water to the vital estuaries and coastal ecosystems of the Gulf of Mexico along the Nature Coast.

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Sincerely,

Ms. Paula Powers
172 SE 30th Ave
Boynton Beach, FL 33435-8235
(561) 369-0854

From: [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [Bill Harding](#)
To: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now
Date: Friday, October 26, 2012 6:39:42 PM

Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

Dear Leeper,

Florida's springs and rivers are our most unique natural asset, creating vibrant natural environments for recreation and wildlife, and supplying our drinking water. The Homosassa and Chassahowitzka spring-fed river systems provide a home for manatees and a recreational mecca for Floridians and visitors. These springs and rivers supply vital fresh water to the vital estuaries and coastal ecosystems of the Gulf of Mexico along the Nature Coast.

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Sincerely,

Mr. Bill Harding
4125 Park St N Lot 444
St Petersburg, FL 33709-4062
(727) 244-2391

From: [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [Lindsay Johnson](#)
To: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now
Date: Friday, October 26, 2012 6:40:20 PM

Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

Dear Leeper,

Florida's springs and rivers are our most unique natural asset, creating vibrant natural environments for recreation and wildlife, and supplying our drinking water. The Homosassa and Chassahowitzka spring-fed river systems provide a home for manatees and a recreational mecca for Floridians and visitors. These springs and rivers supply vital fresh water to the vital estuaries and coastal ecosystems of the Gulf of Mexico along the Nature Coast.

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Sincerely,

Mr. Lindsay Johnson
941 S Forest Creek Dr
St Augustine, FL 32092-3779

From: [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [Todd Dripps](#)
To: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now
Date: Friday, October 26, 2012 6:40:15 PM

Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

Dear Leeper,

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Sincerely,

Mr. Todd Dripps
2447 SW 13th Ter
Palm City, FL 34990-2127

From: [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [sally harkness](#)
To: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now
Date: Friday, October 26, 2012 6:35:28 PM

Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

Dear Leeper,

Florida's springs and rivers are our most unique natural asset, creating vibrant natural environments for recreation and wildlife, and supplying our drinking water. The Homosassa and Chassahowitzka spring-fed river systems provide a home for manatees and a recreational mecca for Floridians and visitors. These springs and rivers supply vital fresh water to the vital estuaries and coastal ecosystems of the Gulf of Mexico along the Nature Coast.

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Sincerely,

Ms. sally harkness
12400 6th St E
Treasure Island, FL 33706-2925
(727) 368-9113

From: [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [Faith Staggs](#)
To: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now
Date: Friday, October 26, 2012 6:40:09 PM

Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

Dear Leeper,

Florida's springs and rivers are our most unique natural asset, creating vibrant natural environments for recreation and wildlife, and supplying our drinking water. The Homosassa and Chassahowitzka spring-fed river systems provide a home for manatees and a recreational mecca for Floridians and visitors. These springs and rivers supply vital fresh water to the vital estuaries and coastal ecosystems of the Gulf of Mexico along the Nature Coast.

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Sincerely,

Ms. Faith Staggs
140 Hunter Lake Dr
Unit C
Oldsmar, FL 34677-4576

From: [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [WARREN HART](#)
To: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now
Date: Friday, October 26, 2012 6:40:37 PM

Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

Dear Leeper,

Florida's springs and rivers are our most unique natural asset, creating vibrant natural environments for recreation and wildlife, and supplying our drinking water. The Homosassa and Chassahowitzka spring-fed river systems provide a home for manatees and a recreational mecca for Floridians and visitors. These springs and rivers supply vital fresh water to the vital estuaries and coastal ecosystems of the Gulf of Mexico along the Nature Coast.

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Floridians won't stand for more water giveaways, pollution and decline. Please stop the destruction of our springs and rivers by rejecting the SWFWMD staff recommendation to allow a 15% decline in habitat generated by a 3% flow reduction of the Homosassa River System and call for NO ADDITIONAL WATER LOSS in the Homosassa. Likewise, the Governing Board should reject staff proposals and set a restoration and recovery strategy for the Chassahowitzka River System, which has been reduced to 91% of its natural flow since 1975.

It's time for a mandate to preserve and protect these critical resources for all Floridians. The water management policy must be adaptable to drought, climate change and overpumping. Many springs have ceased to flow or are no longer "connecting" with larger waterways, affecting the downstream systems. The goal of each water management district and the State of Florida should be to restore maximum flows and levels for our most important resource, and reverse conditions of decline and degradation within our freshwater environments.

Sincerely,

Mr. WARREN HART
1121 Pepperdine Ln
Sanford, FL 32771-6646

From: [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [Rebecca R. McFee](#)
To: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now
Date: Friday, October 26, 2012 6:40:31 PM

Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

Dear Leeper,

Florida's springs and rivers are our most unique natural asset, creating vibrant natural environments for recreation and wildlife, and supplying our drinking water. The Homosassa and Chassahowitzka spring-fed river systems provide a home for manatees and a recreational mecca for Floridians and visitors. These springs and rivers supply vital fresh water to the vital estuaries and coastal ecosystems of the Gulf of Mexico along the Nature Coast.

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Sincerely,

Ms. Rebecca R. McFee
3004 SE Salerno Rd
Stuart, FL 34997-6644

From: [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [Allie Tennant](#)
To: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now
Date: Friday, October 26, 2012 6:40:26 PM

Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

Dear Leeper,

Florida's springs and rivers are our most unique natural asset, creating vibrant natural environments for recreation and wildlife, and supplying our drinking water. The Homosassa and Chassahowitzka spring-fed river systems provide a home for manatees and a recreational mecca for Floridians and visitors. These springs and rivers supply vital fresh water to the vital estuaries and coastal ecosystems of the Gulf of Mexico along the Nature Coast.

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Sincerely,

Ms. Allie Tennant
4763 Nottingham Dr
Fort Myers, FL 33905-4119

From: [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [Sharon Rich](#)
To: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now
Date: Friday, October 26, 2012 6:40:53 PM

Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

Dear Leeper,

Florida's springs and rivers are our most unique natural asset, creating vibrant natural environments for recreation and wildlife, and supplying our drinking water. The Homosassa and Chassahowitzka spring-fed river systems provide a home for manatees and a recreational mecca for Floridians and visitors. These springs and rivers supply vital fresh water to the vital estuaries and coastal ecosystems of the Gulf of Mexico along the Nature Coast.

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Sincerely,

Mrs. Sharon Rich
2834 Regent Cres
South Daytona, FL 32119-8556
(384) 304-7824

From: [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [Rebecca R. McFee](#)
To: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now
Date: Friday, October 26, 2012 6:40:48 PM

Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

Dear Leeper,

Florida's springs and rivers are our most unique natural asset, creating vibrant natural environments for recreation and wildlife, and supplying our drinking water. The Homosassa and Chassahowitzka spring-fed river systems provide a home for manatees and a recreational mecca for Floridians and visitors. These springs and rivers supply vital fresh water to the vital estuaries and coastal ecosystems of the Gulf of Mexico along the Nature Coast.

Decades of over-pumping and 20 years of drought have slowed or dried up these magnificent sources of crystal clear water and many are now murky with slime from nitrates fed by over-fertilized lawns, septic tanks, and farm and ranch operations that have no incentive to conserve.

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It's time for a mandate to preserve and protect these critical resources for all Floridians. The water management policy must be adaptable to drought, climate change and overpumping. Many springs have ceased to flow or are no longer "connecting" with larger waterways, affecting the downstream systems. The goal of each water management district and the State of Florida should be to restore maximum flows and levels for our most important resource, and reverse conditions of decline and degradation within our freshwater environments.

Sincerely,

Ms. Rebecca R. McFee
3004 SE Salerno Rd
Stuart, FL 34997-6644

From: [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [Rebecca R. McFee](#)
To: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now
Date: Friday, October 26, 2012 6:40:42 PM

Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

Dear Leeper,

Florida's springs and rivers are our most unique natural asset, creating vibrant natural environments for recreation and wildlife, and supplying our drinking water. The Homosassa and Chassahowitzka spring-fed river systems provide a home for manatees and a recreational mecca for Floridians and visitors. These springs and rivers supply vital fresh water to the vital estuaries and coastal ecosystems of the Gulf of Mexico along the Nature Coast.

Decades of over-pumping and 20 years of drought have slowed or dried up these magnificent sources of crystal clear water and many are now murky with slime from nitrates fed by over-fertilized lawns, septic tanks, and farm and ranch operations that have no incentive to conserve.

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It's time for a mandate to preserve and protect these critical resources for all Floridians. The water management policy must be adaptable to drought, climate change and overpumping. Many springs have ceased to flow or are no longer "connecting" with larger waterways, affecting the downstream systems. The goal of each water management district and the State of Florida should be to restore maximum flows and levels for our most important resource, and reverse conditions of decline and degradation within our freshwater environments.

Sincerely,

Ms. Rebecca R. McFee
3004 SE Salerno Rd
Stuart, FL 34997-6644

From: [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [Meyer Jordan](#)
To: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now
Date: Friday, October 26, 2012 6:41:04 PM

Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

Dear Leeper,

Florida's springs and rivers are our most unique natural asset, creating vibrant natural environments for recreation and wildlife, and supplying our drinking water. The Homosassa and Chassahowitzka spring-fed river systems provide a home for manatees and a recreational mecca for Floridians and visitors. These springs and rivers supply vital fresh water to the vital estuaries and coastal ecosystems of the Gulf of Mexico along the Nature Coast.

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It's time for a mandate to preserve and protect these critical resources for all Floridians. The water management policy must be adaptable to drought, climate change and overpumping. Many springs have ceased to flow or are no longer "connecting" with larger waterways, affecting the downstream systems. The goal of each water management district and the State of Florida should be to restore maximum flows and levels for our most important resource, and reverse conditions of decline and degradation within our freshwater environments.

Sincerely,

Mr. Meyer Jordan
403 W Michigan Ave
Pensacola, FL 32505-2503

From: [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [Barbara Sallee](#)
To: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now
Date: Friday, October 26, 2012 6:40:58 PM

Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

Dear Leeper,

Florida's springs and rivers are our most unique natural asset, creating vibrant natural environments for recreation and wildlife, and supplying our drinking water. The Homosassa and Chassahowitzka spring-fed river systems provide a home for manatees and a recreational mecca for Floridians and visitors. These springs and rivers supply vital fresh water to the vital estuaries and coastal ecosystems of the Gulf of Mexico along the Nature Coast.

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Sincerely,

Ms. Barbara Sallee
6045 39th Ct E
Bradenton, FL 34203-7003
(941) 739-2420

From: [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [Barbara Laxon](#)
To: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now
Date: Friday, October 26, 2012 6:41:25 PM

Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

Dear Leeper,

Florida's springs and rivers are our most unique natural asset, creating vibrant natural environments for recreation and wildlife, and supplying our drinking water. The Homosassa and Chassahowitzka spring-fed river systems provide a home for manatees and a recreational mecca for Floridians and visitors. These springs and rivers supply vital fresh water to the vital estuaries and coastal ecosystems of the Gulf of Mexico along the Nature Coast.

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Sincerely,

Ms. Barbara Laxon
1778 SW 85th Ave
Miramar, FL 33025-2190

From: [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [Marcia Hoodwin](#)
To: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now
Date: Friday, October 26, 2012 6:35:44 PM

Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

Dear Leeper,

Florida's springs and rivers are our most unique natural asset, creating vibrant natural environments for recreation and wildlife, and supplying our drinking water. The Homosassa and Chassahowitzka spring-fed river systems provide a home for manatees and a recreational mecca for Floridians and visitors. These springs and rivers supply vital fresh water to the vital estuaries and coastal ecosystems of the Gulf of Mexico along the Nature Coast.

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Sincerely,

Ms. Marcia Hoodwin
8236 Shadow Pine Way
Sarasota, FL 34238-5618

From: [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [Cris Costello](#)
To: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now
Date: Friday, October 26, 2012 6:41:19 PM

Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

Dear Leeper,

Florida's springs and rivers are our most unique natural asset, creating vibrant natural environments for recreation and wildlife, and supplying our drinking water. The Homosassa and Chassahowitzka spring-fed river systems provide a home for manatees and a recreational mecca for Floridians and visitors. These springs and rivers supply vital fresh water to the vital estuaries and coastal ecosystems of the Gulf of Mexico along the Nature Coast.

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Sincerely,

Ms. Cris Costello
127 Van Dyck Dr
Nokomis, FL 34275-4237
(941) 966-4101

From: [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [Judith Angley](#)
To: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now
Date: Friday, October 26, 2012 6:41:15 PM

Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

Dear Leeper,

Florida's springs and rivers are our most unique natural asset, creating vibrant natural environments for recreation and wildlife, and supplying our drinking water. The Homosassa and Chassahowitzka spring-fed river systems provide a home for manatees and a recreational mecca for Floridians and visitors. These springs and rivers supply vital fresh water to the vital estuaries and coastal ecosystems of the Gulf of Mexico along the Nature Coast.

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Sincerely,

Ms. Judith Angley
4410 NW 30th Ter
Gainesville, FL 32605-1529

From: [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [Judith Angley](#)
To: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now
Date: Friday, October 26, 2012 6:41:09 PM

Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

Dear Leeper,

Florida's springs and rivers are our most unique natural asset, creating vibrant natural environments for recreation and wildlife, and supplying our drinking water. The Homosassa and Chassahowitzka spring-fed river systems provide a home for manatees and a recreational mecca for Floridians and visitors. These springs and rivers supply vital fresh water to the vital estuaries and coastal ecosystems of the Gulf of Mexico along the Nature Coast.

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Sincerely,

Ms. Judith Angley
4410 NW 30th Ter
Gainesville, FL 32605-1529

From: [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [Michael Duffey](#)
To: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now
Date: Friday, October 26, 2012 6:41:30 PM

Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

Dear Leeper,

Florida's springs and rivers are our most unique natural asset, creating vibrant natural environments for recreation and wildlife, and supplying our drinking water. The Homosassa and Chassahowitzka spring-fed river systems provide a home for manatees and a recreational mecca for Floridians and visitors. These springs and rivers supply vital fresh water to the vital estuaries and coastal ecosystems of the Gulf of Mexico along the Nature Coast.

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Sincerely,

Mr. Michael Duffey
19 Chestnut Ave SE
Apt 57
Fort Walton Beach, FL 32548-5662

From: [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [Michael Duffey](#)
To: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now
Date: Friday, October 26, 2012 6:41:39 PM

Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

Dear Leeper,

Florida's springs and rivers are our most unique natural asset, creating vibrant natural environments for recreation and wildlife, and supplying our drinking water. The Homosassa and Chassahowitzka spring-fed river systems provide a home for manatees and a recreational mecca for Floridians and visitors. These springs and rivers supply vital fresh water to the vital estuaries and coastal ecosystems of the Gulf of Mexico along the Nature Coast.

Floridians won't stand for more water giveaways, pollution and decline. Please stop the destruction of our springs and rivers by rejecting the SWFWMD staff recommendation to allow a 15% decline in habitat generated by a 3% flow reduction of the Homosassa River System and call for NO ADDITIONAL WATER LOSS in the Homosassa. Likewise, the Governing Board should reject staff proposals and set a restoration and recovery strategy for the Chassahowitzka River System, which has been reduced to 91% of its natural flow since 1975.

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Sincerely,

Mr. Michael Duffey
19 Chestnut Ave SE
Apt 57
Fort Walton Beach, FL 32548-5662

From: [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [Michael Ott](#)
To: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now
Date: Friday, October 26, 2012 6:36:00 PM

Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

Dear Leeper,

Florida's springs and rivers are our most unique natural asset, creating vibrant natural environments for recreation and wildlife, and supplying our drinking water. The Homosassa and Chassahowitzka spring-fed river systems provide a home for manatees and a recreational mecca for Floridians and visitors. These springs and rivers supply vital fresh water to the vital estuaries and coastal ecosystems of the Gulf of Mexico along the Nature Coast.

Decades of over-pumping and 20 years of drought have slowed or dried up these magnificent sources of crystal clear water and many are now murky with slime from nitrates fed by over-fertilized lawns, septic tanks, and farm and ranch operations that have no incentive to conserve.

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Sincerely,

Mr. Michael Ott
6105 Sheree Dr
Milton, FL 32570-8853

From: [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [Debra Mixon](#)
To: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now
Date: Friday, October 26, 2012 6:35:53 PM

Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

Dear Leeper,

I am a resident of Homosassa and my husband and I are the owners of a charter tour business. The health of the Homosassa River directly impacts our business.

Florida's springs and rivers are our most unique natural asset, creating vibrant natural environments for recreation and wildlife, and supplying our drinking water. The Homosassa and Chassahowitzka spring-fed river systems provide a home for manatees and a recreational mecca for Floridians and visitors, (impacting the economic health of businesses like mine). These springs and rivers supply vital fresh water to the vital estuaries and coastal ecosystems of the Gulf of Mexico along the Nature Coast.

Decades of over-pumping and 20 years of drought have slowed or dried up these magnificent sources of crystal clear water and many are now murky with slime from nitrates fed by over-fertilized lawns, septic tanks, and farm and ranch operations that have no incentive to conserve.

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It's time for a mandate to preserve and protect these critical resources for all Floridians. The water management policy must be adaptable to drought, climate change and overpumping. Many springs have ceased to flow or are no longer "connecting" with larger waterways, affecting the downstream systems. The goal of each water management district and the State of Florida should be to restore maximum flows and levels for our most important resource, and reverse conditions of decline and degradation within our freshwater environments.

Sincerely,

Ms. Debra Mixon
10515 W New York St
Homosassa, FL 34448-3826
(352) 628-5999

From: [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [Mark Hutchinson](#)
To: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now
Date: Friday, October 26, 2012 6:36:12 PM

Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

Dear Leeper,

Water is a natural resources that needs to be protected, not exploited. Before tapping into any more water supplies, double or triple charges for water until consumption and waste are significantly reduced.

It's time for a mandate to preserve and protect these critical resources for all Floridians. The water management policy must be adaptable to drought, climate change and over pumping. Many springs have ceased to flow or are no longer "connecting" with larger waterways, affecting the downstream systems. The goal of each water management district and the State of Florida should be to restore maximum flows and levels for our most important resource, and reverse conditions of decline and degradation within our freshwater environments.

Sincerely,

Mr. Mark Hutchinson
34549 Orchid Pkwy
Ridge Manor, FL 33523-8859

From: [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [Andres Mejides](#)
To: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now
Date: Friday, October 26, 2012 6:36:06 PM

Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

Dear Leeper,

Florida's springs and rivers are our most unique natural asset, creating vibrant natural environments for recreation and wildlife, and supplying our drinking water. The Homosassa and Chassahowitzka spring-fed river systems provide a home for manatees and a recreational mecca for Floridians and visitors. These springs and rivers supply vital fresh water to the vital estuaries and coastal ecosystems of the Gulf of Mexico along the Nature Coast.

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Sincerely,

Mr. Andres Mejides
25650 SW 197th Ave
Homestead, FL 33031-1611

From: [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [Nina Tatlock](#)
To: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now
Date: Friday, October 26, 2012 1:02:36 PM

Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

Dear Leeper,

Florida's springs and rivers are our most unique natural asset, creating vibrant natural environments for recreation and wildlife, and supplying our drinking water. The Homosassa and Chassahowitzka spring-fed river systems provide a home for manatees and a recreational mecca for Floridians and visitors. These springs and rivers supply vital fresh water to the vital estuaries and coastal ecosystems of the Gulf of Mexico along the Nature Coast.

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Sincerely,

Ms. Nina Tatlock
1413 Beach Club Ln
Apollo Beach, FL 33572-3063

From: [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [Jan Novotny](#)
To: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now
Date: Thursday, October 25, 2012 7:29:27 PM

Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

Dear Leeper,

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Sincerely,

Ms. Jan Novotny
401 15th Ave N
Jacksonville Beach, FL 32250-4710

From: Doug Leeper
To: ["Jan Novotny"](#)
Cc: [Virginia Singer](#); [Mike Heyl](#); [Ron Basso](#)
Subject: RE: Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now
Date: Friday, October 26, 2012 6:42:00 AM

Dear Ms. Novotny:

Thank you for your comments regarding the revised minimum flows and levels recommendations for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa river systems. Your input has been reviewed by District staff and will be provided to the District Governing Board for consideration.

Douglas A. Leeper
Chief Environmental Scientist
Water Resources Bureau
Southwest Florida Water Management District
2379 Broad Street
Brooksville, Florida 34604-6899
1-800-423-1476, ext. 4272 (FL only)
352-796-7211, ext. 4272
352-754-6885 (Fax)
doug.leeper@watermatters.org

-----Original Message-----

From: Gulf Restoration Network [<mailto:info@healthygulf.org>] On Behalf Of Jan Novotny
Sent: Thursday, October 25, 2012 7:29 PM
To: Doug Leeper
Subject: Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now

Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

Dear Leeper,

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maximum flows and levels for our most important resource, and reverse conditions of decline and degradation within our freshwater environments.

Sincerely,

Ms. Jan Novotny
401 15th Ave N
Jacksonville Beach, FL 32250-4710

From: [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [Stephen Tonjes](#)
To: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now
Date: Thursday, October 25, 2012 8:30:11 PM

Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

Dear Leeper,

Our springs are already losing their appeal to tourists, and downstream industries that depend on their water are threatened. Their flows are already unacceptably low. It is unconscionable to plan for further reductions.

Please restore our springs; don't make plans to do more damage.

Sincerely,

Mr. Stephen Tonjes
423 W Pennsylvania Ave
Deland, FL 32720-3336

From: Doug Leeper
To: ["Stephen Tonjes"](#)
Cc: [Virginia Singer](#); [Mike Heyl](#); [Ron Basso](#)
Subject: RE: Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now
Date: Friday, October 26, 2012 6:45:00 AM

Dear Mr. Tonjes:

Thank you for your comments regarding the revised minimum flows and levels recommendations for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa river systems. Your input has been reviewed by District staff and will be provided to the District Governing Board for consideration.

Douglas A. Leeper
Chief Environmental Scientist
Water Resources Bureau
Southwest Florida Water Management District
2379 Broad Street
Brooksville, Florida 34604-6899
1-800-423-1476, ext. 4272 (FL only)
352-796-7211, ext. 4272
352-754-6885 (Fax)
doug.leeper@watermatters.org

-----Original Message-----

From: Gulf Restoration Network [<mailto:info@healthygulf.org>] On Behalf Of Stephen Tonjes
Sent: Thursday, October 25, 2012 8:30 PM
To: Doug Leeper
Subject: Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now

Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

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Sincerely,

Mr. Stephen Tonjes
423 W Pennsylvania Ave
Deland, FL 32720-3336

From: [Alan Martyn Johnson](#)
To: [Doug Leeper](#); [Ron Basso](#); [Mike Heyl](#); [Chris Zajac](#); [Mark Hammond](#); [Michael Molligan](#)
Subject: Very Questionable Sentence in Chassahowitzka MFL Report
Date: Friday, October 26, 2012 9:20:50 AM

Every time I open my notated copies of these MFL reports I find another question in my notes at the side of the page. As it is Friday I thought I would share another with you, simply for coffee conversation.

Chassahowitzka Revised Report

Prologue Page xvii

"The public expressed a consensus that environmental changes (namely tree die-off and upstream barnacle encroachment) associated with sea level change should not be exacerbated by additional freshwater withdrawals."

I was not at all the meetings, but this statement does not reflect anything I heard.

Maybe someone can recall when this consensus was reached.

Considering the barnacles, as I recall public input was the barnacles are much further up the Homosassa than a few years ago. Barnacles are now knocking at the door of the main spring run. The only sea level change at this location is sea water ingress to the spring discharge. Tree die-off was for both the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka, but I do not recall any consensus this was due solely to sea level change.

No technical analysis needed, just where did this idea/consensus originate?

Martyn

From: Doug Leeper
To: ["asidibe@chronicleonline.com"](mailto:asidibe@chronicleonline.com)
Bcc: [Robyn O. Felix](#); [Virginia Singer](#)
Subject: Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Minimum Flows
Date: Friday, October 26, 2012 3:31:00 PM

A.B.,

I just wanted to follow up with you about what we talked about this morning. We've had an extensive public input process over the last several years. As a result of that process, the revised minimum flows are more protective and based on the best data available. The revised minimum flows will protect 91% of the natural flows for the Chassahowitzka River System and 97% of the natural flows for the Homosassa River System. The revised minimum flows for each system have been reviewed by separate panels of independent scientific experts and they agreed that we've taken a reasonable approach to establishing the minimum flows. We will present the staff recommendations to the Governing Board on Tuesday and it will be up to the Board to make the final decision. Thanks again and have a great weekend.

Douglas A. Leeper
Chief Environmental Scientist
Water Resources Bureau
Southwest Florida Water Management District
2379 Broad Street
Brooksville, Florida 34604-6899
1-800-423-1476, ext. 4272 (FL only)
352-796-7211, ext. 4272
352-754-6885 (Fax)
doug.leeper@watermatters.org

October 26, 2012

MEMORANDUM

TO: File

FROM: Douglas A. Leeper, Chief Environmental Scientist, Water Resources Bureau

Several e-mails of the form below pertaining to proposed minimum flows for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa River systems were inadvertently deleted by Doug Leeper on October 26, 2012. In an attempt to document these submissions, a listing of e-mail addresses associated with the submitted comments is provided below.

E-mail addresses associated with comments that were inadvertently deleted:

murphylarronde@gmail.com
randsscott@verizon.net
lisacunningham61@hotmail.com
marilynblackwel@wmconnect.com
malkerson10@verizon.net
gmorotti@gmail.com
cgula@tampabay.rr.com
jacqueline2662@cfl.rr.com
gmorotti@gmail.com
tatlock@verizon.net
pete22roc@aol.com
bocacatlover@gmail.com
rst333@hotmail.com
jserpico@tampabay.rr.com
hhollon1221@aol.com
hhollon1221@aol.com
nnalouisefontaine@yahoo.ca
hhollon1221@aol.com
hhollon1221@aol.com
hhollon1221@aol.com
edene.wetherell@gmail.com

Generic e-mail comments general form language:

Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

Dear Leeper,

Florida's springs and rivers are our most unique natural asset, creating vibrant natural environments for recreation and wildlife, and supplying our drinking water. The Homosassa and Chassahowitzka spring-fed river systems provide a home for manatees and a recreational mecca for Floridians and visitors. These springs and rivers supply vital fresh water to the vital estuaries and coastal ecosystems of the Gulf of Mexico along the Nature Coast.

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From: [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [ben dugger](#)
To: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now
Date: Friday, October 26, 2012 6:42:01 PM

Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

Dear Leeper,

Florida's springs and rivers are our most unique natural asset, creating vibrant natural environments for recreation and wildlife, and supplying our drinking water. The Homosassa and Chassahowitzka spring-fed river systems provide a home for manatees and a recreational mecca for Floridians and visitors. These springs and rivers supply vital fresh water to the vital estuaries and coastal ecosystems of the Gulf of Mexico along the Nature Coast.

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It's time for a mandate to preserve and protect these critical resources for all Floridians. The water management policy must be adaptable to drought, climate change and overpumping. Many springs have ceased to flow or are no longer "connecting" with larger waterways, affecting the downstream systems. The goal of each water management district and the State of Florida should be to restore maximum flows and levels for our most important resource, and reverse conditions of decline and degradation within our freshwater environments.

Sincerely,

Mr. ben dugger
4981porkylane
st.jamescity, FL 33956

From: [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [ben dugger](#)
To: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now
Date: Friday, October 26, 2012 6:42:41 PM

Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

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Sincerely,

Mr. ben dugger
4981porkylane
st.jamescity, FL 33956

From: [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [Judith Angley](#)
To: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now
Date: Friday, October 26, 2012 6:42:36 PM

Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

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Sincerely,

Ms. Judith Angley
4410 NW 30th Ter
Gainesville, FL 32605-1529

From: [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [Barbara Sallee](#)
To: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now
Date: Friday, October 26, 2012 6:43:07 PM

Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

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Sincerely,

Ms. Barbara Sallee
6045 39th Ct E
Bradenton, FL 34203-7003
(941) 739-2420

From: [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [Colonel Meyer](#)
To: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now
Date: Friday, October 26, 2012 6:43:01 PM

Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

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Sincerely,

Mr. Colonel Meyer
3701 Eagle Pass St
North Port, FL 34286-2009

From: [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [Susan Pelakh](#)
To: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now
Date: Friday, October 26, 2012 6:42:56 PM

Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

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Sincerely,

Ms. Susan Pelakh
41 9th Ter
Cocoa Beach, FL 32931-2476

From: [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [Barbara Sallee](#)
To: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now
Date: Friday, October 26, 2012 6:42:52 PM

Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

Dear Leeper,

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Sincerely,

Ms. Barbara Sallee
6045 39th Ct E
Bradenton, FL 34203-7003
(941) 739-2420

From: [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [Barbara Sallee](#)
To: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now
Date: Friday, October 26, 2012 6:43:32 PM

Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

Dear Leeper,

Florida's springs and rivers are our most unique natural asset, creating vibrant natural environments for recreation and wildlife, and supplying our drinking water. The Homosassa and Chassahowitzka spring-fed river systems provide a home for manatees and a recreational mecca for Floridians and visitors. These springs and rivers supply vital fresh water to the vital estuaries and coastal ecosystems of the Gulf of Mexico along the Nature Coast.

Decades of over-pumping and 20 years of drought have slowed or dried up these magnificent sources of crystal clear water and many are now murky with slime from nitrates fed by over-fertilized lawns, septic tanks, and farm and ranch operations that have no incentive to conserve.

Floridians won't stand for more water giveaways, pollution and decline. Please stop the destruction of our springs and rivers by rejecting the SWFWMD staff recommendation to allow a 15% decline in habitat generated by a 3% flow reduction of the Homosassa River System and call for NO ADDITIONAL WATER LOSS in the Homosassa. Likewise, the Governing Board should reject staff proposals and set a restoration and recovery strategy for the Chassahowitzka River System, which has been reduced to 91% of its natural flow since 1975.

It's time for a mandate to preserve and protect these critical resources for all Floridians. The water management policy must be adaptable to drought, climate change and overpumping. Many springs have ceased to flow or are no longer "connecting" with larger waterways, affecting the downstream systems. The goal of each water management district and the State of Florida should be to restore maximum flows and levels for our most important resource, and reverse conditions of decline and degradation within our freshwater environments.

Sincerely,

Ms. Barbara Sallee
6045 39th Ct E
Bradenton, FL 34203-7003
(941) 739-2420

From: [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [S Logan](#)
To: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now
Date: Friday, October 26, 2012 6:43:26 PM

Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

Dear Leeper,

Florida's springs and rivers are our most unique natural asset, creating vibrant natural environments for recreation and wildlife, and supplying our drinking water. The Homosassa and Chassahowitzka spring-fed river systems provide a home for manatees and a recreational mecca for Floridians and visitors. These springs and rivers supply vital fresh water to the vital estuaries and coastal ecosystems of the Gulf of Mexico along the Nature Coast.

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Sincerely,

Mr. S Logan
1001 Brickell Bay Dr
Miami, FL 33131-4900

From: [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [RE Barnes](#)
To: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now
Date: Friday, October 26, 2012 6:43:22 PM

Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

Dear Leeper,

Florida's springs and rivers are our most unique natural asset, creating vibrant natural environments for recreation and wildlife, and supplying our drinking water. The Homosassa and Chassahowitzka spring-fed river systems provide a home for manatees and a recreational mecca for Floridians and visitors. These springs and rivers supply vital fresh water to the vital estuaries and coastal ecosystems of the Gulf of Mexico along the Nature Coast.

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Sincerely,

Mr. RE Barnes
1811 NW 51st St
Ft Lauderdale, FL 33309-7119

From: [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [Jane Schnee](#)
To: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now
Date: Friday, October 26, 2012 6:43:17 PM

Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

Dear Leeper,

Florida's springs and rivers are our most unique natural asset, creating vibrant natural environments for recreation and wildlife, and supplying our drinking water. The Homosassa and Chassahowitzka spring-fed river systems provide a home for manatees and a recreational mecca for Floridians and visitors. These springs and rivers supply vital fresh water to the vital estuaries and coastal ecosystems of the Gulf of Mexico along the Nature Coast.

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Sincerely,

Ms. Jane Schnee
1022 Foster Rd Apt A
Sebastian, FL 32958-8658
(772) 589-3201

From: [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [Barbara Sallee](#)
To: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now
Date: Friday, October 26, 2012 6:41:55 PM

Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

Dear Leeper,

Florida's springs and rivers are our most unique natural asset, creating vibrant natural environments for recreation and wildlife, and supplying our drinking water. The Homosassa and Chassahowitzka spring-fed river systems provide a home for manatees and a recreational mecca for Floridians and visitors. These springs and rivers supply vital fresh water to the vital estuaries and coastal ecosystems of the Gulf of Mexico along the Nature Coast.

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Sincerely,

Ms. Barbara Sallee
6045 39th Ct E
Bradenton, FL 34203-7003
(941) 739-2420

From: [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [Thomas Bardroff](#)
To: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now
Date: Friday, October 26, 2012 6:43:12 PM

Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

Dear Leeper,

Florida's springs and rivers are our most unique natural asset, creating vibrant natural environments for recreation and wildlife, and supplying our drinking water. The Homosassa and Chassahowitzka spring-fed river systems provide a home for manatees and a recreational mecca for Floridians and visitors. These springs and rivers supply vital fresh water to the vital estuaries and coastal ecosystems of the Gulf of Mexico along the Nature Coast.

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Sincerely,

Mr. Thomas Bardroff
8009 High Oaks Trl
Myakka City, FL 34251-8303
(941) 322-2205

From: [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [lynn orourke](#)
To: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now
Date: Friday, October 26, 2012 6:44:00 PM

Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

Dear Leeper,

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Sincerely,

Ms. Lynn Orourke
3363 SW 173rd Ter
Miramar, FL 33029-1641
(954) 830-9810

From: [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [Susan Preston](#)
To: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now
Date: Friday, October 26, 2012 6:43:55 PM

Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

Dear Leeper,

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Sincerely,

Ms. Susan Preston
PO Box 415
La Crosse, FL 32658-0415

From: [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [Arturo Franco](#)
To: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now
Date: Friday, October 26, 2012 6:43:50 PM

Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

Dear Leeper,

Florida's springs and rivers are our most unique natural asset, creating vibrant natural environments for recreation and wildlife, and supplying our drinking water. The Homosassa and Chassahowitzka spring-fed river systems provide a home for manatees and a recreational mecca for Floridians and visitors. These springs and rivers supply vital fresh water to the vital estuaries and coastal ecosystems of the Gulf of Mexico along the Nature Coast.

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Sincerely,

Mr. Arturo Franco
Republicas 266
Mexico City, None 33310

From: [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [Judith Angley](#)
To: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now
Date: Friday, October 26, 2012 6:43:38 PM

Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

Dear Leeper,

Florida's springs and rivers are our most unique natural asset, creating vibrant natural environments for recreation and wildlife, and supplying our drinking water. The Homosassa and Chassahowitzka spring-fed river systems provide a home for manatees and a recreational mecca for Floridians and visitors. These springs and rivers supply vital fresh water to the vital estuaries and coastal ecosystems of the Gulf of Mexico along the Nature Coast.

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Sincerely,

Ms. Judith Angley
4410 NW 30th Ter
Gainesville, FL 32605-1529

From: [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [Colonel Meyer](#)
To: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now
Date: Friday, October 26, 2012 6:44:16 PM

Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

Dear Leeper,

Florida's springs and rivers are our most unique natural asset, creating vibrant natural environments for recreation and wildlife, and supplying our drinking water. The Homosassa and Chassahowitzka spring-fed river systems provide a home for manatees and a recreational mecca for Floridians and visitors. These springs and rivers supply vital fresh water to the vital estuaries and coastal ecosystems of the Gulf of Mexico along the Nature Coast.

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Sincerely,

Mr. Colonel Meyer
3701 Eagle Pass St
North Port, FL 34286-2009

From: [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [ben dugger](#)
To: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now
Date: Friday, October 26, 2012 6:44:10 PM

Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

Dear Leeper,

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Sincerely,

Mr. ben dugger
4981porkylane
st.jamescity, FL 33956

From: [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [Michael Duffey](#)
To: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now
Date: Friday, October 26, 2012 6:44:05 PM

Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

Dear Leeper,

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Sincerely,

Mr. Michael Duffey
19 Chestnut Ave SE
Apt 57
Fort Walton Beach, FL 32548-5662

From: [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [ben dugger](#)
To: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now
Date: Friday, October 26, 2012 6:41:50 PM

Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

Dear Leeper,

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Sincerely,

Mr. ben dugger
4981porkylane
st.jamescity, FL 33956

From: [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [Judith Angley](#)
To: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now
Date: Friday, October 26, 2012 6:42:14 PM

Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

Dear Leeper,

Florida's springs and rivers are our most unique natural asset, creating vibrant natural environments for recreation and wildlife, and supplying our drinking water. The Homosassa and Chassahowitzka spring-fed river systems provide a home for manatees and a recreational mecca for Floridians and visitors. These springs and rivers supply vital fresh water to the vital estuaries and coastal ecosystems of the Gulf of Mexico along the Nature Coast.

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Sincerely,

Ms. Judith Angley
4410 NW 30th Ter
Gainesville, FL 32605-1529

From: [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [Todd Smith](#)
To: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now
Date: Friday, October 26, 2012 6:42:09 PM

Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

Dear Leeper,

Florida's springs and rivers are our most unique natural asset, creating vibrant natural environments for recreation and wildlife, and supplying our drinking water. The Homosassa and Chassahowitzka spring-fed river systems provide a home for manatees and a recreational mecca for Floridians and visitors. These springs and rivers supply vital fresh water to the vital estuaries and coastal ecosystems of the Gulf of Mexico along the Nature Coast.

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Sincerely,

Mr. Todd Smith
745 52nd Ave N
Saint Petersburg, FL 33703-2831

From: [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [Michael Duffey](#)
To: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now
Date: Friday, October 26, 2012 6:42:31 PM

Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

Dear Leeper,

Florida's springs and rivers are our most unique natural asset, creating vibrant natural environments for recreation and wildlife, and supplying our drinking water. The Homosassa and Chassahowitzka spring-fed river systems provide a home for manatees and a recreational mecca for Floridians and visitors. These springs and rivers supply vital fresh water to the vital estuaries and coastal ecosystems of the Gulf of Mexico along the Nature Coast.

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It's time for a mandate to preserve and protect these critical resources for all Floridians. The water management policy must be adaptable to drought, climate change and overpumping. Many springs have ceased to flow or are no longer "connecting" with larger waterways, affecting the downstream systems. The goal of each water management district and the State of Florida should be to restore maximum flows and levels for our most important resource, and reverse conditions of decline and degradation within our freshwater environments.

Sincerely,

Mr. Michael Duffey
19 Chestnut Ave SE
Apt 57
Fort Walton Beach, FL 32548-5662

From: [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [Sue Lang](#)
To: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now
Date: Friday, October 26, 2012 6:42:26 PM

Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

Dear Leeper,

Florida's springs and rivers are our most unique natural asset, creating vibrant natural environments for recreation and wildlife, and supplying our drinking water. The Homosassa and Chassahowitzka spring-fed river systems provide a home for manatees and a recreational mecca for Floridians and visitors. These springs and rivers supply vital fresh water to the vital estuaries and coastal ecosystems of the Gulf of Mexico along the Nature Coast.

Decades of over-pumping and 20 years of drought have slowed or dried up these magnificent sources of crystal clear water and many are now murky with slime from nitrates fed by over-fertilized lawns, septic tanks, and farm and ranch operations that have no incentive to conserve.

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Sincerely,

Ms. Sue Lang
421 Darling Dr
Venice, FL 34285-3304

From: [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [Joan Tibbetts](#)
To: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now
Date: Friday, October 26, 2012 6:42:20 PM

Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

Dear Leeper,

Florida's springs and rivers are our most unique natural asset, creating vibrant natural environments for recreation and wildlife, and supplying our drinking water. The Homosassa and Chassahowitzka spring-fed river systems provide a home for manatees and a recreational mecca for Floridians and visitors. These springs and rivers supply vital fresh water to the vital estuaries and coastal ecosystems of the Gulf of Mexico along the Nature Coast.

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Sincerely,

Mrs. Joan Tibbetts
682 Youngstown Pkwy
Apt 331
Altamonte Springs, FL 32714-4578

From: [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [Bernard Berauer](#)
To: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now
Date: Friday, October 26, 2012 6:42:46 PM

Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

Dear Leeper,

Florida's springs and rivers are our most unique natural asset, creating vibrant natural environments for recreation and wildlife, and supplying our drinking water. The Homosassa and Chassahowitzka spring-fed river systems provide a home for manatees and a recreational mecca for Floridians and visitors. These springs and rivers supply vital fresh water to the vital estuaries and coastal ecosystems of the Gulf of Mexico along the Nature Coast.

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Sincerely,

Mr. Bernard Berauer
10332 S McClung Loop
Homosassa, FL 34448-5553

From: [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [Barbara Sallee](#)
To: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now
Date: Friday, October 26, 2012 6:41:45 PM

Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

Dear Leeper,

Florida's springs and rivers are our most unique natural asset, creating vibrant natural environments for recreation and wildlife, and supplying our drinking water. The Homosassa and Chassahowitzka spring-fed river systems provide a home for manatees and a recreational mecca for Floridians and visitors. These springs and rivers supply vital fresh water to the vital estuaries and coastal ecosystems of the Gulf of Mexico along the Nature Coast.

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Sincerely,

Ms. Barbara Sallee
6045 39th Ct E
Bradenton, FL 34203-7003
(941) 739-2420



HERNANDO-CITRUS COUNTY FARM BUREAU

617 Lamar Avenue, Brooksville, Florida 34601 ♦ Phone: (352) 796-2526/800-282-8317

October 29, 2012

Paul Senft
Chairman District Governing Board
2379 Broad Street
Brooksville, FL 34604

On October 30th the Southwest Florida Water Management District's (District) Governing Board will be voting on minimum flows and levels (MFLs) for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Riverine Systems. The Hernando-Citrus Farm Bureau Board of Directors would like to express our support for the Districts recommended MFLs for these two Riverine Systems.

There has been much discussion and debate over this issue for many months now. It's been studied for the past seven years. District scientists have had to take into account a multitude of science-based methodologies including wildlife habitat, vegetation, water withdrawals, thermal refuge habitats, and fish evaluations, just to name a few. They are following state law which requires the establishment of minimum flows and level on rivers, lakes and streams. The outcomes of the science supports the MFLs recommended and these have also been peer reviewed by an independent panel of scientists.

The determination of Minimum Flows and Levels (MFL) for these water bodies has the potential to greatly affect the future of agricultural, which ultimately impacts the local economy. If MFL's are set to high, expansion of agricultural crops, public utilities and/or growth within the community can be jeopardized. This being the case, we strongly support the research-based MFL recommendations brought forth by SWFWMD scientists and staff.

What we need to do is plan for future growth in a responsible manner. That means planning for our future water supplies responsibility, and working with our partners in the agricultural community, the environmental community, economic development, and government to ensure economic growth and sustainability for our community far into the future.

Sincerely,

John Thomas, President
Hernando-Citrus County Farm Bureau Board of Directors

From: [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [Raleigh Hoke](#)
To: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now
Date: Friday, October 26, 2012 6:44:21 PM

Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

Dear Leeper,

Florida's springs and rivers are our most unique natural asset, creating vibrant natural environments for recreation and wildlife, and supplying our drinking water. The Homosassa and Chassahowitzka spring-fed river systems provide a home for manatees and a recreational mecca for Floridians and visitors. These springs and rivers supply vital fresh water to the vital estuaries and coastal ecosystems of the Gulf of Mexico along the Nature Coast.

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Sincerely,

Mr. Raleigh Hoke
1720 Washington Ave Apt 1
New Orleans, LA 70113-1753

From: [Jerry Morton](mailto:jerrymorton@aol.com)
To: jerrymorton@aol.com
Cc: BWR.CRRC@tampabay.rr.com; [Doug Leeper](mailto:Doug.Leeper@watermatters.org)
Subject: 15% loss of habitat in Florida's Outstanding Waters; SwiftMud decides Tues 9am.
Date: Saturday, October 27, 2012 6:01:32 PM

(Sorry to bother yall again but this subject is critical to Florida's Outstanding Waters. As of 6pm today (Sat Oct 27th) there were over 6,300 signatures on the petition to SwiftMud; it has gone 'viral' in the state in just 4 days. Thanks to all that have signed and those planning to sign; I encourage you to see the petition and the comments even if you do not sign)

I attended the last SwiftMud public meeting regarding reductions of water flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa rivers; the meeting was held in early October at the SwiftMud office in Lecanto, FL. I heard the SwiftMud Chief Environmental Scientist, Doug Leeper, say this paraphrased, 'a 9% reduction of water flow to the Chassahowitzka river and a 3% reduction to the Homosassa river is the percentage of water that can be diverted from these rivers without exceeding a 15% loss of habitat in those rivers'.

I was shocked by this statement; the state of Florida has declared that a 15% loss of habitat in Florida's Outstanding Waters is acceptable. This means that, with the board's approval, SwiftMud will be allowed to grant permits, for new water wells, that could result in a 15% loss of habitat in those rivers. I believe a ZERO percent reduction of flow and a ZERO percent loss of habitat should be the law for Florida's Outstanding Waters.

Next Tuesday morning, October 30th at 9am, the governing board of SwiftMud will vote to accept or deny the flow reductions for these 2 Outstanding Florida Waters. Please sign the petition link below and share it with anyone you know that wants to help preserve Florida's Outstanding Waters.

Petition link to the SwiftMud governing board.

http://www.change.org/petitions/south-west-florida-water-management-district-governing-board-no-reduction-in-flow-to-the-spring-fed-chassahowitzka-and-homosassa-rivers?share_id=RfgSMuXiOz&utm_campaign=mailto_link&utm_medium=email&utm_source=share_petition

ps. This is just the beginning as 76 springs on the Spring Coast of Florida will be affected by SwiftMud now and in the future; these include Weeki Wachi and Crystal River. Lets stop them NOW!

jeRRy

Jerry Morton
Lakeland, Florida
863 279 2802
jerrymorton@aol.com

Very knowledgeable people you can talk to:

Brad Rimbey
Chassahowitzka River Restoration Committee
BWR.CRRC@tampabay.rr.com

Douglas A. Leeper
Chief Environmental Scientist
Water Resources Bureau - Southwest Florida Water Management District
800-423-1476, ext. 4272 (FL only)
doug.leeper@watermatters.org

BCC: Hundreds of my closest friends; anyone who loves the state of Florida and those 'Outstanding Florida Waters'.

From: Jermorton@aol.com
To: jermorton@aol.com
Cc: [Doug Leeper; BWR.CRRC@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:Doug.Leeper@BWR.CRRC@tampabay.rr.com)
Subject: 15% loss of habitat in Florida's Outstanding Waters; SwiftMud decides Tues 9am.
Date: Saturday, October 27, 2012 6:42:07 PM

(Sorry to bother yall again but this subject is critical to Florida's Outstanding Waters. As of 6:40 pm today (Sat Oct 27th) there were over 6,524 signatures on the petition to SwiftMud; it has gone 'viral' in the state in just 4 days. Thanks to all that have signed and those planning to sign; I encourage you to see the petition and the comments even if you do not sign)

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ps. This is just the beginning as 76 springs on the Spring Coast of Florida will be affected by SwiftMud now and in the future; these include Weeki Wachi and Crystal River. Lets stop them NOW!

jeRRy

Jerry Morton
Lakeland, Florida
863 279 2802
jermorton@aol.com

Very knowledgeable people you can talk to:

Brad Rimbey
Chassahowitzka River Restoration Committee
BWR.CRRC@tampabay.rr.com

Douglas A. Leeper
Chief Environmental Scientist
Water Resources Bureau - Southwest Florida Water Management District
800-423-1476, ext. 4272 (FL only)
doug.leeper@watermatters.org

BCC: Dozens of the members of the Withlacoochee Riders bicycle club who love the State of Florida and those 'Outstanding Florida Waters'.

From: Jermorton@aol.com
To: PRISE@yahoogroups.com
Cc: BWR.CRRC@tampabay.rr.com; [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: 15% loss of habitat in Florida's Outstanding Waters; SwiftMud decides Tues AM
Date: Saturday, October 27, 2012 11:48:42 PM

To my friends in PRISE (Publix Retired Information Systems Employees) I am sorry to bother yall again but this subject is critical to Florida's Outstanding Waters. As of 11:30 pm today (Sat Oct 27th) there were over 7,782 signatures on the petition to SwiftMud; it has gone 'viral' in the state in just 4 days. Thanks to all that have signed and those planning to sign; I encourage you to see the petition and the comments even if you do not sign. Comments are coming from all over Florida, the USA, and the world!

I attended the last SwiftMud public meeting regarding reductions of water flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa rivers; the meeting was held in early October at the SwiftMud office in Lecanto, FL. I heard the SwiftMud Chief Environmental Scientist, Doug Leeper, say this paraphrased, 'a 9% reduction of water flow to the Chassahowitzka river and a 3% reduction to the Homosassa river is the percentage of water that can be diverted from these rivers without exceeding a 15% loss of habitat in those rivers'.

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Next Tuesday morning, October 30th at 9am, the governing board of SwiftMud in Lecanto will vote to accept or deny the flow reductions for these 2 Outstanding Florida Waters. Please sign the petition link below and share it with anyone you know that wants to help preserve Florida's Outstanding Waters.

Petition link to the SwiftMud governing board.

http://www.change.org/petitions/south-west-florida-water-management-district-governing-board-no-reduction-in-flow-to-the-spring-fed-chassahowitzka-and-homosassa-rivers?share_id=RfqSMuXiOz&utm_campaign=mailto_link&utm_medium=email&utm_source=share_petition

ps. This is just the beginning as 76 springs on the Spring Coast of Florida will be affected by SwiftMud now and in the future; these include Weeki Wachi and Crystal River. Lets stop them NOW!

jeRRy

Jerry Morton
Lakeland, Florida
863 279 2802
jermorton@aol.com

Very knowledgeable people you can talk to regarding flow reductions in OFW:

Brad Rimbey
Chassahowitzka River Restoration Committee
BWR.CRRC@tampabay.rr.com

Douglas A. Leeper
Chief Environmental Scientist

Water Resources Bureau - Southwest Florida Water Management District
800-423-1476, ext. 4272 (FL only)
doug.leeper@watermatters.org

From: [Alan Martyn Johnson](mailto:Alan.Martyn.Johnson)
To: lmotz@ce.ufl.edu
Cc: [Doug Leeper](mailto:c.hackney@unf.edu); c.hackney@unf.edu
Subject: RE: Minimum Flows Homosassa River
Date: Sunday, October 28, 2012 8:57:38 AM

Dr. Motz,

Thank you for your October 12 response to my October 9 e-mail.

It is hard for me to reason the delay in your looking into this matter.

On October 30 the MFL Report is being presented to the SWFWMD Governing Board.

The Governing Board may wish to know the Peer Review may not have realized almost 50% of the Homosassa River Flow (the contribution from Halls River) was not considered in the modeling, particularly the salinity modeling, and this could make the models invalid. I can not claim expert status on this matter, but with a strong background in technical management I do think this is an important point to have considered in depth.

The Peer Review did raise some very interesting and valid points about the complexities of the springs/river systems and I thank you for your input on that task. On the above point regarding the omission of the flow from Halls River in the modeling, I thought you may have an opinion formulated at the time of the review. Your comment that you will look into this leaves me with the possibility this was not recognized at the time of the review.

If you could provide a brief response I would be very grateful.

Martyn

From: lmotz@ce.ufl.edu
To: martynellijay@hotmail.com
CC: doug.leeper@watermatters.org
Subject: RE: Minimum Flows Homosassa River
Date: Fri, 12 Oct 2012 17:53:40 +0000

Mr. Johnson,
I'll look into this and respond to your question.
Thank you for your interest,
Louis Motz

From: Alan Martyn Johnson [martynellijay@hotmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, October 09, 2012 8:19 AM
To: Motz,Louis H
Cc: c.hackney@unf.edu
Subject: Minimum Flows Homosassa River

Dr. Motz,

If you have time I would appreciate your thoughts on a specific issue regarding the MFL Report for the Homosassa River; you were involved as a member of the Peer Review Panel.

I obtained your e-mail address from Doug Leeper at SWFWMD following a discussion of the modeling done by HSW Engineering, particularly the salinity modeling.

My concern is the modeling did not include flow from the Halls River (confluence is about one mile downstream from the head springs).

I think we can all agree the discharge measurement method/estimates for Halls River using the tidally adjusted flow at the USGS Gage 02310700 Homosassa R at Homosassa leaves much to be desired. However, there is an acknowledged flow which is estimated to be similar to the combined discharge from the Homosassa Springs and SE Fork.

My contention is the omission of approximately 50% of the flow (downstream of the confluence) in the regression analyses compromises the validity of the modeled results. HSW's own analyses indicates the model only predicted about 50-60% of the observed data (you commented about that in the Peer Review Report).

If you have time, I would appreciate your thought on the validity of the model when it ignores such a significant flow.

I did note comments in the report regarding adequacy of the data to model Halls River, but with a comment about the need to continue data collection. Also, I noted comments about the regression models outputs.

You will be pleased to know SWFWMD have funded velocity meters at the SE Fork gage site (installed just over a year ago) and at a newly established site on Halls River (about 6 months ago). Unfortunately USGS have not yet published any data from these velocity meters.

For completeness let me explain who I am. I represent only myself as a homeowner who has seen the river deteriorate in the 11 years we have owned a house close to the headsprings. Many other individuals and groups such as the Homosassa River Alliance are concerned about the deterioration. Some very long term residents have their observations about decreased fish abundance, vegetation changes and many comment about barnacles moving further upstream (to the point they are now observed on structures very close to the main spring run). These observations are almost dismissed as anecdotal evidence by SWFWMD who prefer the studies which they have spent very considerable sums of money on. For myself I see the evidence when observing the river, but with a technical background I have looked at the data and find many areas of concern in the accuracy of discharge measurement and the modeling.

Would appreciate any comments about my specific concern regarding the omission of Halls River flow in the modeling by HSW Engineering. If you wish to call me my telephone number is Cell 404-731-6187.

As an FYI I have copied Courtney Hackney as the Chair of the Peer Review Panel using the e-mail address from the report.

Martyn

From: [Executive](#)
To: [Dianna Brass](#)
Cc: [Lou Kavouras](#); [Ron Basso](#); [Doug Leeper](#); [Mike Heyl](#)
Subject: FW: Springs Coast MFL
Date: Friday, October 19, 2012 8:09:08 AM

Please handle accordingly or forward to the appropriate staff for handling.

Thank you.

Shellie Ferreira-Lee
Sr. Document Specialist
Southwest Florida Water Management District
shellie.ferreira@swfwmd.state.fl.us
352-796-7211, ext. 4053

From: Susan Zimmer [mailto:drs@ymail.com]
Sent: Thursday, October 18, 2012 4:24 PM
To: info
Subject: Springs Coast MFL

SWFWMD Governing Board

I am a resident of Citrus County.
I do not favor any further reductions in water flow.
The springs and rivers are already low, unhealthy,
and actually need **more** flow to provide a healthy
environment for fish, vegetation, drinking water,
etc.

It is sad and scary to continually see various
Springs, which provide our only drinking water,
become stagnant and dry up.

Prevention is more sensible than Restoration
(attempts).

Desalination, as an example, is too costly, etc.,
especially while we have the **opportunity to save** the
precious Springs.

Thank you
Dr Susan Zimmer

From: [Executive](#)
To: [Dianna Brass](#)
Cc: [Lou Kavouras](#); [Ron Basso](#); [Doug Leeper](#); [Mike Heyl](#); [Gwen Brown](#)
Subject: FW: Proposed MFL"s for the Homosassa and Chasahowitzka Rivers
Date: Friday, October 19, 2012 8:10:41 AM

Please handle accordingly or forward to the appropriate staff for handling.

Thank you.

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

Sr. Document Specialist
Southwest Florida Water Management District
shellie.ferreira@swfwmd.state.fl.us
352-796-7211, ext. 4053

From: JaniceHowie@aol.com [mailto:JaniceHowie@aol.com]
Sent: Thursday, October 18, 2012 1:53 PM
To: Executive
Subject: Proposed MFL's for the Homosassa and Chasahowitzka Rivers

The Federal Clean Water act does not allow for the degradation of these rivers, or any other rivers in the state. Your proposed MFL's for the Homosassa at 3% and the Chasahowitzka at 9 % would allow by your studies up to 15% degradation to the wildlife and environment of these rivers. Think about what will happen to these rivers and to the conflict that will occur with the EPA if this degradation is allowed to happen. Wouldn't it be prudent to proactively ovoid this damage to our rivers.

Jan Howie
Conservation Chairman
Nature Coast Native Plant Society

From: [Executive](#)
To: [Dianna Brass](#)
Cc: [Lou Kavouras](#); [Gwen Brown](#); [Ron Basso](#); [Doug Leeper](#); [Mike Heyl](#)
Subject: FW: Chassahowitzka
Date: Friday, October 19, 2012 8:14:48 AM

Please handle accordingly or forward to the appropriate staff for handling.

Thank you.

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

Sr. Document Specialist
Southwest Florida Water Management District
shellie.ferreira@swfwmd.state.fl.us
352-796-7211, ext. 4053

From: cindy [<mailto:hkck5@embarqmail.com>]
Sent: Thursday, October 18, 2012 12:54 PM
To: Executive
Cc: Executive
Subject: Chassahowitzka

Please don't take any more fresh water from the spring system of the Chassahowitzka or Homosassa Rivers. As you know, both are in peril. Let whoever wants our most precious resource on the nature coast to invest in a desalinization facility. There is plenty of fresh water in our gulf. May I even suggest the Florida cross barge canal system as the perfect location for such a project. Eventually it will come to this anyway, why not lead the way. You have the power. Thank You. Chassahowitzka resident for 30 years, in love with the nature coast, the State of Florida and thankful for our State Land programs and Government Organizations set up to protect our natural resources. Cindy Klein

From: [Mike Heyl](#)
To: Boyd_Blihovde@fws.gov
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Chassahowitzka MFL comments
Date: Monday, October 22, 2012 6:55:46 AM

Boyd – I saw your MFL comments come through. We will definitely be in touch with regard to monitoring, but I did want to address the water level issue. Since the Chassahowitzka is below sea level for the entire extent, the change in elevation will be negligible as inflow from the Gulf will fill any voids.

We did run the hydrodynamic model to check the change in elevation with the original proposed 11% MFL. The average decrease in water level at the boat ramp will be 0.01 feet.

MGH

=====
Michael G. Heyl - Chief Environmental Scientist
Mike.Heyl@SWFWMD.state.fl.us or Mike.Heyl@WaterMatters.org
=====
Natural Systems and Restoration Bureau / SWFWMD (7:00 am - 3:30 pm)
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Tampa, Fl. 33637-6759 1-813-987-6747 (Fax)
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From: [Mike Heyl](#)
To: [Katie Tripp \(ktripp@savethemanatee.org\)](mailto:Katie.Tripp@savethemanatee.org)
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: MFL Comments
Date: Monday, October 22, 2012 7:00:08 AM

Katie - I saw your comments on the Chassahowitzka MFL come through the web site. While I think the footnote on page 92 is valid for acute (4-hour) thermal refuge, I agree that it would probably not be applicable to a chronic (3-day) thermal refuge and I will remove the footnote in the final version of the report.

MGH

=====
Michael G. Heyl - Chief Environmental Scientist
Mike.Heyl@SWFWMD.state.fl.us or Mike.Heyl@WaterMatters.org
=====
Natural Systems and Restoration Bureau / SWFWMD (7:00 am - 3:30 pm)
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From: [Katie Tripp](#)
To: [Mike Heyl](#)
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#); [Katie Tripp](#)
Subject: RE: MFL Comments
Date: Monday, October 22, 2012 8:05:17 AM

Thanks, Mike.

Katie Tripp, Ph.D.
Director of Science and Conservation
Save the Manatee Club
500 N. Maitland Ave.
Maitland, FL 32751
Office: 407-539-0990
e-mail: ktripp@savethemanatee.org

From: Mike Heyl [<mailto:Mike.Heyl@swfwmd.state.fl.us>]
Sent: Monday, October 22, 2012 7:00 AM
To: Katie Tripp
Cc: Doug Leeper
Subject: MFL Comments

Katie - I saw your comments on the Chassahowitzka MFL come through the web site. While I think the footnote on page 92 is valid for acute (4-hour) thermal refuge, I agree that it would probably not be applicable to a chronic (3-day) thermal refuge and I will remove the footnote in the final version of the report.

MGH

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Michael G. Heyl - Chief Environmental Scientist
Mike.Heyl@SWFWMD.state.fl.us or Mike.Heyl@WaterMatters.org
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From: [Alan Martyn Johnson](#)
To: [Doug Leeper](#)
Cc: [Chris Anastasiou](#)
Subject: RE: Timeframe for Velocity data from investments at SE Fork and Halls River Plus Bathymetry/Bath Tub
Date: Monday, October 22, 2012 8:58:57 AM

Doug,

Sorry for the slow response. You did respond to my question about timeframe in the e-mail where you provided your answers within the text of my advance questions, but you did not mention Kevin by name.

USGS must already have a stage area for both the SE Fork and Halls River Velocity meters sites and they do have raw velocity data every hour for the SE Fork (for over a year) and every 15 minutes for Halls River (for over 3 months). They must have a very good idea of the flows. Maybe they are not ready to publish the discharge data as approved, but surely they have some idea of how well the data matches the calculated data for the SE Fork. In the last year discharges have covered a broad spectrum from the almost record low levels in Weeki Wachee Well thru to the 18 plus feet; levels not seen for years. Halls River has experienced the highs and lows also; surely this reveals a much better data set than the very suspect tidally adjusted approach yeilded.

It is very disappointing that these valuable investments have not borne results before presentation of the report to the Governing Board.

If the 'preliminary data' from the velocity meters confirmed the calculated data I would have expected a rush to let everyone know.

Bathymetry data.

Thanks for sending the CD as I did not get a chance to download the file from the website before it was removed. My neighbor in Homosassa forwarded the CD to me and I got a chance to look at it this weekend. It took some time to translate State Plane readings to locations on the river, but I was impressed by the detail of the survey e.g. taking five depth readings at very close proximity before moving one to two meters to the next point.

Wang's data also shows the deep point in the river I found while investigating the "Bath tub" idea; in the Excel spreadsheet of centerline readings the deep point is on line 4954 with a depth of 3.76 meters below NAVD 88. The point I found as the deepest point is only some 6 feet from this point. As I have commented previously, **there must be some discharge at this point otherwise why has it not filled with sediment over the years.** The depth found in Wang's survey is so close to what I measured with the Secchi Disc (crude compared to Wang's instrumentation), it appears to indicate a reasonably stable situation over the years. I would speculate there is a reasonably strong discharge in that area. And as further evidence any avid manatee watcher knows the manatee like that area.

From my observations and speculation the discharge is thru a sediment rich blanket over the vent(s), and from the very few Specific Conductance readings may at times be more saline than other springs in the Homosassa River headwaters, possibly influenced more by stage change/seawater ingress.

To me this is another example of how important it is to combine the data available with carefully observation of what can be seen in the river to develop the necessary understanding to protect an Outstanding Florida Water which unfortunately is deteriorating.

I have a number of suggestions for follow up;

- adding this deep site to the quarterly sampling with bottom middle and top sampling (Doug I did share my September samplings with Chris, but do not recall if I shared with you)
- at the time of the next Field Measurements by USGS, run a discharge at the point where the river narrows (before the confluence with Halls River) as well as the SE Fork and the main springs run to determine any additional discharge; bearing in mind speculation the discharge from the deep center area may vary with stage
- **have some keen scuba divers take a closer look possibly using some dye cakes to help view the flow**

I realize resources are limited, but understanding the complexities of the rivers is critical to their future.

Martyn

From: Doug.Leeper@swfwmd.state.fl.us
To: martynellijay@hotmail.com
Date: Mon, 15 Oct 2012 11:31:52 -0400
Subject: RE: Timeframe for Velocity data from investments at SE Fork and Halls River

Martyn –

Hopefully I responded to your question concerning the time-frame for the United States Geological Survey's evaluation of the velocity data that has been collected over the past year in the Homosassa River system. In case I did not, I'm writing to let you know that Kevin Grimsley has told me that he anticipates the Survey will be completing an initial analyses of the data within a couple of months.

Douglas A. Leeper
Chief Environmental Scientist
Water Resources Bureau
Southwest Florida Water Management District
2379 Broad Street
Brooksville, Florida 34604-6899
1-800-423-1476, ext. 4272 (FL only)
352-796-7211, ext. 4272
352-754-6885 (Fax)
doug.leeper@watermatters.org

From: Alan Martyn Johnson [<mailto:martynellijay@hotmail.com>]
Sent: Thursday, August 30, 2012 7:34 AM
To: Doug Leeper
Cc: Ron Basso; Mike Heyl
Subject: Timeframe for Velocity data from investments at SE Fork and Halls River

Doug,

I was pleased to receive a confirmation and Thank You e-mail, regarding comment I posted on the web site; and noted that you are copied. Good job by whoever organized this; I was concerned comments were going to accumulate both unread as well as unanswered.

This e-mail is not directly about the MFL Reports, but about funding/investments.

We are within 10 days of the anniversary of the start of operation of the velocity meter at the SE Fork station (September 9 @ 12:15 hour). The most recent Field Measurements only add to the concerns I have previously expressed. I have copied the specific data below for ease of reference, but my concern is data collected from these investments, SE Fork and Halls River Velocity Meters, is not being made available. This is troubling as USGS is going to discontinue monitoring of some wells in the area due to lack of sponsorship, yet data from these recently funded projects is 'intentionally' hidden. I am sure you are aware that velocity data from the Halls River 'new' site (installed March 2012) was on line for a few months before being 'hidden'. What is the sense in spending these scarce resources and not getting any value from them?

I would appreciate if you can share the timeframe for velocity data to be made available from these two sites in the Homosassa River. I appreciate there is more involved in converting velocity to discharge (determining stage area and how it changes with stage, plus verification by field measurements), but velocity as seen by the instrument is raw data and meaningful raw data.

FYI I have spoken to the manufacturer's technical personnel regarding location of these meters and how quickly meaning full data can be obtained, both velocity and discharge. Let's just say one year is difficult to understand and the SE Fork location is not ideal as it is at a location where flow direction changes significantly.

On a more positive note, the delay has at least given the chance to observe a range of conditions with Weeki Wachee Well starting around 15 ft. last September/October, dropping to a low of 10.86 ft. in May, and to the high of 18.84 ft. in July.

On a personal note I am pleased to see the significant increase in levels in the aquifer, due to tropical storm Debby, have resulted in improved quality of water emanating both the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs. I will be in Homosassa the next two weeks and plan on monitoring the springs as I have in the past. Really interested to see if strong flow has reestablished at some of the smaller vents.

Doug, SWFWMD and us folks that pay the taxes which make all this possible need a timeframe for data from these investments with USGS.

Martyn

Recent Field Measurements Stream flow and 'as close as possible time' Calculated flow from USGS 02310688 SE Fork.

Meas. Number	Date	Time	Stream flow (ft³/s)	Calculated flow (ft³/s)
234	2012-08-16	14:49:08	74.3	37
233	2012-08-16	14:40:53	78.4	37
232	2012-08-16	14:23:38	78.7	
231	2012-08-16	14:16:06	70.7	
230	2012-08-16	14:09:03	77.8	43
229	2012-08-16	10:30:23	90.7	76

Time series observations from USGS 02310688 SE Fork

08/16/2012 10:15 EST	1.17 ^P	76 ^P	960 ^P	24.5 ^P	0.55 ^P
08/16/2012 10:30 EST	1.15 ^P	76 ^P	970 ^P	24.4 ^P	0.53 ^P
08/16/2012 10:45 EST	1.13 ^P	76 ^P	950 ^P	24.3 ^P	0.51 ^P
08/16/2012 11:00 EST	1.11 ^P	77 ^P	930 ^P	24.1 ^P	0.49 ^P
08/16/2012 11:15 EST	P	P	980 ^P	24.3 ^P	P
08/16/2012 11:30 EST	1.12 ^P	64 ^P	980 ^P	24.4 ^P	0.50 ^P
08/16/2012 11:45 EST	1.15 ^P	55 ^P	980 ^P	24.5 ^P	0.53 ^P
08/16/2012 12:00 EST	1.21 ^P	42 ^P	970 ^P	24.5 ^P	0.59 ^P
08/16/2012 12:15 EST	P	P	1,040 ^P	24.5 ^P	P
08/16/2012 12:30 EST	1.28 ^P	37 ^P	960 ^P	24.7 ^P	0.66 ^P
08/16/2012 12:45 EST	1.34 ^P	41 ^P	1,240 ^P	24.3 ^P	0.72 ^P
08/16/2012 13:00 EST	1.37 ^P	53 ^P	1,130 ^P	24.4 ^P	0.75 ^P
08/16/2012 13:15 EST	P	P	1,330 ^P	24.5 ^P	P
08/16/2012 13:30 EST	1.47 ^P	23 ^P	1,300 ^P	24.5 ^P	0.85 ^P
08/16/2012 13:45 EST	1.52 ^P	43 ^P	1,180 ^P	24.6 ^P	0.90 ^P
08/16/2012 14:00 EST	1.57 ^P	43 ^P	1,100 ^P	24.5 ^P	0.95 ^P
08/16/2012 14:15 EST	P	P	950 ^P	24.8 ^P	P
08/16/2012 14:30 EST	1.68 ^P	16 ^P	1,250 ^P	24.6 ^P	1.06 ^P
08/16/2012 14:45 EST	1.74 ^P	37 ^P	1,050 ^P	24.7 ^P	1.12 ^P
08/16/2012 15:00 EST	1.79 ^P	40 ^P	1,210 ^P	24.6 ^P	1.17 ^P

Blue colored data is using a 30 minute stage change and is not comparable.

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From: Boyd_Blihovde@fws.gov
To: [Mike Heyl](mailto:Mike_Heyl)
Cc: [Doug Leeper](mailto:Doug_Leeper)
Subject: Re: Chassahowitzka MFL comments
Date: Monday, October 22, 2012 4:16:06 PM

Mike,

Thanks for the reply. I understand.

This may seem like a strange request, but in order for me to keep a clear record of the "email thread" I like to save messages in pdfs "as one message". Would it be possible to send your reply with the message I sent as a history? If not, don't worry about it, I can piece it together!

I will hopefully see you and Doug on the 30th, but look forward to discussing the problem of monitoring the river in the future.

Thanks,

Boyd Blihovde
Deputy Project Leader
Crystal River National Wildlife Refuge Complex
1502 SE Kings Bay Drive
Crystal River, FL 34429
(P) 352-563-2088
(F) 352-795-7961
▼ Mike Heyl <Mike.Heyl@swfwmd.state.fl.us>

Mike Heyl
<Mike.Heyl@swfwmd.state.fl.us>

10/22/2012 06:57 AM

To: "Boyd_Blihovde@fws.gov"
<Boyd_Blihovde@fws.gov>
cc: Doug Leeper
<Doug.Leeper@swfwmd.state.fl.us>
Subject: Chassahowitzka MFL comments

Boyd – I saw your MFL comments come through. We will definitely be in touch with regard to monitoring, but I did want to address the water level issue. Since the Chassahowitzka is below sea level for the entire extent, the change in elevation will be negligible as inflow from the Gulf will fill any voids.

We did run the hydrodynamic model to check the change in elevation with the original proposed 11% MFL. The average decrease in water level at the boat ramp will be 0.01 feet.

MGH

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Michael G. Heyl - Chief Environmental Scientist
Mike.Heyl@SWFWMD.state.fl.us or Mike.Heyl@WaterMatters.org
=====

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From: [Mike Heyl](mailto:Mike_Heyl)
To: [Boyd Blihovde@fws.gov](mailto:Boyd_Blihovde@fws.gov)
Cc: [Doug Leeper](mailto:Doug_Leeper)
Subject: RE: Chassahowitzka MFL comments
Date: Tuesday, October 23, 2012 6:30:32 AM
Attachments: [Chassahowitzka MFL comments_MGH_reponse.pdf](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)

Boyd – Here you go. See attached pdf

MGH

=====

Michael G. Heyl - Chief Environmental Scientist
Mike.Heyl@SWFWMD.state.fl.us or Mike.Heyl@WaterMatters.org

=====

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From: Boyd_Blihovde@fws.gov [mailto:Boyd_Blihovde@fws.gov]
Sent: Monday, October 22, 2012 4:06 PM
To: Mike Heyl
Cc: Doug Leeper
Subject: Re: Chassahowitzka MFL comments

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boyd blihovde
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Crystal River, FL 34429
(P) 352-563-2088
(F) 352-795-7961

▼ Mike Heyl <Mike.Heyl@swfwmd.state.fl.us>

Mike Heyl
<Mike.Heyl@swfwmd.state.fl.us>

10/22/2012 06:57 AM

To "Boyd_Blihovde@fws.gov"
<Boyd_Blihovde@fws.gov>
ccDoug Leeper
<Doug.Leeper@swfwmd.state.fl.us>
SubjectChassahowitzka MFL comments

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MGH

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Michael G. Heyl - Chief Environmental Scientist

Mike.Heyl@SWFWMD.state.fl.us or Mike.Heyl@WaterMatters.org

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From: Mike Heyl
To: ["Boyd_Blihovde@fws.gov"](mailto:Boyd_Blihovde@fws.gov)
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Chassahowitzka MFL comments
Date: Monday, October 22, 2012 6:55:00 AM

Boyd – I saw your MFL comments come through. We will definitely be in touch with regard to monitoring, but I did want to address the water level issue. Since the Chassahowitzka is below sea level for the entire extent, the change in elevation will be negligible as inflow from the Gulf will fill any voids.

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Mike.Heyl@SWFWMD.state.fl.us or Mike.Heyl@WaterMatters.org
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From: [Executive](#)
To: [Gwen Brown](#)
Cc: [Jet Houser](#); [Lou Kavouras](#); [Ron Basso](#); [Mike Heyl](#); [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: FW: MFL for Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers
Date: Thursday, October 18, 2012 10:45:05 AM

Please handle accordingly or forward to the appropriate staff for handling.

Thank you.

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

Sr. Document Specialist
Southwest Florida Water Management District
shellie.ferreira@swfwmd.state.fl.us
352-796-7211, ext. 4053

From: Boyd_Blihovde@fws.gov [mailto:Boyd_Blihovde@fws.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, October 17, 2012 11:07 PM
To: Executive
Subject: MFL for Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

The Chassahowitzka National Wildlife Refuge is primarily bordered to the North by the Homosassa River, and contains the mouth of the Chassahowitzka River within its boundary. The freshwater inflow from both these rivers is extremely important to the wildlife that the Refuge was established to protect for the American public. We are pleased to see that the SWFWMD has increased the recommended MFL for both the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers to 91% and 97% respectively. However, we are certainly concerned that if levels on the Chassahowitzka River were actually reduced by 9% (from present conditions) there could be potentially detrimental conditions for many species of wildlife. Refuge staff have witnessed extremely low water levels during low tides on the Chassahowitzka River. These extremely low water situations have resulted in virtually impassable or unnavigable water depths. This is a concern for boaters and for the endangered manatee. Of course, these extremes are not experienced very often, but it is a condition that can be assumed would increase in frequency and intensity if a 9% reduction in flow were to occur.

Former land use practices in the area around the Chassahowitzka River cannot be reversed, but the Chassahowitzka NWR is concerned with future land use practices that may have an impact on the resources we manage for all US citizens. The US Fish and Wildlife Service takes pride in the partnership we have cooperatively developed with the water management districts in Florida. The Chassahowitzka NWR staff are located within close proximity to the river systems discussed in this MFL proposal and we conduct numerous surveys for manatees, birds, whooping cranes, and we cooperate with various agencies and universities to answer more advanced biological questions.

Although Refuge management would feel more comfortable with higher flows allowed for the Chassahowitzka River, we are open to helping establish a monitoring plan that would include a partnership between our agencies. This partnership would hopefully prevent irreparable damage to the habitat in and around the Chassahowitzka River if water flow was

to further decrease. USFWS staff currently make numerous qualitative observations on habitat conditions, and that work will certainly continue. However, through this partnership, the USFWS and SWFWMD should prepare to monitor the effects of freshwater reduction on the estuary within the Refuge and surrounding areas. It is imperative to us that we protect the natural resources that have been entrusted to us by the US citizen and monitoring any proposed management activity (on or near the Refuge boundary) is a very important part of that. We hope that whatever MFL becomes implemented will also include requirements for monitoring the effects of future permitted freshwater withdrawals. We look forward to future cooperative endeavors with the SWFWMD that will help protect Florida's natural resources.

Thanks,

boyd blihovde
Deputy Project Leader
Crystal River National Wildlife Refuge Complex
1502 SE Kings Bay Drive
Crystal River, FL 34429
(P) 352-563-2088
(F) 352-795-7961

From: Doug Leeper
To: [Doug Leeper](#)
Cc: [Adrienne Vining](#); [Chris Zajac](#); [Christopher Pettit](#); [Dave Dewitt](#); [Eric DeHaven](#); [Gary E. Williams](#); [Jay Yingling](#); [Jerry Mallams](#); [Karen West](#); [Kenneth R. Herd](#); [Laura Donaldson](#); [Lou Kavouras](#); [Mark Barcelo](#); [Mark Hammond](#); [Michael Molligan](#); [Mike Heyl](#); [Robyn O. Felix](#); [Ron Basso](#); [Sid Flannery](#); [Tammy Hinkle](#); [Veronica Crow](#); [Virginia Singer](#); [Xinjian Chen](#); [Yassert Gonzalez](#)
Bcc: [\(janicehowie@aol.com\)](#); ["Abdon Sidibie"](#); [Alex McPherson \(aamcpherson@msn.com\)](#); [Ann - 2 Hodgson \(ahodgson@gmail.com\)](#); [Ann Hodgson \(ahodgsonphd@gmail.com\)](#); [Bernard Berauer \(bfberauer@aol.com\)](#); [Beverly Overa \(boverly@tampabay.rr.com\)](#); [Bill Garvin \(wgarvin@tampabay.rr.com\)](#); [Bob Caldwell \(Bobcaldwell51@yahoo.com\)](#); [Brack Barker \(brack154@msn.com\)](#); [Brad Rimbey \(BWR.CRRC@tampabay.rr.com\)](#); [Carl Matthai \(thebabesmimi@gmail.com\)](#); [Casey Emily \(fcnwr@atlantic.net\)](#); [Charles Dean \(dean.charles.web@flsenate.gov\)](#); [Charles Stonerock \(katcha.stonerock3@gmail.com\)](#); [Chris Safos \(chrissafos@embarqmail.com\)](#); [Czerwinski, Mike \(mcerwin@tampabay.rr.com\)](#); [Darlene Herth \(2cetechology21@gmail.com\)](#); [Darrell Snedecor \(president@citruscountyaudubon.com\)](#); [Don Hiers \(dhiers3@gmail.com\)](#); [Douglas Dame \(doug_dame@yahoo.com\)](#); [Elaine Luther \(barneyandcap@hotmail.com\)](#); [Emily Casey \(ecasey21@hotmail.com\)](#); [Emma Knight \(eknight@wetlandsolutionsinc.com\)](#); [George Harbin \(gharbin@tampabay.rr.com\)](#); [George McClog \(classof47@gmail.com\)](#); [Gorgon O'Connor \(gorgon_o@yahoo.com\)](#); [Harry Steiner \(harry109@aol.com\)](#); ["Helen Spivey"](#); [Jack Calbeck \(calbeckj@citrus.k12.fl.us\)](#); [jane Perrin \(jcsperinmd@sbcglobal.net\)](#); [Jerry Morton \(JerrMorton@aol.com\)](#); [Jessie Gourlie \(gourliej@thirdplanetwind.com\)](#); [Jim Collins \(jimmieky22@yahoo.com\)](#); [Jimmie Smith \(jimmie.smith@myfloridahouse.gov\)](#); [Joe Calamari](#); [John Lord \(jclord109@yahoo.com\)](#); [John Mayo \(freedomway1@gmail.com\)](#); [Karen Johnstone \(kjohns213@sbcglobal.net\)](#); [Kim Caldwell \(caldwell.kimberly@yahoo.com\)](#); [Kim Dinkins \(kim.dinkins@marioncountyfl.org\)](#); [Linda Pierce \(tpierce35@tampabay.rr.com\)](#); [Linda Vanderveen \(hernandoaudubon@yahoo.com\)](#); [Mary Anne Lynn \(mlynn1978@tampabay.rr.com\)](#); [Matthew Corona \(mcorona1@tampabay.rr.com\)](#); [Max Rhinesmith \(rhinesmith@webtv.net\)](#); ["Amber Breland"](#); [Andy Houston \(ahouston@crystalriverfl.org\)](#); [Art Yerian \(A.Yerian@dep.state.fl.us\)](#); ["Ben Weiss"](#); ["Beth Hovinde"](#); [Brad Thorpe \(brad.thorpe@bocc.citrus.fl.us\)](#); [Courtney Edwards \(cedwards@savethemanatee.org\)](#); [Dale Jones \(Jones@MyFWC.com\)](#); [Dana Bryan \(dana.bryan@dep.state.fl.us\)](#); ["Darrell Snedecor"](#); [David Hamilton \(countyadministrator@hernandocounty.us\)](#); [David Hankla \(david_hankla@fws.gov\)](#); [Don Wright \(wright@sura.org\)](#); [Dusty McDevitt \(mcdevitt@usgs.gov\)](#); [Ed Call \(marvin.call@MyFWC.com\)](#); [Eric Nagid \(eric.nagid@MyFWC.com\)](#); [FFWCC MFLs Review E-Mail Address \(fwccconservationplanningservices@myfwc.com\)](#); [J. J. Kenney \(jj.kenney@bocc.citrus.fl.us\)](#); [Jennene Norman-Vacha \(jnvacha@ci.brooksville.fl.us\)](#); [Joyce Kleen@fws.gov](#); [Kandi Harper \(kandi.harper@bocc.citrus.fl.us\)](#); [Keith Ramos \(Keith.Ramos@fws.gov\)](#); [Kent Smith \(kent.smith2@myfwc.com\)](#); [Kevin Grimsley \(kgrims@usgs.gov\)](#); [Michael Lusk \(Michael_Lusk@fws.gov\)](#); [Mitchell Newberger \(mnewberger@verizon.net\)](#); [Nick Robbins \(Nick.Robbins@dep.state.fl.us\)](#); [Nicole Adimey \(Nicole_Adimey@fws.gov\)](#); [Paul Thomas \(paulw.thomas@MyFWC.com\)](#); [Ron Mezich \(ron.mezich@MyFWC.com\)](#); [Shelly Yaun \(shelly.yaun@dep.state.fl.us\)](#); [Toby Brewer \(Toby.Brewer@dep.state.fl.us\)](#); ["Tracy Colson"](#); ["Adkins, Jim"](#); ["Bitter, Jim"](#); ["Bryant, Richard"](#); ["Cantero, Vince"](#); ["Carpenter, Paul"](#); ["Cheek, Ken"](#); ["Daniels, Chase"](#); ["Dueker, Duane"](#); ["Gordon, Lisa-Perras"](#); ["Gramling, Hugh"](#); ["Harrelson, Cathy"](#); ["Hubbell, Pete"](#); ["Johnson, Eric"](#); ["Johnson, Martyn"](#); ["Keim, Robert"](#); ["Kincaid, Todd"](#); ["Kline, Allen"](#); ["Knight, Bob"](#); ["Knudson, Ross"](#); ["Overa, Tom"](#); ["Owen, Rick"](#); ["Parrow, Liz"](#); [Rolf Auermann \(rauerman@tampabay.rr.com\)](#); ["Rusnak, Teddi"](#); ["Tarochinoe, Joseph"](#); ["Watkins, Priscilla"](#); ["Watrous, Russell"](#); ["Weber, Ken"](#); ["Wilson, Roger"](#); ["WRWSA"](#); ["aquahab@gmail.com"](#); ["bocacatlover@gmail.com"](#); ["bruceseaman@zoho.com"](#); ["btrfly21@msn.com"](#); ["casabanca@live.com"](#); ["celesteas@gmail.com"](#); ["christina.joyinmotion@gmail.com"](#); ["citizen@fsmail.net"](#); ["dancross@bellsouth.net"](#); ["dawnsdusks@bellsouth.net"](#); ["dreandvicki@bellsouth.net"](#); ["earthy_wolf@hotmail.com"](#); ["ecocosm@bellsouth.net"](#); ["egarvett@gmail.com"](#); ["gmorotti@gmail.com"](#); ["gregatourhouse@hotmail.com"](#); ["Gulf Restoration Network"](#); ["heylady1948@yahoo.com"](#); ["jiinabnw@att.net"](#); ["jumbys8@yahoo.com"](#); ["karensmith187@gmail.com"](#); ["licy75@aol.com"](#); ["linda@perry.net"](#); ["lbalaw@gmail.com"](#); ["mccunesfla@aol.com"](#); ["mejides@yahoo.com"](#); ["mshargel@gmail.com"](#); ["mwalker13fr@gmail.com"](#); ["pete22roc@aol.com"](#); ["prunemstr@aol.com"](#); ["rebeccaruby@msn.com"](#); ["riverguide2000@yahoo.com"](#); ["robertadever@yahoo.com"](#); ["robsand@bellsouth.net"](#); ["ronm430@aol.com"](#); ["rrriley71@att.net"](#); ["rst333@hotmail.com"](#); ["salleeba@me.com"](#); ["ssiegmenn@gmail.com"](#); ["staceydaniels@shellpoint.org"](#); ["sunpreston@gmail.com"](#); ["sunwrent@aol.com"](#); ["tonytke@yahoo.com"](#); ["warrior_red@hotmail.com"](#); ["zerogirl@gmail.com"](#); ["ahlers.karen@gmail.com"](#); ["apostolicboylargo@yahoo.com"](#); ["catsandcrocs@yahoo.com"](#); ["cattleya@comcast.net"](#); ["dan-lesley@att.net"](#); ["detrorachel@yahoo.com"](#); ["gunnhonican@aol.com"](#); ["jackyboy86@gmail.com"](#); ["jehallh20@aol.com"](#); ["jimbrunton@yahoo.com"](#); ["kbolomey@aol.com"](#); ["l.j.travers@gmail.com"](#); ["lazygin@bellsouth.net"](#); ["lfurgal@yahoo.com"](#); ["lrdevine@yahoo.com"](#); ["lrpm2@yahoo.com"](#); ["lrpm22@gmail.com"](#); ["meem4822@aol.com"](#); ["melissa.allen@hotmail.com"](#); ["missyno@bellsouth.net"](#); ["obyrrnen@bellsouth.net"](#); ["pjtpowers@hotmail.com"](#); ["popcomic@tampabay.rr.com"](#); ["rfay808700@aol.com"](#); ["rhinopias@comcast.net"](#); ["scott.logan@aon.com"](#); ["segnbora@gmail.com"](#); ["snorklmike@yahoo.com"](#); ["studio8@infionline.net"](#); ["tabdolphins@yahoo.com"](#); ["tno2007@aol.com"](#); ["vaughan@fireflyclay.com"](#); ["youelyoga@gmail.com"](#); ["ziffel1@bellsouth.net"](#); ["aairis@aol.com"](#); ["babij204@msn.com"](#); ["ban260zz@yahoo.com"](#); ["bv@wvmlaw.com"](#); ["Cheek, Ken"](#); ["crmclone@moose-mail.com"](#); ["dirgis3@aol.com"](#); ["dougpowless@hotmail.com"](#); ["facwetkat@hotmail.com"](#); ["faithoogs@aol.com"](#); ["firewaterair@gmail.com"](#); ["gomerlu@yahoo.com"](#); ["jacketchmson@hotmail.com"](#); ["jnovotny@comcast.net"](#); ["jrjzr@yahoo.com"](#); ["keth@awakening-healing.com"](#); ["Kramer, Gus"](#); ["lbedinger@yahoo.com"](#); ["long5892@bellsouth.net"](#); ["lori_mccraney@yahoo.com"](#); ["mark@bassanio.dsl.atlantic.net"](#); ["masonfamily@centurylink.net"](#); ["morgan@cc-events.org"](#); ["navistar@wildmail.com"](#); ["parneixr@cfl.rr.com"](#); ["quehoraes7@aol.com"](#); ["rantala.mervi@gmail.com"](#); ["robin@greenerpixels.com"](#); ["saralee.lem@gmail.com"](#); ["scooke1107@hotmail.com"](#); ["segoci@aol.com"](#); ["sharonbrich@yahoo.com"](#); ["skeiser@adadeschools.net"](#); ["slnofear@aol.com"](#); ["tcglover58@hotmail.com"](#); ["tcsmith57@hotmail.com"](#); ["terry@awakening-healing.com"](#); ["treehugger52768@gmail.com"](#); ["vinnymullins@live.com"](#); ["cdlaughlin@tampabay.rr.com"](#); ["chrislaughlin@tampabay.rr.com"](#);

"diann@tampabay.rr.com"; "flkrakr@yahoo.com"; "hm4v08@yahoo.com"; "jzeto1@tampabay.rr.com"; "kschulz26@tampabay.rr.com"; "lbarth4544@aol.com"; "maxineconnor@gmail.com"; "mrwjones@aol.com"; "nancyargenziano@gmail.com"; Al Grubman (grubman1@gmail.com); Bill Geiger (bgeiger@cityofbrooksville.us); Bill Poudier (bill.poudier@myfwc.com); Boyd Blihovde (Boyd_Blihovde@fws.gov); Brent Whitley (brentwhitley@sierra-properties.com); Brockway, Alys (abrockway@co.hernando.fl.us); Dennis D. Dutcher (Dennis3ds@aol.com); Frank DiGiovanni (administration@inverness-fl.gov); Greenwood, Kathleen; Hilliard, Dan (2buntings@comcast.net); Hoehn, Ted; Hope Corona (hopecorona@tampabay.rr.com); Jim Farley (jfarley682@aol.com); Katie Tripp (ktripp@savethemanatee.org); Norman Hopkins (norman@amyhrf.org); Rebecca Bays (rebecca.bays@bcc.citrus.fl.us); Richard Kane (rkane@usgs.gov); Richard Radacky (rradacky@cityofbrooksville.us); Ron Miller (rmille76@tampabay.rr.com); Sarah Tenison (cityofweekiwachee@yahoo.com); Sullivan, Jack (jsullivan@carltonfields.com); Voyles, Carolyn (Carolyn.Voyles@dep.state.fl.us); Whitey Markle (whmarkle@gmail.com)

Subject: Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Minimum Flows Update
Date: Tuesday, October 23, 2012 7:13:00 AM

Greetings:

I'm writing to provide an update on the planned discussion of proposed minimum flows for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa River systems that is scheduled to occur at the October 30, 2012 meeting of the Southwest Florida Water Management District Governing Board.

A meeting agenda and information document for the meeting are now available on the District web site. The Chassahowitzka-Homosassa minimum flows discussion is identified in these documents as agenda item number 21.

The agenda is available at:

http://www.swfwmd.state.fl.us/calendar/agendas/govboard_10-30-12_agenda_2245.pdf

The meeting information document is available at:

http://www.swfwmd.state.fl.us/calendar/notebooks/govboard_10-30-12_notebook_2245.pdf

Thanks again for your continued interest in the development of minimum flows for the river systems.

Douglas A. Leeper
Chief Environmental Scientist
Water Resources Bureau
Southwest Florida Water Management District
2379 Broad Street
Brooksville, Florida 34604-6899
1-800-423-1476, ext. 4272 (FL only)
352-796-7211, ext. 4272
352-754-6885 (Fax)
doug.leeper@watermatters.org

From: Doug Leeper
To: ["drs@ymail.com"](mailto:drs@ymail.com)
Cc: [Shellie Ferreira-Lee](#); [Mike Heyl](#); [Ron Basso](#); [Lou Kavouras](#); [Dianna Brass](#)
Subject: RE: Springs Coast MFL
Date: Tuesday, October 23, 2012 8:43:00 AM

Dr. Zimmer:

Thank you for your comments regarding the revised minimum flows and levels recommendations for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa river systems. Your input has been reviewed by District staff and will be provided to the District Governing Board for consideration.

Douglas A. Leeper
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352-796-7211, ext. 4272
352-754-6885 (Fax)
doug.leeper@watermatters.org

From: Executive
Sent: Friday, October 19, 2012 8:09 AM
To: Dianna Brass
Cc: Lou Kavouras; Ron Basso; Doug Leeper; Mike Heyl
Subject: FW: Springs Coast MFL

Please handle accordingly or forward to the appropriate staff for handling.

Thank you.

Shellie Ferreira-Lee
Sr. Document Specialist
Southwest Florida Water Management District
shellie.ferreira@swfwmd.state.fl.us
352-796-7211, ext. 4053

From: Susan Zimmer [<mailto:drs@ymail.com>]
Sent: Thursday, October 18, 2012 4:24 PM
To: info
Subject: Springs Coast MFL

SWFWMD
Governing Board

I am a resident of Citrus County.

I do not favor any further reductions in water flow. The springs and rivers are already low, unhealthy, and actually need **more** flow to provide a healthy environment for fish, vegetation, drinking water, etc.

It is sad and scary to continually see various Springs, which provide our only drinking water, become stagnant and dry up.

Prevention is more sensible than Restoration (attempts).

Desalination, as an example, is too costly, etc., especially while we have the **opportunity to save** the precious Springs.

Thank you

Dr Susan Zimmer

From: Doug Leeper
To: ["JaniceHowie@aol.com"](mailto:JaniceHowie@aol.com)
Cc: [Shellie Ferreira-Lee](#); [Mike Heyl](#); [Ron Basso](#); [Lou Kavouras](#); [Gwen Brown](#)
Subject: RE: Proposed MFL's for the Homosassa and Chasahowitzka Rivers
Date: Tuesday, October 23, 2012 8:46:00 AM

Ms. Howie:

Thank you for your comments regarding the revised minimum flows and levels recommendations for the Chasahowitzka and Homosassa river systems. Your input has been reviewed by District staff and will be provided to the District Governing Board for consideration.

Douglas A. Leeper
Chief Environmental Scientist
Water Resources Bureau
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352-754-6885 (Fax)
doug.leeper@watermatters.org

From: Executive
Sent: Friday, October 19, 2012 8:11 AM
To: Dianna Brass
Cc: Lou Kavouras; Ron Basso; Doug Leeper; Mike Heyl; Gwen Brown
Subject: FW: Proposed MFL's for the Homosassa and Chasahowitzka Rivers

Please handle accordingly or forward to the appropriate staff for handling.

Thank you.

Shellie Ferreira-Lee
Sr. Document Specialist
Southwest Florida Water Management District
shellie.ferreira@swfwmd.state.fl.us
352-796-7211, ext. 4053

From: JaniceHowie@aol.com [<mailto:JaniceHowie@aol.com>]
Sent: Thursday, October 18, 2012 1:53 PM
To: Executive
Subject: Proposed MFL's for the Homosassa and Chasahowitzka Rivers

The Federal Clean Water act does not allow for the degradation of these rivers, or any other rivers in the state. Your proposed MFL's for the Homosassa at 3% and the Chasahowitzka at 9 % would allow by your studies up to 15% degradation to the wildlife and environment of these rivers. Think about what will happen to these rivers

and to the conflict that will occur with the EPA if this degradation is allowed to happen. Wouldn't it be prudent to proactively ovoid this damage to our rivers.

Jan Howie
Conservation Chairman
Nature Coast Native Plant Society

From: Doug Leeper
To: ["hkck5@embarqmail.com"](mailto:hkck5@embarqmail.com)
Cc: [Shellie Ferreira-Lee](#); [Mike Heyl](#); [Ron Basso](#); [Lou Kavouras](#); [Gwen Brown](#)
Subject: RE: Chassahowitzka
Date: Tuesday, October 23, 2012 8:48:00 AM

Ms. Klein:

Thank you for your comments regarding the revised minimum flows and levels recommendations for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa river systems. Your input has been reviewed by District staff and will be provided to the District Governing Board for consideration.

Douglas A. Leeper
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352-796-7211, ext. 4272
352-754-6885 (Fax)
doug.leeper@watermatters.org

From: Executive
Sent: Friday, October 19, 2012 8:15 AM
To: Dianna Brass
Cc: Lou Kavouras; Gwen Brown; Ron Basso; Doug Leeper; Mike Heyl
Subject: FW: Chassahowitzka

Please handle accordingly or forward to the appropriate staff for handling.

Thank you.

Shellie Ferreira-Lee
Sr. Document Specialist
Southwest Florida Water Management District
shellie.ferreira@swfwmd.state.fl.us
352-796-7211, ext. 4053

From: cindy [<mailto:hkck5@embarqmail.com>]
Sent: Thursday, October 18, 2012 12:54 PM
To: Executive
Cc: Executive
Subject: Chassahowitzka

Please don't take any more fresh water from the spring system of the Chassahowitzka or Homosassa Rivers. As you know, both are in peril. Let whoever wants our most precious resource on the nature coast to invest in a desalinization facility. There is plenty of fresh water in our gulf. May I even suggest the Florida cross barge canal system as the perfect location for such a project. Eventually it will come

to this anyway, why not lead the way. You have the power. Thank You. Chassahowitzka resident for 30 years, in love with the nature coast, the State of Florida and thankful for our State Land programs and Government Organizations set up to protect our natural resources. Cindy Klein

From: [Dan](#)
To: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Re: Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Minimum Flows Update
Date: Tuesday, October 23, 2012 12:26:01 PM

On 10/23/2012 7:13 AM, Doug Leeper wrote:

Greetings:

I'm writing to provide an update on the planned discussion of proposed minimum flows for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa River systems that is scheduled to occur at the October 30, 2012 meeting of the Southwest Florida Water Management District Governing Board.

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The agenda is available at:

http://www.swfwmd.state.fl.us/calendar/agendas/govboard_10-30-12_agenda_2245.pdf

Thanks Doug, do appreciate that. Can you give me an idea how long it might take the GB to work thru the consent agenda?

Dan

The meeting information document is available at:

http://www.swfwmd.state.fl.us/calendar/notebooks/govboard_10-30-12_notebook_2245.pdf

Thanks again for your continued interest in the development of minimum flows for the river systems.

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doug.leeper@watermatters.org

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From: Doug Leeper
To: "Dan"
Subject: RE: Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Minimum Flows Update
Date: Tuesday, October 23, 2012 1:33:00 PM

Dan – should be pretty quick. Fifteen minutes to half an hour tops, I would think.

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doug.leeper@watermatters.org

From: Dan [mailto:2buntings@comcast.net]
Sent: Tuesday, October 23, 2012 12:28 PM
To: Doug Leeper
Subject: Re: Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Minimum Flows Update

On 10/23/2012 7:13 AM, Doug Leeper wrote:

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From: [Dan](#)
To: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Re: Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Minimum Flows Update
Date: Tuesday, October 23, 2012 1:59:36 PM

Thanks.

D

On 10/23/2012 1:33 PM, Doug Leeper wrote:

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From: Dan [<mailto:2buntings@comcast.net>]
Sent: Tuesday, October 23, 2012 12:28 PM
To: Doug Leeper
Subject: Re: Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Minimum Flows Update

On 10/23/2012 7:13 AM, Doug Leeper wrote:

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From: cathyharrelson@gmail.com on behalf of [Cathy Harrelson](#)
To: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Re: Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Minimum Flows Update
Date: Wednesday, October 24, 2012 3:35:51 PM

Thanks Doug.

Question - If folks can't attend, can they email? I see a mailing address in there but the reality for most people is that email is the way they communicate. I'm currently showing email addresses of executive@watermatters.org for the Governing Board and info@watermatters.org for the ombudsman, in addition to your email address.

These are the addresses we'll be using, so I'm sure you can expect some comments.

Sincerely,

Cathy Harrelson

Florida Organizer

Gulf Restoration Network

cathy@healthygulf.org

727-415-8805

<http://healthygulf.org/>

On Tue, Oct 23, 2012 at 7:13 AM, Doug Leeper <Doug.Leeper@swfwmd.state.fl.us> wrote:

Greetings:

I'm writing to provide an update on the planned discussion of proposed minimum flows for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa River systems that is scheduled to occur at the October 30, 2012 meeting of the Southwest Florida Water Management District Governing Board.

A meeting agenda and information document for the meeting are now available on the District web site. The Chassahowitzka-Homosassa minimum flows discussion is identified in these documents as agenda item number 21.

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Thanks again for your continued interest in the development of minimum flows for the river systems.

Douglas A. Leeper

Chief Environmental Scientist

Water Resources Bureau

Southwest Florida Water Management District

2379 Broad Street

Brooksville, Florida 34604-6899

[1-800-423-1476](tel:1-800-423-1476), ext. 4272 (FL only)

[352-796-7211](tel:352-796-7211), ext. 4272

[352-754-6885](tel:352-754-6885) (Fax)

doug.leeper@watermatters.org

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From: Doug Leeper
To: ["cathyharrelson@gmail.com"](mailto:cathyharrelson@gmail.com)
Subject: RE: Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Minimum Flows Update
Date: Thursday, October 25, 2012 5:14:00 PM

Hi Kathy:

We certainly accept and read e-mails. The addresses listed in your e-mail will work, but I would suggest that using the executive address will be sufficient. You can copy me if you like, but all e-mails to "executive" pertaining to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa minimum flow recommendations will be forwarded to me and other staff.

Douglas A. Leeper
Chief Environmental Scientist
Water Resources Bureau
Southwest Florida Water Management District
2379 Broad Street
Brooksville, Florida 34604-6899
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doug.leeper@watermatters.org

From: cathyharrelson@gmail.com [mailto:cathyharrelson@gmail.com] **On Behalf Of** Cathy Harrelson
Sent: Wednesday, October 24, 2012 3:36 PM
To: Doug Leeper
Subject: Re: Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Minimum Flows Update

Thanks Doug.

Question - If folks can't attend, can they email? I see a mailing address in there but the reality for most people is that email is the way they communicate. I'm currently showing email addresses of executive@watermatters.org for the Governing Board and info@watermatters.org for the ombudsman, in addition to your email address. These are the addresses we'll be using, so I'm sure you can expect some comments.

Sincerely,

Cathy Harrelson

Florida Organizer
Gulf Restoration Network
cathy@healthygulf.org
727-415-8805

<http://healthygulf.org/>

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--

From: [Alan Martyn Johnson](#)
Cc: [Adrienne Vining](#); [Chris Zajac](#); [Christopher Pettit](#); [Dave Dewitt](#); [Karen West](#); [Mark Hammond](#); [Michael Molligan](#); [Mike Heyl](#); [Robyn O. Felix](#); [Ron Basso](#); [Sid Flannery](#); [Veronica Crow](#); [Xinjian Chen](#); [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: RE: Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Minimum Flows Rule 40D Amendments
Date: Thursday, October 25, 2012 8:38:15 AM

I trust you have (or will) read and are able to fully explain the proposed **Amendments to RULE 40D-8.041, F.A.C.** included in the Notebook for the October 30 2012 Governing Board Meeting. These Amendments were not included in the revised reports.

My concerns are with quantifying withdrawals to define natural flow and the use of the previous days natural flow in the wording.

Quote

"Natural flow is defined for the purpose of this rule as the flow that would exist in the absence of water withdrawal impacts. The Minimum Flow at any point downstream from these Gages is measured as the previous day's natural flow at that point minus 3%" .
End Quote

Similar wording for Chassahowitzka.

Everyone in SWFWMD who has been involved in drafting these rule amendments needs to be able to explain exactly what this wording means in practical terms.

We all need to hear from SWFWMD's legal personel their rationale for basing Minimum Flows on the previous day's natural flow and how pumpage will be determined.

Additionally, recognized flow downstream of these gages are in short distance increased to by Halls River and Crab Creek, thus the downstream wording appears to require explanation.

As I carefully read these amendments it is difficult to see how they are of any practical value to define when the minimum flow has been reached. The flows as reported at the specified USGS Gage Sites do not include any measure of groundwater withdrawals. Withdrawals are not measured and are not presented in the reports, other than as approximations and comments: (focusing on the Homosassa Report);

- *"..reduced spring discharge to the river system by approximately 1 percent."* Page 20
- *"..in 2005, groundwater withdrawals within five miles of the Homosassa Main Springs averaged 1.3 mgd , and averaged 8.2 mgd within ten miles of the spring complex"* Page 64 Note:1.3 mgd (2 cfs) 8.2 mgd (12 cfs)
- *"Given the relatively minor (1.1 percent) potential impact of withdrawals on spring discharge"* Page 66
- In Table 2-4 page 66 the 2005 withdrawals are 2.31 cfs Table 2-5 page 67 the withdrawals for 2030 are shown as 5.13 cfs as predicted by the Northern District Model
- *"This natural flow may be calculated based on withdrawal-impact corrected combined flows measured at...02310678...02310688, or based on modeled flows developed through application of numerical or statistical models."* Page 201/2
- Synthetic natural flow record is discussed in connection with the 5 and 10 year moving average statistics page 202, but synthetic natural flows are not used in any of the modeling e.g. calibration and validation periods. Baseline flows are used.

In the above there is lack of clarity:

- The 2005 figures for withdrawals within five/ten miles fails to mention Crystal River and Chassahowitzka Springs are six miles from Homosassa.
- The NDM covers a large area (10,000 sq mls) and it is difficult to accept, despite staffs assertion otherwise, this model can accurately predict changes of 0.05 cfs over a 25 year period for individual springs. 10 miles radius from Homosassa is 0.15% of this models area.
- Lists of permitted water withdrawals in Citrus County furnished by SWFWMD identify 42 mgd or about 65 cfs. (It did not include the wells not requiring a WUP).

For practical understanding consider some reported flows at the Homosassa gage sites (02310678 and 02310688).

The reported flow at both the gage sites was about 30% less in early June 2012 than at present. This results from the difference in the level in the aquifer Weeki Wachee Well.

In round numbers the combined flow was 100cfs early June and is now 150cfs. Both of these are 'natural flow less withdrawals'. Where are the groundwater withdrawals quantified? Are the withdrawals a constant percentage of discharge, or a constant volume per day? Could withdrawals 20 miles away have an influence?

Appears the best we have is withdrawals as presented in Table 2-4 where the NDM presents 2005 combined pumpage of 0.97 cfs for the six springs; Halls River and Hidden River are not monitored at the above gage sites. 2005 NDM data is seven years old, where are todays withdrawals reported, preferably without being based on a myriad of assumptions used in the model.

EXTRACTS FROM THE NOTEBOOK FOR THE OCTOBER 30 MEETING

EXHIBIT D

(b) The Minimum Flow for the Homosassa River System is 97% of the combined natural flow as measured at the United States Geological Survey (USGS) Homosassa Springs at Homosassa Springs, FL Gage (No. 02310678), and the USGS SE Fork Homosassa Spring at Homosassa Springs, FL Gage (No. 02310688). Natural flow is defined for the purpose of this rule as the flow that would exist in the absence of water withdrawal impacts. The Minimum Flow at **any point downstream** from these Gages are measured as the **previous day's natural flow** at that point minus 3%.

EXHIBIT B

(b) The Minimum Flow for the Chassahowitzka River System is 91% of the natural flow as measured at the United States Geological Survey (USGS) Gage Chassahowitzka River near Homosassa (Gage No. 02310650). Natural flow is defined for the purpose of this rule as the flow that would exist in the absence of water withdrawal impacts. The Minimum Flow at any **point downstream** from this Gage is measured as the **previous day's natural flow** at that point minus 9%.

Martyn

Numbers to support my point. Daily change each gage site as well as combined is shown.

Before someone points out the USGS Data for these dates still shows as provisional (June was last years Water Year and would normally have been approved by now). USGS daily data is based on a 24 hour day not a 24.84 hour tidal cycle.

Discharge cfs and Percent Change from Previous Day

June 2012

2012	SE Fork		H Springs		Combined	
1	51		54		105	
2	52	102%	53	98%	105	100%
3	56	108%	61	115%	117	111%
4	48	86%	58	95%	106	91%
5	38	79%	52	90%	90	85%
6	35	92%	46	88%	81	90%
7	42	120%	51	111%	93	115%
8	45	107%	57	112%	102	110%
9	44	98%	64	112%	108	106%
10	46	105%	64	100%	110	102%
11	47	102%	67	105%	114	104%
12	45	96%	68	101%	113	99%
13	40	89%	64	94%	104	92%
14	43	108%	67	105%	110	106%
15	42	98%	72	107%	114	104%

October 2012

2012	SE Fork		H Springs		Combined	
1	62		82		144	
2	61	98%	76	93%	137	95%
3	66	108%	83	109%	149	109%
4	73	111%	89	107%	162	109%
5	73	100%	97	109%	170	105%
6	70	96%	94	97%	164	96%
7	69	99%	93	99%	162	99%
8	68	99%	90	97%	158	98%
9	76	112%	97	108%	173	109%
10	73	96%	99	102%	172	99%
11	76	104%	101	102%	177	103%
12	74	97%	103	102%	177	100%
13	75	101%	102	99%	177	100%
14	70	93%	99	97%	169	95%
15	66	94%	90	91%	156	92%

From: Doug.Leeper@swfwmd.state.fl.us
 Date: Tue, 23 Oct 2012 07:13:15 -0400
 Subject: Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Minimum Flows Update

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From: [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [Louis Kovach](#)
To: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now
Date: Thursday, October 25, 2012 1:27:02 PM

Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

Dear Leeper,

Florida's springs and rivers are our most unique natural asset, creating vibrant natural environments for recreation and wildlife, and supplying our drinking water. The Homosassa and Chassahowitzka spring-fed river systems provide a home for manatees and a recreational mecca for Floridians and visitors. These springs and rivers supply vital fresh water to the vital estuaries and coastal ecosystems of the Gulf of Mexico along the Nature Coast.

Decades of over-pumping and 20 years of drought have slowed or dried up these magnificent sources of crystal clear water and many are now murky with slime from nitrates fed by over-fertilized lawns, septic tanks, and farm and ranch operations that have no incentive to conserve.

Floridians won't stand for more water giveaways, pollution and decline. Please stop the destruction of our springs and rivers by rejecting the SWFWMD staff recommendation to allow a 15% decline in habitat generated by a 3% flow reduction of the Homosassa River System and call for NO ADDITIONAL WATER LOSS in the Homosassa. Likewise, the Governing Board should reject staff proposals and set a restoration and recovery strategy for the Chassahowitzka River System, which has been reduced to 91% of its natural flow since 1975.

It's time for a mandate to preserve and protect these critical resources for all Floridians. The water management policy must be adaptable to drought, climate change and overpumping. Many springs have ceased to flow or are no longer "connecting" with larger waterways, affecting the downstream systems. The goal of each water management district and the State of Florida should be to restore maximum flows and levels for our most important resource, and reverse conditions of decline and degradation within our freshwater environments.

Sincerely,

Mr. Louis Kovach
122 Bella Vista Ter Unit D
North Venice, FL 34275-6729
(941) 484-7683

From: Doug Leeper
To: "[Louis Kovach](mailto:Louis.Kovach)"
Subject: RE: Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now
Date: Thursday, October 25, 2012 5:31:00 PM

Dear Mr. Kovach:

Thank you for your comments regarding the revised minimum flows and levels recommendations for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa river systems. Your input has been reviewed by District staff and will be provided to the District Governing Board for consideration.

Douglas A. Leeper
Chief Environmental Scientist
Water Resources Bureau
Southwest Florida Water Management District
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Brooksville, Florida 34604-6899
1-800-423-1476, ext. 4272 (FL only)
352-796-7211, ext. 4272
352-754-6885 (Fax)
doug.leeper@watermatters.org

-----Original Message-----

From: Gulf Restoration Network [<mailto:info@healthygulf.org>] On Behalf Of Louis Kovach
Sent: Thursday, October 25, 2012 1:26 PM
To: Doug Leeper
Subject: Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now

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From: [Executive](#)
To: [Dianna Brass](#)
Cc: [Lou Kavouras](#); [Mike Heyl](#); [Doug Leeper](#); [Ron Basso](#); [Virginia Singer](#); [Gwen Brown](#)
Subject: FW: Homosassa Minimum Flows and Levels
Date: Thursday, October 25, 2012 9:40:16 AM
Attachments: [10-23-2012 Letter to SWFWMD Board.doc](#)

Please handle accordingly or forward to the appropriate staff for handling.

Thank you.

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

Sr. Document Specialist
Southwest Florida Water Management District
shellie.ferreira@swfwmd.state.fl.us
352-796-7211, ext. 4053

From: Ron Miller [mailto:rmille76@tampabay.rr.com]
Sent: Wednesday, October 24, 2012 11:58 AM
To: Executive
Subject: Homosassa Minimum Flows and Levels

October 24, 2012

Governing Board
Southwest Florida Water Management District
2379 Broad Street
Brooksville, FL 34604-6899

Subject: Staff Recommended Springs Coast MFL Rules

“..... The Water Management District is setting the stage for groundwater withdrawals that will permanently lower the river’s flow to the MFL level.....”
Sonny Vergara, Executive Director, SWFWMD 1997-2003.

Dear Governing Board Members,

The SWFWMD Minimum Flow Levels (MFL) program has set reduced river flow levels to be used in the water permitting process. This effectively sets

consumptive objectives: 9% for the Chassahowitzka River, 3% for the Homosassa River. Planners and engineers have already defined where the well fields will be for “regional distribution” of the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka water. Just this summer a permit was issued for pumping and shipping nearly a hundred thousand gallons a day from Crystal River to Ocala.

Initially the flow reduction targets of the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers were set at 5 and 11 percent respectively. After two years of re-evaluation these numbers were reduced by 2 percent. That is an important recognition of the sensitivity of these estuaries but it does not go far enough. SWFWMD has not recognized the stressed state of these coastal rivers and the profound changes that are taking place right now with our current level of water withdrawals. They have not recognized that these have both been designated as Outstanding Florida Waterways to provide legal protection against degradation.

An estuary is a transition area where fresh and salt waters are constantly shifting and mixing due to a tidal influence. A very sensitive, low salinity zone that is fundamental to the aquatic web of life exists near the springs. Reducing spring flow destroys this zone and the many fish, crabs and other critters that depend on it. The Homosassa and Chassahowitzka are a highly productive estuaries... and are highly sensitive to reduced spring flow.

A disturbing University of Florida study showed a steady decline in fish in the Homosassa from 2007 to 2010. In fact UF eventually stopped counting fish in the area near Otter Creek because of the total lack of fish and vegetation. We started calling this a “dead zone” and invited Gov. Scott to come see it. He put us in touch with the DEP folks responsible for our State Coastal Waterways. A team of DEP and SWFWMD scientists came to investigate. What they found was not just a dead zone, but a dead river!

SWFWMD Spokesperson Robyn Felix said:

“We have looked at the plant life in the Homosassa River and it is correct that they are dying, but we don’t know why.”

Aquatic vegetation has rapidly disappeared and is dead in most of the river. There is no good explanation of this except it appears to be related to a change in salinity at the springs. The proposed MFL flow reductions will further diminish the spring flows and greatly aggravate this situation.

You often hear of environmental tipping points where the delicate balance of nature and man falls out of line and something (usually nature) crashes. The Homosassa is at a tipping point.

There are choices to be made. Clearly you can choose to protect these unique, fragile, already impacted, coastal springs and rivers. Or you can choose to authorize their destruction.

The highly stressed condition of the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers must be recognized and the MFL flow reductions set to zero.

Sincerely,

Ron Miller
Vice President, Homosassa River Alliance
352-628-6066
Rmille76@tampabay.rr.com

October 24, 2012

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From: [Luanne Stout](#)
To: [Alba Mas](#); [Blake Guillory](#); [David Rathke](#); [Kurt Fritsch](#); [Laura Donaldson](#); [Mark Hammond](#); [Mike Holtkamp](#); [Robert Beltran](#)
Cc: [Gwen Brown](#); [Doug Leeper](#); [Virginia Singer](#)
Subject: FW: Log Entry # 1.11.147613 10-25-2012 Larry A. Barnes
Date: Thursday, October 25, 2012 11:13:07 AM
Attachments: [10-22-2012 Larry A. Barnes.pdf](#)

FYI...

LuAnne Stout
Administrative Coordinator, x4605
Board & Executive Services Bureau

-----Original Message-----

From: CollabAdmin [<mailto:collabadmin@swfwmd.state.fl.us>]
Sent: Thursday, October 25, 2012 11:11 AM
To: Luanne Stout; Kenneth R. Herd
Subject: Log Entry # 1.11.147613 10-25-2012 Larry A. Barnes

Please click on the following link to open the document(s) (from a computer connected to District Network only)

<http://ecmvmprod01.ad.swfwmd.net/gm/folder-1.11.147613>

Subject: Larry A. Barnes sent a letter re: Gov Bd Mtg 10-30-2012 on MFLs for Homosassa River supporting revitalization not further degradation

Following is the tracking information for the above information:

Log#: 1.11.147613
Assigned To: Kenneth Herd
Assigned By: Carolyn Stout
Date Assigned: 10-25-2012
Date Completed: 10-25-2012
Date Required:

Source: Larry A. Barnes, resident of Homosassa, FL
Instructions: For your information and appropriate disposition.
Action Taken: Copied to Exec Leadership Team

Information Routed To: lou.kavouras@swfwmd.state.fl.us



Southwest Florida Water Management District
2379 Broad St
Brooksville, Florida 34604-6899

Oct 22, 2012

Re: Governing Board Meeting, Resource Management Committee, Oct 30, 2012, Minimum Flows and Levels, Homosassa River

Request this statement be included into the record for this meeting.

My name is Larry A. Barnes and I live at 5601 S. Island Dr., Homosassa, FL 34448. Our home is on the Homosassa River. We have lived here since August 1993. Since that time we have witnessed a significant change in the river. We used to be able to catch largemouth bass and other freshwater fish right in back of our home; that ended several years later. Since then no freshwater fish are caught in our location on the river. I am not a biologist but I must conclude that the environmental conditions must have changed. I also operated tour boats for a local company on the Homosassa River and Mason Creek area for several years. I witnessed a change in the areas that alligators frequent.. I am told that they do not tolerate areas where there is a high saline content. This must be the reason that they have moved further upstream in the river. I have also seen trees die further and further upstream. The locals say this is caused by salt water intrusion.

The river badly needs to be revitalized at this time unless your goal is to merely use it as a fresh water source and move the water to some other location. Decreasing the flow by small incremental amounts just means you will kill the ecosystem over a longer period of time and that is UNACCEPTABLE to me.

Do the RIGHT THING NOW and think in terms of revitalization not further degradation.

Sincerely,

Larry A. Barnes
5601 S. Island Dr
Homosassa, FL 34448

L. Barnes
Box 275
Homo Sassa, FL
34487

CERTIFIED MAIL™



7009 3410 0000 7824 5741

EXE

GENERAL EXE
DEPT:
EXE
10/24/12 23:19 1 of 1
102413231904

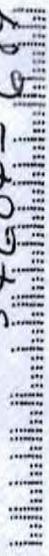
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UNITED STATES
POSTAL SERVICE



Southwest Florida Water Mgt District
2379 Board St.
Brooksville, FL

34604-6899

3460436899



**Public Comments and Staff Responses Concerning
Proposed Minimum Flows for the
Chassahowitzka and Homosassa River Systems**

Additional Documents No. 2

Documents Received, Sent or Developed between
October 19, 2012 and October 30, 2012



October 30, 2012

446 Pages in Addition to this Cover Sheet

From: [Executive](#)
To: [Dianna Brass](#)
Cc: [Lou Kavouras](#); [Ron Basso](#); [Doug Leeper](#); [Mike Heyl](#)
Subject: FW: Springs Coast MFL
Date: Friday, October 19, 2012 8:09:08 AM

Please handle accordingly or forward to the appropriate staff for handling.

Thank you.

Shellie Ferreira-Lee
Sr. Document Specialist
Southwest Florida Water Management District
shellie.ferreira@swfwmd.state.fl.us
352-796-7211, ext. 4053

From: Susan Zimmer [mailto:drs@ymail.com]
Sent: Thursday, October 18, 2012 4:24 PM
To: info
Subject: Springs Coast MFL

SWFWMD Governing Board

I am a resident of Citrus County.
I do not favor any further reductions in water flow.
The springs and rivers are already low, unhealthy,
and actually need **more** flow to provide a healthy
environment for fish, vegetation, drinking water,
etc.

It is sad and scary to continually see various
Springs, which provide our only drinking water,
become stagnant and dry up.

Prevention is more sensible than Restoration
(attempts).

Desalination, as an example, is too costly, etc.,
especially while we have the **opportunity to save** the
precious Springs.

Thank you
Dr Susan Zimmer

From: [Executive](#)
To: [Dianna Brass](#)
Cc: [Lou Kavouras](#); [Ron Basso](#); [Doug Leeper](#); [Mike Heyl](#); [Gwen Brown](#)
Subject: FW: Proposed MFL"s for the Homosassa and Chasahowitzka Rivers
Date: Friday, October 19, 2012 8:10:41 AM

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Thank you.

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

Sr. Document Specialist
Southwest Florida Water Management District
shellie.ferreira@swfwmd.state.fl.us
352-796-7211, ext. 4053

From: JaniceHowie@aol.com [mailto:JaniceHowie@aol.com]
Sent: Thursday, October 18, 2012 1:53 PM
To: Executive
Subject: Proposed MFL's for the Homosassa and Chasahowitzka Rivers

The Federal Clean Water act does not allow for the degradation of these rivers, or any other rivers in the state. Your proposed MFL's for the Homosassa at 3% and the Chasahowitzka at 9 % would allow by your studies up to 15% degradation to the wildlife and environment of these rivers. Think about what will happen to these rivers and to the conflict that will occur with the EPA if this degradation is allowed to happen. Wouldn't it be prudent to proactively ovoid this damage to our rivers.

Jan Howie
Conservation Chairman
Nature Coast Native Plant Society

From: [Executive](#)
To: [Dianna Brass](#)
Cc: [Lou Kavouras](#); [Gwen Brown](#); [Ron Basso](#); [Doug Leeper](#); [Mike Heyl](#)
Subject: FW: Chassahowitzka
Date: Friday, October 19, 2012 8:14:48 AM

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Shellie Ferreira-Lee

Sr. Document Specialist
Southwest Florida Water Management District
shellie.ferreira@swfwmd.state.fl.us
352-796-7211, ext. 4053

From: cindy [<mailto:hkck5@embarqmail.com>]
Sent: Thursday, October 18, 2012 12:54 PM
To: Executive
Cc: Executive
Subject: Chassahowitzka

Please don't take any more fresh water from the spring system of the Chassahowitzka or Homosassa Rivers. As you know, both are in peril. Let whoever wants our most precious resource on the nature coast to invest in a desalinization facility. There is plenty of fresh water in our gulf. May I even suggest the Florida cross barge canal system as the perfect location for such a project. Eventually it will come to this anyway, why not lead the way. You have the power. Thank You. Chassahowitzka resident for 30 years, in love with the nature coast, the State of Florida and thankful for our State Land programs and Government Organizations set up to protect our natural resources. Cindy Klein

From: [Mike Heyl](#)
To: Boyd_Blihovde@fws.gov
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Chassahowitzka MFL comments
Date: Monday, October 22, 2012 6:55:46 AM

Boyd – I saw your MFL comments come through. We will definitely be in touch with regard to monitoring, but I did want to address the water level issue. Since the Chassahowitzka is below sea level for the entire extent, the change in elevation will be negligible as inflow from the Gulf will fill any voids.

We did run the hydrodynamic model to check the change in elevation with the original proposed 11% MFL. The average decrease in water level at the boat ramp will be 0.01 feet.

MGH

=====
Michael G. Heyl - Chief Environmental Scientist
Mike.Heyl@SWFWMD.state.fl.us or Mike.Heyl@WaterMatters.org
=====
Natural Systems and Restoration Bureau / SWFWMD (7:00 am - 3:30 pm)
7601 U.S. Highway 301 1-813-985-7481 Ext 2211
Tampa, Fl. 33637-6759 1-813-987-6747 (Fax)
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for records retention purposes in accordance with Florida's Public Records laws
and is available for inspection by the public upon request.

From: [Mike Heyl](#)
To: [Katie Tripp \(ktripp@savethemanatee.org\)](mailto:Katie.Tripp@savethemanatee.org)
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: MFL Comments
Date: Monday, October 22, 2012 7:00:08 AM

Katie - I saw your comments on the Chassahowitzka MFL come through the web site. While I think the footnote on page 92 is valid for acute (4-hour) thermal refuge, I agree that it would probably not be applicable to a chronic (3-day) thermal refuge and I will remove the footnote in the final version of the report.

MGH

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Michael G. Heyl - Chief Environmental Scientist
Mike.Heyl@SWFWMD.state.fl.us or Mike.Heyl@WaterMatters.org
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From: [Katie Tripp](#)
To: [Mike Heyl](#)
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#); [Katie Tripp](#)
Subject: RE: MFL Comments
Date: Monday, October 22, 2012 8:05:17 AM

Thanks, Mike.

Katie Tripp, Ph.D.
Director of Science and Conservation
Save the Manatee Club
500 N. Maitland Ave.
Maitland, FL 32751
Office: 407-539-0990
e-mail: ktripp@savethemanatee.org

From: Mike Heyl [<mailto:Mike.Heyl@swfwmd.state.fl.us>]
Sent: Monday, October 22, 2012 7:00 AM
To: Katie Tripp
Cc: Doug Leeper
Subject: MFL Comments

Katie - I saw your comments on the Chassahowitzka MFL come through the web site. While I think the footnote on page 92 is valid for acute (4-hour) thermal refuge, I agree that it would probably not be applicable to a chronic (3-day) thermal refuge and I will remove the footnote in the final version of the report.

MGH

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Michael G. Heyl - Chief Environmental Scientist
Mike.Heyl@SWFWMD.state.fl.us or Mike.Heyl@WaterMatters.org
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From: [Alan Martyn Johnson](#)
To: [Doug Leeper](#)
Cc: [Chris Anastasiou](#)
Subject: RE: Timeframe for Velocity data from investments at SE Fork and Halls River Plus Bathymetry/Bath Tub
Date: Monday, October 22, 2012 8:58:57 AM

Doug,

Sorry for the slow response. You did respond to my question about timeframe in the e-mail where you provided your answers within the text of my advance questions, but you did not mention Kevin by name.

USGS must already have a stage area for both the SE Fork and Halls River Velocity meters sites and they do have raw velocity data every hour for the SE Fork (for over a year) and every 15 minutes for Halls River (for over 3 months). They must have a very good idea of the flows. Maybe they are not ready to publish the discharge data as approved, but surely they have some idea of how well the data matches the calculated data for the SE Fork. In the last year discharges have covered a broad spectrum from the almost record low levels in Weeki Wachee Well thru to the 18 plus feet; levels not seen for years. Halls River has experienced the highs and lows also; surely this reveals a much better data set than the very suspect tidally adjusted approach yeilded.

It is very disappointing that these valuable investments have not borne results before presentation of the report to the Governing Board.

If the 'preliminary data' from the velocity meters confirmed the calculated data I would have expected a rush to let everyone know.

Bathymetry data.

Thanks for sending the CD as I did not get a chance to download the file from the website before it was removed. My neighbor in Homosassa forwarded the CD to me and I got a chance to look at it this weekend. It took some time to translate State Plane readings to locations on the river, but I was impressed by the detail of the survey e.g. taking five depth readings at very close proximity before moving one to two meters to the next point.

Wang's data also shows the deep point in the river I found while investigating the "Bath tub" idea; in the Excel spreadsheet of centerline readings the deep point is on line 4954 with a depth of 3.76 meters below NAVD 88. The point I found as the deepest point is only some 6 feet from this point. As I have commented previously, **there must be some discharge at this point otherwise why has it not filled with sediment over the years.** The depth found in Wang's survey is so close to what I measured with the Secchi Disc (crude compared to Wang's instrumentation), it appears to indicate a reasonably stable situation over the years. I would speculate there is a reasonably strong discharge in that area. And as further evidence any avid manatee watcher knows the manatee like that area.

From my observations and speculation the discharge is thru a sediment rich blanket over the vent(s), and from the very few Specific Conductance readings may at times be more saline than other springs in the Homosassa River headwaters, possibly influenced more by stage change/seawater ingress.

To me this is another example of how important it is to combine the data available with carefully observation of what can be seen in the river to develop the necessary understanding to protect an Outstanding Florida Water which unfortunately is deteriorating.

I have a number of suggestions for follow up;

- adding this deep site to the quarterly sampling with bottom middle and top sampling (Doug I did share my September samplings with Chris, but do not recall if I shared with you)
- at the time of the next Field Measurements by USGS, run a discharge at the point where the river narrows (before the confluence with Halls River) as well as the SE Fork and the main springs run to determine any additional discharge; bearing in mind speculation the discharge from the deep center area may vary with stage
- **have some keen scuba divers take a closer look possibly using some dye cakes to help view the flow**

I realize resources are limited, but understanding the complexities of the rivers is critical to their future.

Martyn

From: Doug.Leeper@swfwmd.state.fl.us
To: martynellijay@hotmail.com
Date: Mon, 15 Oct 2012 11:31:52 -0400
Subject: RE: Timeframe for Velocity data from investments at SE Fork and Halls River

Martyn –

Hopefully I responded to your question concerning the time-frame for the United States Geological Survey's evaluation of the velocity data that has been collected over the past year in the Homosassa River system. In case I did not, I'm writing to let you know that Kevin Grimsley has told me that he anticipates the Survey will be completing an initial analyses of the data within a couple of months.

Douglas A. Leeper
Chief Environmental Scientist
Water Resources Bureau
Southwest Florida Water Management District
2379 Broad Street
Brooksville, Florida 34604-6899
1-800-423-1476, ext. 4272 (FL only)
352-796-7211, ext. 4272
352-754-6885 (Fax)
doug.leeper@watermatters.org

From: Alan Martyn Johnson [<mailto:martynellijay@hotmail.com>]
Sent: Thursday, August 30, 2012 7:34 AM
To: Doug Leeper
Cc: Ron Basso; Mike Heyl
Subject: Timeframe for Velocity data from investments at SE Fork and Halls River

Doug,

I was pleased to receive a confirmation and Thank You e-mail, regarding comment I posted on the web site; and noted that you are copied. Good job by whoever organized this; I was concerned comments were going to accumulate both unread as well as unanswered.

This e-mail is not directly about the MFL Reports, but about funding/investments.

We are within 10 days of the anniversary of the start of operation of the velocity meter at the SE Fork station (September 9 @ 12:15 hour). The most recent Field Measurements only add to the concerns I have previously expressed. I have copied the specific data below for ease of reference, but my concern is data collected from these investments, SE Fork and Halls River Velocity Meters, is not being made available. This is troubling as USGS is going to discontinue monitoring of some wells in the area due to lack of sponsorship, yet data from these recently funded projects is 'intentionally' hidden. I am sure you are aware that velocity data from the Halls River 'new' site (installed March 2012) was on line for a few months before being 'hidden'. What is the sense in spending these scarce resources and not getting any value from them?

I would appreciate if you can share the timeframe for velocity data to be made available from these two sites in the Homosassa River. I appreciate there is more involved in converting velocity to discharge (determining stage area and how it changes with stage, plus verification by field measurements), but velocity as seen by the instrument is raw data and meaningful raw data.

FYI I have spoken to the manufacturer's technical personnel regarding location of these meters and how quickly meaning full data can be obtained, both velocity and discharge. Let's just say one year is difficult to understand and the SE Fork location is not ideal as it is at a location where flow direction changes significantly.

On a more positive note, the delay has at least given the chance to observe a range of conditions with Weeki Wachee Well starting around 15 ft. last September/October, dropping to a low of 10.86 ft. in May, and to the high of 18.84 ft. in July.

On a personal note I am pleased to see the significant increase in levels in the aquifer, due to tropical storm Debby, have resulted in improved quality of water emanating both the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs. I will be in Homosassa the next two weeks and plan on monitoring the springs as I have in the past. Really interested to see if strong flow has reestablished at some of the smaller vents.

Doug, SWFWMD and us folks that pay the taxes which make all this possible need a timeframe for data from these investments with USGS.

Martyn

Recent Field Measurements Stream flow and 'as close as possible time' Calculated flow from USGS 02310688 SE Fork.

Meas. Number	Date	Time	Stream flow (ft³/s)	Calculated flow (ft³/s)
234	2012-08-16	14:49:08	74.3	37
233	2012-08-16	14:40:53	78.4	37
232	2012-08-16	14:23:38	78.7	
231	2012-08-16	14:16:06	70.7	
230	2012-08-16	14:09:03	77.8	43
229	2012-08-16	10:30:23	90.7	76

Time series observations from USGS 02310688 SE Fork

08/16/2012 10:15 EST	1.17 ^P	76 ^P	960 ^P	24.5 ^P	0.55 ^P
08/16/2012 10:30 EST	1.15 ^P	76 ^P	970 ^P	24.4 ^P	0.53 ^P
08/16/2012 10:45 EST	1.13 ^P	76 ^P	950 ^P	24.3 ^P	0.51 ^P
08/16/2012 11:00 EST	1.11 ^P	77 ^P	930 ^P	24.1 ^P	0.49 ^P
08/16/2012 11:15 EST	P	P	980 ^P	24.3 ^P	P
08/16/2012 11:30 EST	1.12 ^P	64 ^P	980 ^P	24.4 ^P	0.50 ^P
08/16/2012 11:45 EST	1.15 ^P	55 ^P	980 ^P	24.5 ^P	0.53 ^P
08/16/2012 12:00 EST	1.21 ^P	42 ^P	970 ^P	24.5 ^P	0.59 ^P
08/16/2012 12:15 EST	P	P	1,040 ^P	24.5 ^P	P
08/16/2012 12:30 EST	1.28 ^P	37 ^P	960 ^P	24.7 ^P	0.66 ^P
08/16/2012 12:45 EST	1.34 ^P	41 ^P	1,240 ^P	24.3 ^P	0.72 ^P
08/16/2012 13:00 EST	1.37 ^P	53 ^P	1,130 ^P	24.4 ^P	0.75 ^P
08/16/2012 13:15 EST	P	P	1,330 ^P	24.5 ^P	P
08/16/2012 13:30 EST	1.47 ^P	23 ^P	1,300 ^P	24.5 ^P	0.85 ^P
08/16/2012 13:45 EST	1.52 ^P	43 ^P	1,180 ^P	24.6 ^P	0.90 ^P
08/16/2012 14:00 EST	1.57 ^P	43 ^P	1,100 ^P	24.5 ^P	0.95 ^P
08/16/2012 14:15 EST	P	P	950 ^P	24.8 ^P	P
08/16/2012 14:30 EST	1.68 ^P	16 ^P	1,250 ^P	24.6 ^P	1.06 ^P
08/16/2012 14:45 EST	1.74 ^P	37 ^P	1,050 ^P	24.7 ^P	1.12 ^P
08/16/2012 15:00 EST	1.79 ^P	40 ^P	1,210 ^P	24.6 ^P	1.17 ^P

Blue colored data is using a 30 minute stage change and is not comparable.

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From: Doug Leeper
To: [Adrienne Vining](#); [Chris Zajac](#); [Christopher Pettit](#); [Dave Dewitt](#); [Doug Leeper](#); [Eric DeHaven](#); [Gary E. Williams](#); [Jay Yingling](#); [Jerry Mallams](#); [Karen West](#); [Kenneth R. Herd](#); [Laura Donaldson](#); [Lou Kavouras](#); [Mark Barcelo](#); [Mark Hammond](#); [Michael Molligan](#); [Mike Heyl](#); [Robyn O. Felix](#); [Ron Basso](#); [Sid Flannery](#); [Tammy Hinkle](#); [Veronica Crow](#); [Virginia Singer](#); [Xinjian Chen](#); [Yassert Gonzalez](#)
Subject: Recent in/out for Spring MFLs
Date: Monday, October 22, 2012 10:26:00 AM
Attachments: [3032 Combined Comments 3004-3006, 3026,3027, 3029, 3031.pdf](#)

Stakeholder comments and staff responses received/sent since the Board packet was mailed.

Douglas A. Leeper
Chief Environmental Scientist
Water Resources Bureau
Southwest Florida Water Management District
2379 Broad Street
Brooksville, Florida 34604-6899
1-800-423-1476, ext. 4272 (FL only)
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Conservation Chairman
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Cc: [Lou Kavouras](#); [Gwen Brown](#); [Ron Basso](#); [Doug Leeper](#); [Mike Heyl](#)
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Cc: Executive
Subject: Chassahowitzka

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MGH

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Michael G. Heyl - Chief Environmental Scientist
Mike.Heyl@SWFWMD.state.fl.us or Mike.Heyl@WaterMatters.org
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Tampa, Fl. 33637-6759 1-813-987-6747 (Fax)
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From: [Mike Heyl](#)
To: [Katie Tripp \(ktripp@savethemanatee.org\)](mailto:ktripp@savethemanatee.org)
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: MFL Comments
Date: Monday, October 22, 2012 7:00:08 AM

Katie - I saw your comments on the Chassahowitzka MFL come through the web site. While I think the footnote on page 92 is valid for acute (4-hour) thermal refuge, I agree that it would probably not be applicable to a chronic (3-day) thermal refuge and I will remove the footnote in the final version of the report.

MGH

=====
Michael G. Heyl - Chief Environmental Scientist
Mike.Heyl@SWFWMD.state.fl.us or Mike.Heyl@WaterMatters.org
=====
Natural Systems and Restoration Bureau / SWFWMD (7:00 am - 3:30 pm)
7601 U.S. Highway 301 1-813-985-7481 Ext 2211
Tampa, Fl. 33637-6759 1-813-987-6747 (Fax)
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From: [Katie Tripp](#)
To: [Mike Heyl](#)
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#); [Katie Tripp](#)
Subject: RE: MFL Comments
Date: Monday, October 22, 2012 8:05:17 AM

Thanks, Mike.

Katie Tripp, Ph.D.
Director of Science and Conservation
Save the Manatee Club
500 N. Maitland Ave.
Maitland, FL 32751
Office: 407-539-0990
e-mail: ktripp@savethemanatee.org

From: Mike Heyl [<mailto:Mike.Heyl@swfwmd.state.fl.us>]
Sent: Monday, October 22, 2012 7:00 AM
To: Katie Tripp
Cc: Doug Leeper
Subject: MFL Comments

Katie - I saw your comments on the Chassahowitzka MFL come through the web site. While I think the footnote on page 92 is valid for acute (4-hour) thermal refuge, I agree that it would probably not be applicable to a chronic (3-day) thermal refuge and I will remove the footnote in the final version of the report.

MGH

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Michael G. Heyl - Chief Environmental Scientist
Mike.Heyl@SWFWMD.state.fl.us or Mike.Heyl@WaterMatters.org
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Natural Systems and Restoration Bureau / SWFWMD (7:00 am - 3:30 pm)
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From: [Alan Martyn Johnson](#)
To: [Doug Leeper](#)
Cc: [Chris Anastasiou](#)
Subject: RE: Timeframe for Velocity data from investments at SE Fork and Halls River Plus Bathymetry/Bath Tub
Date: Monday, October 22, 2012 8:58:57 AM

Doug,

Sorry for the slow response. You did respond to my question about timeframe in the e-mail where you provided your answers within the text of my advance questions, but you did not mention Kevin by name.

USGS must already have a stage area for both the SE Fork and Halls River Velocity meters sites and they do have raw velocity data every hour for the SE Fork (for over a year) and every 15 minutes for Halls River (for over 3 months). They must have a very good idea of the flows. Maybe they are not ready to publish the discharge data as approved, but surely they have some idea of how well the data matches the calculated data for the SE Fork. In the last year discharges have covered a broad spectrum from the almost record low levels in Weeki Wachee Well thru to the 18 plus feet; levels not seen for years. Halls River has experienced the highs and lows also; surely this reveals a much better data set than the very suspect tidally adjusted approach yeilded.

It is very disappointing that these valuable investments have not borne results before presentation of the report to the Governing Board.

If the 'preliminary data' from the velocity meters confirmed the calculated data I would have expected a rush to let everyone know.

Bathymetry data.

Thanks for sending the CD as I did not get a chance to download the file from the website before it was removed. My neighbor in Homosassa forwarded the CD to me and I got a chance to look at it this weekend. It took some time to translate State Plane readings to locations on the river, but I was impressed by the detail of the survey e.g. taking five depth readings at very close proximity before moving one to two meters to the next point.

Wang's data also shows the deep point in the river I found while investigating the "Bath tub" idea; in the Excel spreadsheet of centerline readings the deep point is on line 4954 with a depth of 3.76 meters below NAVD 88. The point I found as the deepest point is only some 6 feet from this point. As I have commented previously, **there must be some discharge at this point otherwise why has it not filled with sediment over the years.** The depth found in Wang's survey is so close to what I measured with the Secchi Disc (crude compared to Wang's instrumentation), it appears to indicate a reasonably stable situation over the years. I would speculate there is a reasonably strong discharge in that area. And as further evidence any avid manatee watcher knows the manatee like that area.

From my observations and speculation the discharge is thru a sediment rich blanket over the vent(s), and from the very few Specific Conductance readings may at times be more saline than other springs in the Homosassa River headwaters, possibly influenced more by stage change/seawater ingress.

To me this is another example of how important it is to combine the data available with carefully observation of what can be seen in the river to develop the necessary understanding to protect an Outstanding Florida Water which unfortunately is deteriorating.

I have a number of suggestions for follow up;

- adding this deep site to the quarterly sampling with bottom middle and top sampling (Doug I did share my September samplings with Chris, but do not recall if I shared with you)
- at the time of the next Field Measurements by USGS, run a discharge at the point where the river narrows (before the confluence with Halls River) as well as the SE Fork and the main springs run to determine any additional discharge; bearing in mind speculation the discharge from the deep center area may vary with stage
- **have some keen scuba divers take a closer look possibly using some dye cakes to help view the flow**

I realize resources are limited, but understanding the complexities of the rivers is critical to their future.

Martyn

From: Doug.Leeper@swfwmd.state.fl.us
To: martynellijay@hotmail.com
Date: Mon, 15 Oct 2012 11:31:52 -0400
Subject: RE: Timeframe for Velocity data from investments at SE Fork and Halls River

Martyn –

Hopefully I responded to your question concerning the time-frame for the United States Geological Survey's evaluation of the velocity data that has been collected over the past year in the Homosassa River system. In case I did not, I'm writing to let you know that Kevin Grimsley has told me that he anticipates the Survey will be completing an initial analyses of the data within a couple of months.

Douglas A. Leeper
Chief Environmental Scientist
Water Resources Bureau
Southwest Florida Water Management District
2379 Broad Street
Brooksville, Florida 34604-6899
1-800-423-1476, ext. 4272 (FL only)
352-796-7211, ext. 4272
352-754-6885 (Fax)
doug.leeper@watermatters.org

From: Alan Martyn Johnson [<mailto:martynellijay@hotmail.com>]
Sent: Thursday, August 30, 2012 7:34 AM
To: Doug Leeper
Cc: Ron Basso; Mike Heyl
Subject: Timeframe for Velocity data from investments at SE Fork and Halls River

Doug,

I was pleased to receive a confirmation and Thank You e-mail, regarding comment I posted on the web site; and noted that you are copied. Good job by whoever organized this; I was concerned comments were going to accumulate both unread as well as unanswered.

This e-mail is not directly about the MFL Reports, but about funding/investments.

We are within 10 days of the anniversary of the start of operation of the velocity meter at the SE Fork station (September 9 @ 12:15 hour). The most recent Field Measurements only add to the concerns I have previously expressed. I have copied the specific data below for ease of reference, but my concern is data collected from these investments, SE Fork and Halls River Velocity Meters, is not being made available. This is troubling as USGS is going to discontinue monitoring of some wells in the area due to lack of sponsorship, yet data from these recently funded projects is 'intentionally' hidden. I am sure you are aware that velocity data from the Halls River 'new' site (installed March 2012) was on line for a few months before being 'hidden'. What is the sense in spending these scarce resources and not getting any value from them?

I would appreciate if you can share the timeframe for velocity data to be made available from these two sites in the Homosassa River. I appreciate there is more involved in converting velocity to discharge (determining stage area and how it changes with stage, plus verification by field measurements), but velocity as seen by the instrument is raw data and meaningful raw data.

FYI I have spoken to the manufacturer's technical personnel regarding location of these meters and how quickly meaning full data can be obtained, both velocity and discharge. Let's just say one year is difficult to understand and the SE Fork location is not ideal as it is at a location where flow direction changes significantly.

On a more positive note, the delay has at least given the chance to observe a range of conditions with Weeki Wachee Well starting around 15 ft. last September/October, dropping to a low of 10.86 ft. in May, and to the high of 18.84 ft. in July.

On a personal note I am pleased to see the significant increase in levels in the aquifer, due to tropical storm Debby, have resulted in improved quality of water emanating both the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs. I will be in Homosassa the next two weeks and plan on monitoring the springs as I have in the past. Really interested to see if strong flow has reestablished at some of the smaller vents.

Doug, SWFWMD and us folks that pay the taxes which make all this possible need a timeframe for data from these investments with USGS.

Martyn

Recent Field Measurements Stream flow and 'as close as possible time' Calculated flow from USGS 02310688 SE Fork.

Meas. Number	Date	Time	Stream flow (ft³/s)	Calculated flow (ft³/s)
234	2012-08-16	14:49:08	74.3	37
233	2012-08-16	14:40:53	78.4	37
232	2012-08-16	14:23:38	78.7	
231	2012-08-16	14:16:06	70.7	
230	2012-08-16	14:09:03	77.8	43
229	2012-08-16	10:30:23	90.7	76

Time series observations from USGS 02310688 SE Fork

08/16/2012 10:15 EST	1.17 ^P	76 ^P	960 ^P	24.5 ^P	0.55 ^P
08/16/2012 10:30 EST	1.15 ^P	76 ^P	970 ^P	24.4 ^P	0.53 ^P
08/16/2012 10:45 EST	1.13 ^P	76 ^P	950 ^P	24.3 ^P	0.51 ^P
08/16/2012 11:00 EST	1.11 ^P	77 ^P	930 ^P	24.1 ^P	0.49 ^P
08/16/2012 11:15 EST	P	P	980 ^P	24.3 ^P	P
08/16/2012 11:30 EST	1.12 ^P	64 ^P	980 ^P	24.4 ^P	0.50 ^P
08/16/2012 11:45 EST	1.15 ^P	55 ^P	980 ^P	24.5 ^P	0.53 ^P
08/16/2012 12:00 EST	1.21 ^P	42 ^P	970 ^P	24.5 ^P	0.59 ^P
08/16/2012 12:15 EST	P	P	1,040 ^P	24.5 ^P	P
08/16/2012 12:30 EST	1.28 ^P	37 ^P	960 ^P	24.7 ^P	0.66 ^P
08/16/2012 12:45 EST	1.34 ^P	41 ^P	1,240 ^P	24.3 ^P	0.72 ^P
08/16/2012 13:00 EST	1.37 ^P	53 ^P	1,130 ^P	24.4 ^P	0.75 ^P
08/16/2012 13:15 EST	P	P	1,330 ^P	24.5 ^P	P
08/16/2012 13:30 EST	1.47 ^P	23 ^P	1,300 ^P	24.5 ^P	0.85 ^P
08/16/2012 13:45 EST	1.52 ^P	43 ^P	1,180 ^P	24.6 ^P	0.90 ^P
08/16/2012 14:00 EST	1.57 ^P	43 ^P	1,100 ^P	24.5 ^P	0.95 ^P
08/16/2012 14:15 EST	P	P	950 ^P	24.8 ^P	P
08/16/2012 14:30 EST	1.68 ^P	16 ^P	1,250 ^P	24.6 ^P	1.06 ^P
08/16/2012 14:45 EST	1.74 ^P	37 ^P	1,050 ^P	24.7 ^P	1.12 ^P
08/16/2012 15:00 EST	1.79 ^P	40 ^P	1,210 ^P	24.6 ^P	1.17 ^P

Blue colored data is using a 30 minute stage change and is not comparable.

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From: Boyd_Blihovde@fws.gov
To: [Mike Heyl](mailto:Mike_Heyl)
Cc: [Doug Leeper](mailto:Doug_Leeper)
Subject: Re: Chassahowitzka MFL comments
Date: Monday, October 22, 2012 4:16:06 PM

Mike,

Thanks for the reply. I understand.

This may seem like a strange request, but in order for me to keep a clear record of the "email thread" I like to save messages in pdfs "as one message". Would it be possible to send your reply with the message I sent as a history? If not, don't worry about it, I can piece it together!

I will hopefully see you and Doug on the 30th, but look forward to discussing the problem of monitoring the river in the future.

Thanks,

Boyd Blihovde
Deputy Project Leader
Crystal River National Wildlife Refuge Complex
1502 SE Kings Bay Drive
Crystal River, FL 34429
(P) 352-563-2088
(F) 352-795-7961
▼ Mike Heyl <Mike.Heyl@swfwmd.state.fl.us>

Mike Heyl
<Mike.Heyl@swfwmd.state.fl.us>

10/22/2012 06:57 AM

To: "Boyd_Blihovde@fws.gov"
<Boyd_Blihovde@fws.gov>
cc: Doug Leeper
<Doug.Leeper@swfwmd.state.fl.us>
Subject: Chassahowitzka MFL comments

Boyd – I saw your MFL comments come through. We will definitely be in touch with regard to monitoring, but I did want to address the water level issue. Since the Chassahowitzka is below sea level for the entire extent, the change in elevation will be negligible as inflow from the Gulf will fill any voids.

We did run the hydrodynamic model to check the change in elevation with the original proposed 11% MFL. The average decrease in water level at the boat ramp will be 0.01 feet.

MGH

=====
Michael G. Heyl - Chief Environmental Scientist
Mike.Heyl@SWFWMD.state.fl.us or Mike.Heyl@WaterMatters.org
=====

Natural Systems and Restoration Bureau / SWFWMD (7:00 am - 3:30 pm)
7601 U.S. Highway 301 1-813-985-7481 Ext 2211
Tampa, Fl. 33637-6759 1-813-987-6747 (Fax)

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From: [Mike Heyl](mailto:Mike_Heyl)
To: [Boyd Blihovde@fws.gov](mailto:Boyd_Blihovde@fws.gov)
Cc: [Doug Leeper](mailto:Doug_Leeper)
Subject: RE: Chassahowitzka MFL comments
Date: Tuesday, October 23, 2012 6:30:32 AM
Attachments: [Chassahowitzka MFL comments_MGH_reponse.pdf](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)

Boyd – Here you go. See attached pdf

MGH

=====

Michael G. Heyl - Chief Environmental Scientist
Mike.Heyl@SWFWMD.state.fl.us or Mike.Heyl@WaterMatters.org

=====

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From: Boyd_Blihovde@fws.gov [mailto:Boyd_Blihovde@fws.gov]
Sent: Monday, October 22, 2012 4:06 PM
To: Mike Heyl
Cc: Doug Leeper
Subject: Re: Chassahowitzka MFL comments

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Thanks,

boyd blihovde
Deputy Project Leader
Crystal River National Wildlife Refuge Complex
1502 SE Kings Bay Drive
Crystal River, FL 34429
(P) 352-563-2088
(F) 352-795-7961

▼ Mike Heyl <Mike.Heyl@swfwmd.state.fl.us>

Mike Heyl
<Mike.Heyl@swfwmd.state.fl.us>

10/22/2012 06:57 AM

To "Boyd_Blihovde@fws.gov"
<Boyd_Blihovde@fws.gov>
ccDoug Leeper
<Doug.Leeper@swfwmd.state.fl.us>
SubjectChassahowitzka MFL comments

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MGH

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Michael G. Heyl - Chief Environmental Scientist

Mike.Heyl@SWFWMD.state.fl.us or Mike.Heyl@WaterMatters.org

=====

Natural Systems and Restoration Bureau / SWFWMD (7:00 am - 3:30 pm)

7601 U.S. Highway 301 1-813-985-7481 Ext 2211

Tampa, Fl. 33637-6759 1-813-987-6747 (Fax)

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From: Mike Heyl
To: ["Boyd_Blihovde@fws.gov"](mailto:Boyd_Blihovde@fws.gov)
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Chassahowitzka MFL comments
Date: Monday, October 22, 2012 6:55:00 AM

Boyd – I saw your MFL comments come through. We will definitely be in touch with regard to monitoring, but I did want to address the water level issue. Since the Chassahowitzka is below sea level for the entire extent, the change in elevation will be negligible as inflow from the Gulf will fill any voids.

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Michael G. Heyl - Chief Environmental Scientist
Mike.Heyl@SWFWMD.state.fl.us or Mike.Heyl@WaterMatters.org
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From: [Executive](#)
To: [Gwen Brown](#)
Cc: [Jet Houser](#); [Lou Kavouras](#); [Ron Basso](#); [Mike Heyl](#); [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: FW: MFL for Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers
Date: Thursday, October 18, 2012 10:45:05 AM

Please handle accordingly or forward to the appropriate staff for handling.

Thank you.

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

Sr. Document Specialist
Southwest Florida Water Management District
shellie.ferreira@swfwmd.state.fl.us
352-796-7211, ext. 4053

From: Boyd_Blihovde@fws.gov [mailto:Boyd_Blihovde@fws.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, October 17, 2012 11:07 PM
To: Executive
Subject: MFL for Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

The Chassahowitzka National Wildlife Refuge is primarily bordered to the North by the Homosassa River, and contains the mouth of the Chassahowitzka River within its boundary. The freshwater inflow from both these rivers is extremely important to the wildlife that the Refuge was established to protect for the American public. We are pleased to see that the SWFWMD has increased the recommended MFL for both the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers to 91% and 97% respectively. However, we are certainly concerned that if levels on the Chassahowitzka River were actually reduced by 9% (from present conditions) there could be potentially detrimental conditions for many species of wildlife. Refuge staff have witnessed extremely low water levels during low tides on the Chassahowitzka River. These extremely low water situations have resulted in virtually impassable or unnavigable water depths. This is a concern for boaters and for the endangered manatee. Of course, these extremes are not experienced very often, but it is a condition that can be assumed would increase in frequency and intensity if a 9% reduction in flow were to occur.

Former land use practices in the area around the Chassahowitzka River cannot be reversed, but the Chassahowitzka NWR is concerned with future land use practices that may have an impact on the resources we manage for all US citizens. The US Fish and Wildlife Service takes pride in the partnership we have cooperatively developed with the water management districts in Florida. The Chassahowitzka NWR staff are located within close proximity to the river systems discussed in this MFL proposal and we conduct numerous surveys for manatees, birds, whooping cranes, and we cooperate with various agencies and universities to answer more advanced biological questions.

Although Refuge management would feel more comfortable with higher flows allowed for the Chassahowitzka River, we are open to helping establish a monitoring plan that would include a partnership between our agencies. This partnership would hopefully prevent irreparable damage to the habitat in and around the Chassahowitzka River if water flow was

to further decrease. USFWS staff currently make numerous qualitative observations on habitat conditions, and that work will certainly continue. However, through this partnership, the USFWS and SWFWMD should prepare to monitor the effects of freshwater reduction on the estuary within the Refuge and surrounding areas. It is imperative to us that we protect the natural resources that have been entrusted to us by the US citizen and monitoring any proposed management activity (on or near the Refuge boundary) is a very important part of that. We hope that whatever MFL becomes implemented will also include requirements for monitoring the effects of future permitted freshwater withdrawals. We look forward to future cooperative endeavors with the SWFWMD that will help protect Florida's natural resources.

Thanks,

boyd blihovde
Deputy Project Leader
Crystal River National Wildlife Refuge Complex
1502 SE Kings Bay Drive
Crystal River, FL 34429
(P) 352-563-2088
(F) 352-795-7961

From: Doug Leeper
To: [Doug Leeper](#)
Cc: [Adrienne Vining](#); [Chris Zajac](#); [Christopher Pettit](#); [Dave Dewitt](#); [Eric DeHaven](#); [Gary E. Williams](#); [Jay Yingling](#); [Jerry Mallams](#); [Karen West](#); [Kenneth R. Herd](#); [Laura Donaldson](#); [Lou Kavouras](#); [Mark Barcelo](#); [Mark Hammond](#); [Michael Molligan](#); [Mike Heyl](#); [Robyn O. Felix](#); [Ron Basso](#); [Sid Flannery](#); [Tammy Hinkle](#); [Veronica Crow](#); [Virginia Singer](#); [Xinjian Chen](#); [Yassert Gonzalez](#)
Bcc: [\(janicehowie@aol.com\)](#); ["Abdon Sidibie"](#); [Alex McPherson \(aamcpherson@msn.com\)](#); [Ann - 2 Hodgson \(ahodgson@gmail.com\)](#); [Ann Hodgson \(ahodgsonphd@gmail.com\)](#); [Bernard Berauer \(bfberauer@aol.com\)](#); [Beverly Overa \(boverly@tampabay.rr.com\)](#); [Bill Garvin \(wgarvin@tampabay.rr.com\)](#); [Bob Caldwell \(Bobcaldwell51@yahoo.com\)](#); [Brack Barker \(brack154@msn.com\)](#); [Brad Rimbey \(BWR.CRRC@tampabay.rr.com\)](#); [Carl Matthai \(thebabesmimi@gmail.com\)](#); [Casey Emily \(fcnwr@atlantic.net\)](#); [Charles Dean \(dean.charles.web@flsenate.gov\)](#); [Charles Stonerock \(katcha.stonerock3@gmail.com\)](#); [Chris Safos \(chrissafos@embarqmail.com\)](#); [Czerwinski, Mike \(mcerwin@tampabay.rr.com\)](#); [Darlene Herth \(2cetechology21@gmail.com\)](#); [Darrell Snedecor \(president@citruscountyaudubon.com\)](#); [Don Hiers \(dhiers3@gmail.com\)](#); [Douglas Dame \(doug_dame@yahoo.com\)](#); [Elaine Luther \(barneyandcap@hotmail.com\)](#); [Emily Casey \(ecasey21@hotmail.com\)](#); [Emma Knight \(eknight@wetlandsolutionsinc.com\)](#); [George Harbin \(gharbin@tampabay.rr.com\)](#); [George McClog \(classof47@gmail.com\)](#); [Gorgon O'Connor \(gorgon_o@yahoo.com\)](#); [Harry Steiner \(harry109@aol.com\)](#); ["Helen Spivey"](#); [Jack Calbeck \(calbeckj@citrus.k12.fl.us\)](#); [jane Perrin \(jcsperinmd@sbcglobal.net\)](#); [Jerry Morton \(JerrMorton@aol.com\)](#); [Jessie Gourlie \(gourliej@thirdplanetwind.com\)](#); [Jim Collins \(jimmiekey22@yahoo.com\)](#); [Jimmie Smith \(jimmie.smith@myfloridahouse.gov\)](#); [Joe Calamari](#); [John Lord \(jclord109@yahoo.com\)](#); [John Mayo \(freedomway1@gmail.com\)](#); [Karen Johnstone \(kjohns213@sbcglobal.net\)](#); [Kim Caldwell \(caldwell.kimberly@yahoo.com\)](#); [Kim Dinkins \(kim.dinkins@marioncountyfl.org\)](#); [Linda Pierce \(tpierce35@tampabay.rr.com\)](#); [Linda Vanderveen \(hernandoaudubon@yahoo.com\)](#); [Mary Anne Lynn \(mlynn1978@tampabay.rr.com\)](#); [Matthew Corona \(mcorona1@tampabay.rr.com\)](#); [Max Rhinesmith \(rhinesmith@webtv.net\)](#); ["Amber Breland"](#); [Andy Houston \(ahouston@crystalriverfl.org\)](#); [Art Yerian \(A.Yerian@dep.state.fl.us\)](#); ["Ben Weiss"](#); ["Beth Hovinde"](#); [Brad Thorpe \(brad.thorpe@bocc.citrus.fl.us\)](#); [Courtney Edwards \(cedwards@savethemanatee.org\)](#); [Dale Jones \(Jones@MyFWC.com\)](#); [Dana Bryan \(dana.bryan@dep.state.fl.us\)](#); ["Darrell Snedecor"](#); [David Hamilton \(countyadministrator@hernandocounty.us\)](#); [David Hankla \(david_hankla@fws.gov\)](#); [Don Wright \(wright@sura.org\)](#); [Dusty McDevitt \(mcdevitt@usgs.gov\)](#); [Ed Call \(marvin.call@MyFWC.com\)](#); [Eric Nagid \(eric.nagid@MyFWC.com\)](#); [FFWCC MFLs Review E-Mail Address \(fwwconservationplanningservices@myfwc.com\)](#); [J. J. Kenney \(jj.kenney@bocc.citrus.fl.us\)](#); [Jennene Norman-Vacha \(jnvacha@ci.brooksville.fl.us\)](#); [Joyce Kleen@fws.gov](#); [Kandi Harper \(kandi.harper@bocc.citrus.fl.us\)](#); [Keith Ramos \(Keith.Ramos@fws.gov\)](#); [Kent Smith \(kent.smith2@myfwc.com\)](#); [Kevin Grimsley \(kgrims@usgs.gov\)](#); [Michael Lusk \(Michael_Lusk@fws.gov\)](#); [Mitchell Newberger \(mnewberger@verizon.net\)](#); [Nick Robbins \(Nick.Robbins@dep.state.fl.us\)](#); [Nicole Adimey \(Nicole_Adimey@fws.gov\)](#); [Paul Thomas \(paulw.thomas@MyFWC.com\)](#); [Ron Mezich \(ron.mezich@MyFWC.com\)](#); [Shelly Yaun \(shelly.yaun@dep.state.fl.us\)](#); [Toby Brewer \(Toby.Brewer@dep.state.fl.us\)](#); ["Tracy Colson"](#); ["Adkins, Jim"](#); ["Bitter, Jim"](#); ["Bryant, Richard"](#); ["Cantero, Vince"](#); ["Carpenter, Paul"](#); ["Cheek, Ken"](#); ["Daniels, Chase"](#); ["Dueker, Duane"](#); ["Gordon, Lisa-Perras"](#); ["Gramling, Hugh"](#); ["Harrelson, Cathy"](#); ["Hubbell, Pete"](#); ["Johnson, Eric"](#); ["Johnson, Martyn"](#); ["Keim, Robert"](#); ["Kincaid, Todd"](#); ["Kline, Allen"](#); ["Knight, Bob"](#); ["Knudson, Ross"](#); ["Overa, Tom"](#); ["Owen, Rick"](#); ["Parrow, Liz"](#); [Rolf Auermann \(rauerman@tampabay.rr.com\)](#); ["Rusnak, Teddi"](#); ["Tarochinoe, Joseph"](#); ["Watkins, Priscilla"](#); ["Watrous, Russell"](#); ["Weber, Ken"](#); ["Wilson, Roger"](#); ["WRWSA"](#); ["aquahab@gmail.com"](#); ["bocacatlover@gmail.com"](#); ["bruceseaman@zoho.com"](#); ["btrfly21@msn.com"](#); ["casabanca@live.com"](#); ["celesteas@gmail.com"](#); ["christina.joyinmotion@gmail.com"](#); ["citizen@fsmail.net"](#); ["dancross@bellsouth.net"](#); ["dawnsdusks@bellsouth.net"](#); ["dreandvicki@bellsouth.net"](#); ["earthy_wolf@hotmail.com"](#); ["ecocosm@bellsouth.net"](#); ["egarvett@gmail.com"](#); ["gmorotti@gmail.com"](#); ["gregatourhouse@hotmail.com"](#); ["Gulf Restoration Network"](#); ["heylady1948@yahoo.com"](#); ["jiinabnw@att.net"](#); ["jumbys8@yahoo.com"](#); ["karensmith187@gmail.com"](#); ["licy75@aol.com"](#); ["linda@perry.net"](#); ["lbalaw@gmail.com"](#); ["mccunesfla@aol.com"](#); ["mejides@yahoo.com"](#); ["mshargel@gmail.com"](#); ["mwalker13fr@gmail.com"](#); ["pete22roc@aol.com"](#); ["prunemstr@aol.com"](#); ["rebeccaruby@msn.com"](#); ["riverguide2000@yahoo.com"](#); ["robertadever@yahoo.com"](#); ["robsand@bellsouth.net"](#); ["ronm430@aol.com"](#); ["rrriley71@att.net"](#); ["rst333@hotmail.com"](#); ["salleeba@me.com"](#); ["ssiegmenn@gmail.com"](#); ["staceydaniels@shellpoint.org"](#); ["sunpreston@gmail.com"](#); ["sunwrent@aol.com"](#); ["tonytke@yahoo.com"](#); ["warrior_red@hotmail.com"](#); ["zerogirl@gmail.com"](#); ["ahlers.karen@gmail.com"](#); ["apostolicboylargo@yahoo.com"](#); ["catsandcrocs@yahoo.com"](#); ["cattleya@comcast.net"](#); ["dan-lesley@att.net"](#); ["detrorachel@yahoo.com"](#); ["gunnhonican@aol.com"](#); ["jackyboy86@gmail.com"](#); ["jehallh20@aol.com"](#); ["jimbrunton@yahoo.com"](#); ["kbolomey@aol.com"](#); ["l.j.travers@gmail.com"](#); ["lazygin@bellsouth.net"](#); ["lfurgal@yahoo.com"](#); ["lrdevine@yahoo.com"](#); ["lrpm2@yahoo.com"](#); ["lrpm22@gmail.com"](#); ["meem4822@aol.com"](#); ["melissa.allen@hotmail.com"](#); ["missyno@bellsouth.net"](#); ["obyrrnen@bellsouth.net"](#); ["pjtpowers@hotmail.com"](#); ["popcomic@tampabay.rr.com"](#); ["rfay808700@aol.com"](#); ["rhinopias@comcast.net"](#); ["scott.logan@aon.com"](#); ["segnbora@gmail.com"](#); ["snorklmike@yahoo.com"](#); ["studio8@infionline.net"](#); ["tabdolphins@yahoo.com"](#); ["tno2007@aol.com"](#); ["vaughan@fireflyclay.com"](#); ["youelyoga@gmail.com"](#); ["ziffel1@bellsouth.net"](#); ["aairis@aol.com"](#); ["babij204@msn.com"](#); ["ban260zz@yahoo.com"](#); ["bv@wvmlaw.com"](#); ["Cheek, Ken"](#); ["crmcglone@moose-mail.com"](#); ["dirgis3@aol.com"](#); ["dougpowless@hotmail.com"](#); ["facwetkat@hotmail.com"](#); ["faithoogs@aol.com"](#); ["firewaterair@gmail.com"](#); ["gomerlu@yahoo.com"](#); ["jacketchmson@hotmail.com"](#); ["jnovotny@comcast.net"](#); ["jrjzr@yahoo.com"](#); ["keth@awakening-healing.com"](#); ["Kramer, Gus"](#); ["lbedinger@yahoo.com"](#); ["long5892@bellsouth.net"](#); ["lori_mccraney@yahoo.com"](#); ["mark@bassanio.dsl.atlantic.net"](#); ["masonfamily@centurylink.net"](#); ["morgan@cc-events.org"](#); ["navistar@wildmail.com"](#); ["parneixr@cfl.rr.com"](#); ["quehoraes7@aol.com"](#); ["rantala.mervi@gmail.com"](#); ["robin@greenerpixels.com"](#); ["saralee.lem@gmail.com"](#); ["scooke1107@hotmail.com"](#); ["segoci@aol.com"](#); ["sharonbrich@yahoo.com"](#); ["skeiser@adadeschools.net"](#); ["slnofear@aol.com"](#); ["tcglover58@hotmail.com"](#); ["tcsmith57@hotmail.com"](#); ["terry@awakening-healing.com"](#); ["treehugger52768@gmail.com"](#); ["vinnymullins@live.com"](#); ["cdlaughlin@tampabay.rr.com"](#); ["chrislaughlin@tampabay.rr.com"](#);

"diann@tampabay.rr.com"; "flkrakr@yahoo.com"; "hm4v08@yahoo.com"; "jzeto1@tampabay.rr.com"; "kschulz26@tampabay.rr.com"; "lbarth4544@aol.com"; "maxineconnor@gmail.com"; "mrwjones@aol.com"; "nancyargenziano@gmail.com"; Al Grubman (grubman1@gmail.com); Bill Geiger (bgeiger@cityofbrooksville.us); Bill Poudier (bill.poudier@myfwc.com); Boyd Blihovde (Boyd_Blihovde@fws.gov); Brent Whitley (brentwhitley@sierra-properties.com); Brockway, Alys (abrockway@co.hernando.fl.us); Dennis D. Dutcher (Dennis3ds@aol.com); Frank DiGiovanni (administration@inverness-fl.gov); Greenwood, Kathleen; Hilliard, Dan (2buntings@comcast.net); Hoehn, Ted; Hope Corona (hopecorona@tampabay.rr.com); Jim Farley (jfarley682@aol.com); Katie Tripp (ktripp@savethemanatee.org); Norman Hopkins (norman@amyhrf.org); Rebecca Bays (rebecca.bays@bocc.citrus.fl.us); Richard Kane (rkane@usgs.gov); Richard Radacky (rradacky@cityofbrooksville.us); Ron Miller (rmille76@tampabay.rr.com); Sarah Tenison (cityofweekiwachee@yahoo.com); Sullivan, Jack (jsullivan@carltonfields.com); Voyles, Carolyn (Carolyn.Voyles@dep.state.fl.us); Whitey Markle (whmarkle@gmail.com)

Subject: Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Minimum Flows Update
Date: Tuesday, October 23, 2012 7:13:00 AM

Greetings:

I'm writing to provide an update on the planned discussion of proposed minimum flows for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa River systems that is scheduled to occur at the October 30, 2012 meeting of the Southwest Florida Water Management District Governing Board.

A meeting agenda and information document for the meeting are now available on the District web site. The Chassahowitzka-Homosassa minimum flows discussion is identified in these documents as agenda item number 21.

The agenda is available at:

http://www.swfwmd.state.fl.us/calendar/agendas/govboard_10-30-12_agenda_2245.pdf

The meeting information document is available at:

http://www.swfwmd.state.fl.us/calendar/notebooks/govboard_10-30-12_notebook_2245.pdf

Thanks again for your continued interest in the development of minimum flows for the river systems.

Douglas A. Leeper
Chief Environmental Scientist
Water Resources Bureau
Southwest Florida Water Management District
2379 Broad Street
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1-800-423-1476, ext. 4272 (FL only)
352-796-7211, ext. 4272
352-754-6885 (Fax)
doug.leeper@watermatters.org

From: Doug Leeper
To: ["drs@ymail.com"](mailto:drs@ymail.com)
Cc: [Shellie Ferreira-Lee](#); [Mike Heyl](#); [Ron Basso](#); [Lou Kavouras](#); [Dianna Brass](#)
Subject: RE: Springs Coast MFL
Date: Tuesday, October 23, 2012 8:43:00 AM

Dr. Zimmer:

Thank you for your comments regarding the revised minimum flows and levels recommendations for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa river systems. Your input has been reviewed by District staff and will be provided to the District Governing Board for consideration.

Douglas A. Leeper
Chief Environmental Scientist
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352-796-7211, ext. 4272
352-754-6885 (Fax)
doug.leeper@watermatters.org

From: Executive
Sent: Friday, October 19, 2012 8:09 AM
To: Dianna Brass
Cc: Lou Kavouras; Ron Basso; Doug Leeper; Mike Heyl
Subject: FW: Springs Coast MFL

Please handle accordingly or forward to the appropriate staff for handling.

Thank you.

Shellie Ferreira-Lee
Sr. Document Specialist
Southwest Florida Water Management District
shellie.ferreira@swfwmd.state.fl.us
352-796-7211, ext. 4053

From: Susan Zimmer [<mailto:drs@ymail.com>]
Sent: Thursday, October 18, 2012 4:24 PM
To: info
Subject: Springs Coast MFL

SWFWMD
Governing Board

I am a resident of Citrus County.

I do not favor any further reductions in water flow. The springs and rivers are already low, unhealthy, and actually need **more** flow to provide a healthy environment for fish, vegetation, drinking water, etc.

It is sad and scary to continually see various Springs, which provide our only drinking water, become stagnant and dry up.

Prevention is more sensible than Restoration (attempts).

Desalination, as an example, is too costly, etc., especially while we have the **opportunity to save** the precious Springs.

Thank you

Dr Susan Zimmer

From: Doug Leeper
To: ["JaniceHowie@aol.com"](mailto:JaniceHowie@aol.com)
Cc: [Shellie Ferreira-Lee](#); [Mike Heyl](#); [Ron Basso](#); [Lou Kavouras](#); [Gwen Brown](#)
Subject: RE: Proposed MFL's for the Homosassa and Chasahowitzka Rivers
Date: Tuesday, October 23, 2012 8:46:00 AM

Ms. Howie:

Thank you for your comments regarding the revised minimum flows and levels recommendations for the Chasahowitzka and Homosassa river systems. Your input has been reviewed by District staff and will be provided to the District Governing Board for consideration.

Douglas A. Leeper
Chief Environmental Scientist
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doug.leeper@watermatters.org

From: Executive
Sent: Friday, October 19, 2012 8:11 AM
To: Dianna Brass
Cc: Lou Kavouras; Ron Basso; Doug Leeper; Mike Heyl; Gwen Brown
Subject: FW: Proposed MFL's for the Homosassa and Chasahowitzka Rivers

Please handle accordingly or forward to the appropriate staff for handling.

Thank you.

Shellie Ferreira-Lee
Sr. Document Specialist
Southwest Florida Water Management District
shellie.ferreira@swfwmd.state.fl.us
352-796-7211, ext. 4053

From: JaniceHowie@aol.com [<mailto:JaniceHowie@aol.com>]
Sent: Thursday, October 18, 2012 1:53 PM
To: Executive
Subject: Proposed MFL's for the Homosassa and Chasahowitzka Rivers

The Federal Clean Water act does not allow for the degradation of these rivers, or any other rivers in the state. Your proposed MFL's for the Homosassa at 3% and the Chasahowitzka at 9 % would allow by your studies up to 15% degradation to the wildlife and environment of these rivers. Think about what will happen to these rivers

and to the conflict that will occur with the EPA if this degradation is allowed to happen. Wouldn't it be prudent to proactively ovoid this damage to our rivers.

Jan Howie
Conservation Chairman
Nature Coast Native Plant Society

From: Doug Leeper
To: ["hkck5@embarqmail.com"](mailto:hkck5@embarqmail.com)
Cc: [Shellie Ferreira-Lee](#); [Mike Heyl](#); [Ron Basso](#); [Lou Kavouras](#); [Gwen Brown](#)
Subject: RE: Chassahowitzka
Date: Tuesday, October 23, 2012 8:48:00 AM

Ms. Klein:

Thank you for your comments regarding the revised minimum flows and levels recommendations for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa river systems. Your input has been reviewed by District staff and will be provided to the District Governing Board for consideration.

Douglas A. Leeper
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352-796-7211, ext. 4272
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doug.leeper@watermatters.org

From: Executive
Sent: Friday, October 19, 2012 8:15 AM
To: Dianna Brass
Cc: Lou Kavouras; Gwen Brown; Ron Basso; Doug Leeper; Mike Heyl
Subject: FW: Chassahowitzka

Please handle accordingly or forward to the appropriate staff for handling.

Thank you.

Shellie Ferreira-Lee
Sr. Document Specialist
Southwest Florida Water Management District
shellie.ferreira@swfwmd.state.fl.us
352-796-7211, ext. 4053

From: cindy [<mailto:hkck5@embarqmail.com>]
Sent: Thursday, October 18, 2012 12:54 PM
To: Executive
Cc: Executive
Subject: Chassahowitzka

Please don't take any more fresh water from the spring system of the Chassahowitzka or Homosassa Rivers. As you know, both are in peril. Let whoever wants our most precious resource on the nature coast to invest in a desalinization facility. There is plenty of fresh water in our gulf. May I even suggest the Florida cross barge canal system as the perfect location for such a project. Eventually it will come

to this anyway, why not lead the way. You have the power. Thank You. Chassahowitzka resident for 30 years, in love with the nature coast, the State of Florida and thankful for our State Land programs and Government Organizations set up to protect our natural resources. Cindy Klein

From: [Dan](#)
To: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Re: Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Minimum Flows Update
Date: Tuesday, October 23, 2012 12:26:01 PM

On 10/23/2012 7:13 AM, Doug Leeper wrote:

Greetings:

I'm writing to provide an update on the planned discussion of proposed minimum flows for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa River systems that is scheduled to occur at the October 30, 2012 meeting of the Southwest Florida Water Management District Governing Board.

A meeting agenda and information document for the meeting are now available on the District web site. The Chassahowitzka-Homosassa minimum flows discussion is identified in these documents as agenda item number 21.

The agenda is available at:

http://www.swfwmd.state.fl.us/calendar/agendas/govboard_10-30-12_agenda_2245.pdf

Thanks Doug, do appreciate that. Can you give me an idea how long it might take the GB to work thru the consent agenda?

Dan

The meeting information document is available at:

http://www.swfwmd.state.fl.us/calendar/notebooks/govboard_10-30-12_notebook_2245.pdf

Thanks again for your continued interest in the development of minimum flows for the river systems.

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doug.leeper@watermatters.org

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From: Doug Leeper
To: "Dan"
Subject: RE: Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Minimum Flows Update
Date: Tuesday, October 23, 2012 1:33:00 PM

Dan – should be pretty quick. Fifteen minutes to half an hour tops, I would think.

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doug.leeper@watermatters.org

From: Dan [mailto:2buntings@comcast.net]
Sent: Tuesday, October 23, 2012 12:28 PM
To: Doug Leeper
Subject: Re: Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Minimum Flows Update

On 10/23/2012 7:13 AM, Doug Leeper wrote:

Greetings:

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From: [Dan](#)
To: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Re: Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Minimum Flows Update
Date: Tuesday, October 23, 2012 1:59:36 PM

Thanks.

D

On 10/23/2012 1:33 PM, Doug Leeper wrote:

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doug.leeper@watermatters.org

From: Dan [<mailto:2buntings@comcast.net>]
Sent: Tuesday, October 23, 2012 12:28 PM
To: Doug Leeper
Subject: Re: Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Minimum Flows Update

On 10/23/2012 7:13 AM, Doug Leeper wrote:

Greetings:

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From: [Executive](#)
To: [Dianna Brass](#)
Cc: [Lou Kavouras](#); [Ron Basso](#); [Doug Leeper](#); [Mike Heyl](#); [Gwen Brown](#); [Virginia Singer](#)
Subject: FW: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers
Date: Wednesday, October 24, 2012 9:12:12 AM

Please handle accordingly or forward to the appropriate staff for handling.

Thank you.

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

Sr. Document Specialist
Southwest Florida Water Management District
shellie.ferreira@swfwmd.state.fl.us
352-796-7211, ext. 4053

From: J Gurlie [<mailto:mail@change.org>]
Sent: Tuesday, October 23, 2012 4:49 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels have warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees, and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

J Gurlie
Littleton, Colorado

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/south-west-florida-water-management-district-governing-board-no-reduction-in-flow-to-the-spring-fed-chassahowitzka-and-homosassa-rivers>. To respond, [click here](#) ||

From: Doug Leeper
To: ["mail@change.org"](mailto:mail@change.org)
Cc: [Shellie Ferreira-Lee](mailto:Shellie.Ferreira-Lee)
Subject: RE: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers
Date: Thursday, October 25, 2012 4:38:00 PM

Dear J. Gurlie:

Thank you for your comments regarding the revised minimum flows and levels recommendations for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa river systems. Your input has been reviewed by District staff and will be provided to the District Governing Board for consideration.

Douglas A. Leeper
Chief Environmental Scientist
Water Resources Bureau
Southwest Florida Water Management District
2379 Broad Street
Brooksville, Florida 34604-6899
1-800-423-1476, ext. 4272 (FL only)
352-796-7211, ext. 4272
352-754-6885 (Fax)
doug.leeper@watermatters.org

From: Executive
Sent: Wednesday, October 24, 2012 9:12 AM
To: Dianna Brass
Cc: Lou Kavouras; Ron Basso; Doug Leeper; Mike Heyl; Gwen Brown; Virginia Singer
Subject: FW: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Please handle accordingly or forward to the appropriate staff for handling.

Thank you.

Shellie Ferreira-Lee
Sr. Document Specialist
Southwest Florida Water Management District
shellie.ferreira@swfwmd.state.fl.us
352-796-7211, ext. 4053

From: J Gurlie [<mailto:mail@change.org>]
Sent: Tuesday, October 23, 2012 4:49 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

J Gurlie
Littleton, Colorado

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/south-west-florida-water-management-district-governing-board-no-reduction-in-flow-to-the-spring-fed-chassahowitzka-and-homosassa-rivers>. To respond, [click here](#) ||

From: [Executive](#)
To: [Dianna Brass](#)
Cc: [Lou Kavouras](#); [Doug Leeper](#); [Mike Heyl](#); [Ron Basso](#); [Gwen Brown](#); [Virginia Singer](#)
Subject: FW: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers
Date: Wednesday, October 24, 2012 9:13:00 AM

Please handle accordingly or forward to the appropriate staff for handling.

Thank you.

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

Sr. Document Specialist
Southwest Florida Water Management District
shellie.ferreira@swfwmd.state.fl.us
352-796-7211, ext. 4053

From: Amie Marx [<mailto:mail@change.org>]
Sent: Tuesday, October 23, 2012 7:25 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Amie Marx
Green Bay, Wisconsin

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#) ||

From: Doug Leeper
To: ["mail@change.org"](mailto:mail@change.org)
Cc: [Shellie Ferreira-Lee](mailto:Shellie.Ferreira-Lee)
Subject: RE: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers
Date: Thursday, October 25, 2012 4:46:00 PM

Ms. Marx:

Thank you for your comments regarding the revised minimum flows and levels recommendations for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa river systems. Your input has been reviewed by District staff and will be provided to the District Governing Board for consideration.

Douglas A. Leeper
Chief Environmental Scientist
Water Resources Bureau
Southwest Florida Water Management District
2379 Broad Street
Brooksville, Florida 34604-6899
1-800-423-1476, ext. 4272 (FL only)
352-796-7211, ext. 4272
352-754-6885 (Fax)
doug.leeper@watermatters.org

From: Executive
Sent: Wednesday, October 24, 2012 9:13 AM
To: Dianna Brass
Cc: Lou Kavouras; Doug Leeper; Mike Heyl; Ron Basso; Gwen Brown; Virginia Singer
Subject: FW: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Please handle accordingly or forward to the appropriate staff for handling.

Thank you.

Shellie Ferreira-Lee
Sr. Document Specialist
Southwest Florida Water Management District
shellie.ferreira@swfwmd.state.fl.us
352-796-7211, ext. 4053

From: Amie Marx [<mailto:mail@change.org>]
Sent: Tuesday, October 23, 2012 7:25 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Amie Marx
Green Bay, Wisconsin

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From: [Executive](#)
To: [Dianna Brass](#)
Cc: [Lou Kavouras](#); [Doug Leeper](#); [Mike Heyl](#); [Ron Basso](#); [Gwen Brown](#); [Virginia Singer](#)
Subject: FW: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers
Date: Wednesday, October 24, 2012 9:13:37 AM

Please handle accordingly or forward to the appropriate staff for handling.

Thank you.

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

Sr. Document Specialist
Southwest Florida Water Management District
shellie.ferreira@swfwmd.state.fl.us
352-796-7211, ext. 4053

From: John Reed [<mailto:mail@change.org>]
Sent: Tuesday, October 23, 2012 7:47 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Protection of habitat.

John Reed
Largo, Florida

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#) ||

From: Doug Leeper
To: ["mail@change.org"](mailto:mail@change.org)
Cc: [Shellie Ferreira-Lee](#); [Dianna Brass](#)
Subject: RE: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers
Date: Thursday, October 25, 2012 4:49:00 PM

Mr. Reed:

Thank you for your comments regarding the revised minimum flows and levels recommendations for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa river systems. Your input has been reviewed by District staff and will be provided to the District Governing Board for consideration.

Douglas A. Leeper
Chief Environmental Scientist
Water Resources Bureau
Southwest Florida Water Management District
2379 Broad Street
Brooksville, Florida 34604-6899
1-800-423-1476, ext. 4272 (FL only)
352-796-7211, ext. 4272
352-754-6885 (Fax)
doug.leeper@watermatters.org

From: Executive
Sent: Wednesday, October 24, 2012 9:14 AM
To: Dianna Brass
Cc: Lou Kavouras; Doug Leeper; Mike Heyl; Ron Basso; Gwen Brown; Virginia Singer
Subject: FW: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

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Thank you.

Shellie Ferreira-Lee
Sr. Document Specialist
Southwest Florida Water Management District
shellie.ferreira@swfwmd.state.fl.us
352-796-7211, ext. 4053

From: John Reed [<mailto:mail@change.org>]
Sent: Tuesday, October 23, 2012 7:47 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

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Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Protection of habitat.

John Reed
Largo, Florida

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From: [Executive](#)
To: [Dianna Brass](#)
Cc: [Lou Kavouras](#); [Doug Leeper](#); [Mike Heyl](#); [Ron Basso](#); [Gwen Brown](#); [Virginia Singer](#)
Subject: FW: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers
Date: Wednesday, October 24, 2012 9:14:51 AM

Please handle accordingly or forward to the appropriate staff for handling.

Thank you.

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

Sr. Document Specialist
Southwest Florida Water Management District
shellie.ferreira@swfwmd.state.fl.us
352-796-7211, ext. 4053

From: Mike Pici [<mailto:mail@change.org>]
Sent: Tuesday, October 23, 2012 8:37 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Mike Pici
Largo, Florida

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#) ||

From: Doug Leeper
To: ["mail@change.org"](mailto:mail@change.org)
Cc: [Dianna Brass](#); [Shellie Ferreira-Lee](#)
Subject: RE: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers
Date: Thursday, October 25, 2012 4:51:00 PM

Mr. Pici:

Thank you for your comments regarding the revised minimum flows and levels recommendations for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa river systems. Your input has been reviewed by District staff and will be provided to the District Governing Board for consideration.

Douglas A. Leeper
Chief Environmental Scientist
Water Resources Bureau
Southwest Florida Water Management District
2379 Broad Street
Brooksville, Florida 34604-6899
1-800-423-1476, ext. 4272 (FL only)
352-796-7211, ext. 4272
352-754-6885 (Fax)
doug.leeper@watermatters.org

From: Executive
Sent: Wednesday, October 24, 2012 9:15 AM
To: Dianna Brass
Cc: Lou Kavouras; Doug Leeper; Mike Heyl; Ron Basso; Gwen Brown; Virginia Singer
Subject: FW: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Please handle accordingly or forward to the appropriate staff for handling.

Thank you.

Shellie Ferreira-Lee
Sr. Document Specialist
Southwest Florida Water Management District
shellie.ferreira@swfwmd.state.fl.us
352-796-7211, ext. 4053

From: Mike Pici [<mailto:mail@change.org>]
Sent: Tuesday, October 23, 2012 8:37 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees, and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Mike Pici
Largo, Florida

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#) ||

From: [Executive](#)
To: [Dianna Brass](#)
Cc: [Lou Kavouras](#); [Doug Leeper](#); [Mike Heyl](#); [Ron Basso](#); [Gwen Brown](#); [Virginia Singer](#)
Subject: FW: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers
Date: Wednesday, October 24, 2012 9:15:32 AM

Please handle accordingly or forward to the appropriate staff for handling.

Thank you.

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

Sr. Document Specialist
Southwest Florida Water Management District
shellie.ferreira@swfwmd.state.fl.us
352-796-7211, ext. 4053

From: Terry Lemke [<mailto:mail@change.org>]
Sent: Tuesday, October 23, 2012 9:06 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees, and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

preservation of the Manatees!!

Terry Lemke
Irving, Texas

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#) ||

From: Doug Leeper
To: ["mail@change.org"](mailto:mail@change.org)
Cc: [Shellie Ferreira-Lee](#); [Dianna Brass](#)
Subject: RE: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers
Date: Thursday, October 25, 2012 4:52:00 PM

Greeting Terry:

Thank you for your comments regarding the revised minimum flows and levels recommendations for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa river systems. Your input has been reviewed by District staff and will be provided to the District Governing Board for consideration.

Douglas A. Leeper
Chief Environmental Scientist
Water Resources Bureau
Southwest Florida Water Management District
2379 Broad Street
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352-796-7211, ext. 4272
352-754-6885 (Fax)
doug.leeper@watermatters.org

From: Executive
Sent: Wednesday, October 24, 2012 9:16 AM
To: Dianna Brass
Cc: Lou Kavouras; Doug Leeper; Mike Heyl; Ron Basso; Gwen Brown; Virginia Singer
Subject: FW: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Please handle accordingly or forward to the appropriate staff for handling.

Thank you.

Shellie Ferreira-Lee
Sr. Document Specialist
Southwest Florida Water Management District
shellie.ferreira@swfwmd.state.fl.us
352-796-7211, ext. 4053

From: Terry Lemke [<mailto:mail@change.org>]
Sent: Tuesday, October 23, 2012 9:06 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and

Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

preservation of the Manatees!!

Terry Lemke
Irving, Texas

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#) |

From: [Executive](#)
To: [Dianna Brass](#)
Cc: [Lou Kavouras](#); [Doug Leeper](#); [Mike Heyl](#); [Ron Basso](#); [Gwen Brown](#); [Virginia Singer](#)
Subject: FW: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers
Date: Wednesday, October 24, 2012 9:16:08 AM

Please handle accordingly or forward to the appropriate staff for handling.

Thank you.

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

Sr. Document Specialist
Southwest Florida Water Management District
shellie.ferreira@swfwmd.state.fl.us
352-796-7211, ext. 4053

From: Lis Lemoine [<mailto:mail@change.org>]
Sent: Tuesday, October 23, 2012 9:23 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Lis Lemoine
Chicago, Illinois

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#) ||

From: Doug Leeper
To: ["mail@change.org"](mailto:mail@change.org)
Cc: [Shellie Ferreira-Lee](#); [Dianna Brass](#)
Subject: RE: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers
Date: Thursday, October 25, 2012 4:55:00 PM

Dear Ms. Lemoine:

Thank you for your comments regarding the revised minimum flows and levels recommendations for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa river systems. Your input has been reviewed by District staff and will be provided to the District Governing Board for consideration.

Douglas A. Leeper
Chief Environmental Scientist
Water Resources Bureau
Southwest Florida Water Management District
2379 Broad Street
Brooksville, Florida 34604-6899
1-800-423-1476, ext. 4272 (FL only)
352-796-7211, ext. 4272
352-754-6885 (Fax)
doug.leeper@watermatters.org

From: Executive
Sent: Wednesday, October 24, 2012 9:16 AM
To: Dianna Brass
Cc: Lou Kavouras; Doug Leeper; Mike Heyl; Ron Basso; Gwen Brown; Virginia Singer
Subject: FW: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Please handle accordingly or forward to the appropriate staff for handling.

Thank you.

Shellie Ferreira-Lee
Sr. Document Specialist
Southwest Florida Water Management District
shellie.ferreira@swfwmd.state.fl.us
352-796-7211, ext. 4053

From: Lis Lemoine [<mailto:mail@change.org>]
Sent: Tuesday, October 23, 2012 9:23 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Lis Lemoine
Chicago, Illinois

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#) ||

From: [Executive](#)
To: [Dianna Brass](#)
Cc: [Lou Kavouras](#); [Doug Leeper](#); [Mike Heyl](#); [Ron Basso](#); [Gwen Brown](#); [Virginia Singer](#)
Subject: FW: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers
Date: Wednesday, October 24, 2012 9:16:58 AM

Please handle accordingly or forward to the appropriate staff for handling.

Thank you.

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

Sr. Document Specialist
Southwest Florida Water Management District
shellie.ferreira@swfwmd.state.fl.us
352-796-7211, ext. 4053

From: Dave Wilson [mailto:mail@change.org]
Sent: Tuesday, October 23, 2012 10:13 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Dave Wilson
Gainesville, Florida

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#) ||

From: Doug Leeper
To: ["mail@change.org"](mailto:mail@change.org)
Cc: [Shellie Ferreira-Lee](#); [Dianna Brass](#)
Subject: RE: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers
Date: Thursday, October 25, 2012 4:57:00 PM

Dear Mr. Wilson:

Thank you for your comments regarding the revised minimum flows and levels recommendations for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa river systems. Your input has been reviewed by District staff and will be provided to the District Governing Board for consideration.

Douglas A. Leeper
Chief Environmental Scientist
Water Resources Bureau
Southwest Florida Water Management District
2379 Broad Street
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1-800-423-1476, ext. 4272 (FL only)
352-796-7211, ext. 4272
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doug.leeper@watermatters.org

From: Executive
Sent: Wednesday, October 24, 2012 9:17 AM
To: Dianna Brass
Cc: Lou Kavouras; Doug Leeper; Mike Heyl; Ron Basso; Gwen Brown; Virginia Singer
Subject: FW: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Please handle accordingly or forward to the appropriate staff for handling.

Thank you.

Shellie Ferreira-Lee
Sr. Document Specialist
Southwest Florida Water Management District
shellie.ferreira@swfwmd.state.fl.us
352-796-7211, ext. 4053

From: Dave Wilson [<mailto:mail@change.org>]
Sent: Tuesday, October 23, 2012 10:13 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Greetings,

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The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Dave Wilson
Gainesville, Florida

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#) ||

From: [Executive](#)
To: [Dianna Brass](#)
Cc: [Lou Kavouras](#); [Doug Leeper](#); [Mike Heyl](#); [Ron Basso](#); [Gwen Brown](#); [Virginia Singer](#)
Subject: FW: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers
Date: Wednesday, October 24, 2012 9:18:46 AM

Please handle accordingly or forward to the appropriate staff for handling.

Thank you.

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

Sr. Document Specialist
Southwest Florida Water Management District
shellie.ferreira@swfwmd.state.fl.us
352-796-7211, ext. 4053

From: Charles Laughlin [<mailto:mail@change.org>]
Sent: Tuesday, October 23, 2012 10:14 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Having lived on the Homosassa River for more than 20 years and having had access to it for over 60 years, we have seen the decline of the River due to the reduction in flow to the springs at the river's headwaters. To arbitrarily and artificially reduce this flow further for ANY reason is irresponsible stewardship of our environment.

Charles Laughlin
Homosassa, Florida

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#) ||

From: Doug Leeper
To: ["mail@change.org"](mailto:mail@change.org)
Cc: [Dianna Brass](#); [Shellie Ferreira-Lee](#)
Subject: RE: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers
Date: Thursday, October 25, 2012 4:59:00 PM

Dear Mr. Laughlin:

Thank you for your comments regarding the revised minimum flows and levels recommendations for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa river systems. Your input has been reviewed by District staff and will be provided to the District Governing Board for consideration.

Douglas A. Leeper
Chief Environmental Scientist
Water Resources Bureau
Southwest Florida Water Management District
2379 Broad Street
Brooksville, Florida 34604-6899
1-800-423-1476, ext. 4272 (FL only)
352-796-7211, ext. 4272
352-754-6885 (Fax)
doug.leeper@watermatters.org

From: Executive
Sent: Wednesday, October 24, 2012 9:19 AM
To: Dianna Brass
Cc: Lou Kavouras; Doug Leeper; Mike Heyl; Ron Basso; Gwen Brown; Virginia Singer
Subject: FW: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Please handle accordingly or forward to the appropriate staff for handling.

Thank you.

Shellie Ferreira-Lee
Sr. Document Specialist
Southwest Florida Water Management District
shellie.ferreira@swfwmd.state.fl.us
352-796-7211, ext. 4053

From: Charles Laughlin [<mailto:mail@change.org>]
Sent: Tuesday, October 23, 2012 10:14 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

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Thank you.

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Charles Laughlin
Homosassa, Florida

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From: [Executive](#)
To: [Dianna Brass](#)
Cc: [Lou Kavouras](#); [Doug Leeper](#); [Mike Heyl](#); [Ron Basso](#); [Gwen Brown](#); [Virginia Singer](#)
Subject: FW: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers
Date: Wednesday, October 24, 2012 9:19:29 AM

Please handle accordingly or forward to the appropriate staff for handling.

Thank you.

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

Sr. Document Specialist
Southwest Florida Water Management District
shellie.ferreira@swfwmd.state.fl.us
352-796-7211, ext. 4053

From: Judy Leslie [<mailto:mail@change.org>]
Sent: Wednesday, October 24, 2012 4:36 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Judy Leslie
Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#) ||

From: Doug Leeper
To: ["mail@change.org"](mailto:mail@change.org)
Cc: [Dianna Brass](#); [Shellie Ferreira-Lee](#)
Subject: RE: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers
Date: Thursday, October 25, 2012 5:01:00 PM

Dear Ms. Leslie:

Thank you for your comments regarding the revised minimum flows and levels recommendations for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa river systems. Your input has been reviewed by District staff and will be provided to the District Governing Board for consideration.

Douglas A. Leeper
Chief Environmental Scientist
Water Resources Bureau
Southwest Florida Water Management District
2379 Broad Street
Brooksville, Florida 34604-6899
1-800-423-1476, ext. 4272 (FL only)
352-796-7211, ext. 4272
352-754-6885 (Fax)
doug.leeper@watermatters.org

From: Executive
Sent: Wednesday, October 24, 2012 9:19 AM
To: Dianna Brass
Cc: Lou Kavouras; Doug Leeper; Mike Heyl; Ron Basso; Gwen Brown; Virginia Singer
Subject: FW: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Please handle accordingly or forward to the appropriate staff for handling.

Thank you.

Shellie Ferreira-Lee
Sr. Document Specialist
Southwest Florida Water Management District
shellie.ferreira@swfwmd.state.fl.us
352-796-7211, ext. 4053

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Sent: Wednesday, October 24, 2012 4:36 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

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Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Judy Leslie
Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania

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From: WaterMatters.org
To: saveinandchangeuingthinhs1028@gmail.com
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Thanks for your Springs Coast MFL working group comments
Date: Wednesday, October 24, 2012 10:41:51 AM



Hi Sally,

Thank you for your comments concerning the District's Springs Coast Minimum Flows and Levels Workshop Series.

Your input will be reviewed and will support management decisions regarding the data and methods used to establish and/or reevaluate minimum flows for important river and spring systems of the Springs Coast.

Please Note: At this time the District will not be responding to submitted comments.

Your Comments:

From: cathyharrelson@gmail.com on behalf of [Cathy Harrelson](#)
To: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Re: Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Minimum Flows Update
Date: Wednesday, October 24, 2012 3:35:51 PM

Thanks Doug.

Question - If folks can't attend, can they email? I see a mailing address in there but the reality for most people is that email is the way they communicate. I'm currently showing email addresses of executive@watermatters.org for the Governing Board and info@watermatters.org for the ombudsman, in addition to your email address.

These are the addresses we'll be using, so I'm sure you can expect some comments.

Sincerely,

Cathy Harrelson

Florida Organizer

Gulf Restoration Network

cathy@healthygulf.org

727-415-8805

<http://healthygulf.org/>

On Tue, Oct 23, 2012 at 7:13 AM, Doug Leeper <Doug.Leeper@swfwmd.state.fl.us> wrote:

Greetings:

I'm writing to provide an update on the planned discussion of proposed minimum flows for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa River systems that is scheduled to occur at the October 30, 2012 meeting of the Southwest Florida Water Management District Governing Board.

A meeting agenda and information document for the meeting are now available on the District web site. The Chassahowitzka-Homosassa minimum flows discussion is identified in these documents as agenda item number 21.

The agenda is available at:

http://www.swfwmd.state.fl.us/calendar/agendas/govboard_10-30-12_agenda_2245.pdf

The meeting information document is available at:

http://www.swfwmd.state.fl.us/calendar/notebooks/govboard_10-30-12_notebook_2245.pdf

Thanks again for your continued interest in the development of minimum flows for the river systems.

Douglas A. Leeper

Chief Environmental Scientist

Water Resources Bureau

Southwest Florida Water Management District

2379 Broad Street

Brooksville, Florida 34604-6899

[1-800-423-1476, ext. 4272](tel:1-800-423-1476) (FL only)

[352-796-7211, ext. 4272](tel:352-796-7211)

[352-754-6885](tel:352-754-6885) (Fax)

doug.leeper@watermatters.org

IMPORTANT NOTICE: All E-mail sent to or from this address are public record and archived. The Southwest Florida Water Management District does not allow use of District equipment and E-mail facilities for non-District business purposes.

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From: Doug Leeper
To: ["cathyharrelson@gmail.com"](mailto:cathyharrelson@gmail.com)
Subject: RE: Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Minimum Flows Update
Date: Thursday, October 25, 2012 5:14:00 PM

Hi Kathy:

We certainly accept and read e-mails. The addresses listed in your e-mail will work, but I would suggest that using the executive address will be sufficient. You can copy me if you like, but all e-mails to "executive" pertaining to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa minimum flow recommendations will be forwarded to me and other staff.

Douglas A. Leeper
Chief Environmental Scientist
Water Resources Bureau
Southwest Florida Water Management District
2379 Broad Street
Brooksville, Florida 34604-6899
1-800-423-1476, ext. 4272 (FL only)
352-796-7211, ext. 4272
352-754-6885 (Fax)
doug.leeper@watermatters.org

From: cathyharrelson@gmail.com [mailto:cathyharrelson@gmail.com] **On Behalf Of** Cathy Harrelson
Sent: Wednesday, October 24, 2012 3:36 PM
To: Doug Leeper
Subject: Re: Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Minimum Flows Update

Thanks Doug.

Question - If folks can't attend, can they email? I see a mailing address in there but the reality for most people is that email is the way they communicate. I'm currently showing email addresses of executive@watermatters.org for the Governing Board and info@watermatters.org for the ombudsman, in addition to your email address. These are the addresses we'll be using, so I'm sure you can expect some comments.

Sincerely,

Cathy Harrelson

Florida Organizer
Gulf Restoration Network
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--

From: [Alan Martyn Johnson](#)
Cc: [Adrienne Vining](#); [Chris Zajac](#); [Christopher Pettit](#); [Dave Dewitt](#); [Karen West](#); [Mark Hammond](#); [Michael Molligan](#); [Mike Heyl](#); [Robyn O. Felix](#); [Ron Basso](#); [Sid Flannery](#); [Veronica Crow](#); [Xinjian Chen](#); [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: RE: Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Minimum Flows Rule 40D Amendments
Date: Thursday, October 25, 2012 8:38:15 AM

I trust you have (or will) read and are able to fully explain the proposed **Amendments to RULE 40D-8.041, F.A.C.** included in the Notebook for the October 30 2012 Governing Board Meeting. These Amendments were not included in the revised reports.

My concerns are with quantifying withdrawals to define natural flow and the use of the previous days natural flow in the wording.

Quote

"Natural flow is defined for the purpose of this rule as the flow that would exist in the absence of water withdrawal impacts. The Minimum Flow at any point downstream from these Gages is measured as the previous day's natural flow at that point minus 3%" .
End Quote

Similar wording for Chassahowitzka.

Everyone in SWFWMD who has been involved in drafting these rule amendments needs to be able to explain exactly what this wording means in practical terms.

We all need to hear from SWFWMD's legal personel their rationale for basing Minimum Flows on the previous day's natural flow and how pumpage will be determined.

Additionally, recognized flow downstream of these gages are in short distance increased to by Halls River and Crab Creek, thus the downstream wording appears to require explanation.

As I carefully read these amendments it is difficult to see how they are of any practical value to define when the minimum flow has been reached. The flows as reported at the specified USGS Gage Sites do not include any measure of groundwater withdrawals. Withdrawals are not measured and are not presented in the reports, other than as approximations and comments: (focusing on the Homosassa Report);

- *"..reduced spring discharge to the river system by approximately 1 percent."* Page 20
- *"..in 2005, groundwater withdrawals within five miles of the Homosassa Main Springs averaged 1.3 mgd , and averaged 8.2 mgd within ten miles of the spring complex"* Page 64 Note:1.3 mgd (2 cfs) 8.2 mgd (12 cfs)
- *"Given the relatively minor (1.1 percent) potential impact of withdrawals on spring discharge"* Page 66
- In Table 2-4 page 66 the 2005 withdrawals are 2.31 cfs Table 2-5 page 67 the withdrawals for 2030 are shown as 5.13 cfs as predicted by the Northern District Model
- *"This natural flow may be calculated based on withdrawal-impact corrected combined flows measured at...02310678...02310688, or based on modeled flows developed through application of numerical or statistical models."* Page 201/2
- Synthetic natural flow record is discussed in connection with the 5 and 10 year moving average statistics page 202, but synthetic natural flows are not used in any of the modeling e.g. calibration and validation periods. Baseline flows are used.

In the above there is lack of clarity:

- The 2005 figures for withdrawals within five/ten miles fails to mention Crystal River and Chassahowitzka Springs are six miles from Homosassa.
- The NDM covers a large area (10,000 sq mls) and it is difficult to accept, despite staffs assertion otherwise, this model can accurately predict changes of 0.05 cfs over a 25 year period for individual springs. 10 miles radius from Homosassa is 0.15% of this models area.
- Lists of permitted water withdrawals in Citrus County furnished by SWFWMD identify 42 mgd or about 65 cfs. (It did not include the wells not requiring a WUP).

For practical understanding consider some reported flows at the Homosassa gage sites (02310678 and 02310688).

The reported flow at both the gage sites was about 30% less in early June 2012 than at present. This results from the difference in the level in the aquifer Weeki Wachee Well.

In round numbers the combined flow was 100cfs early June and is now 150cfs. Both of these are 'natural flow less withdrawals'. Where are the groundwater withdrawals quantified? Are the withdrawals a constant percentage of discharge, or a constant volume per day? Could withdrawals 20 miles away have an influence?

Appears the best we have is withdrawals as presented in Table 2-4 where the NDM presents 2005 combined pumpage of 0.97 cfs for the six springs; Halls River and Hidden River are not monitored at the above gage sites. 2005 NDM data is seven years old, where are todays withdrawals reported, preferably without being based on a myriad of assumptions used in the model.

EXTRACTS FROM THE NOTEBOOK FOR THE OCTOBER 30 MEETING

EXHIBIT D

(b) The Minimum Flow for the Homosassa River System is 97% of the combined natural flow as measured at the United States Geological Survey (USGS) Homosassa Springs at Homosassa Springs, FL Gage (No. 02310678), and the USGS SE Fork Homosassa Spring at Homosassa Springs, FL Gage (No. 02310688). Natural flow is defined for the purpose of this rule as the flow that would exist in the absence of water withdrawal impacts. The Minimum Flow at **any point downstream** from these Gages are measured as the **previous day's natural flow** at that point minus 3%.

EXHIBIT B

(b) The Minimum Flow for the Chassahowitzka River System is 91% of the natural flow as measured at the United States Geological Survey (USGS) Gage Chassahowitzka River near Homosassa (Gage No. 02310650). Natural flow is defined for the purpose of this rule as the flow that would exist in the absence of water withdrawal impacts. The Minimum Flow at any **point downstream** from this Gage is measured as the **previous day's natural flow** at that point minus 9%.

Martyn

Numbers to support my point. Daily change each gage site as well as combined is shown.

Before someone points out the USGS Data for these dates still shows as provisional (June was last years Water Year and would normally have been approved by now). USGS daily data is based on a 24 hour day not a 24.84 hour tidal cycle.

Discharge cfs and Percent Change from Previous Day

June 2012

2012	SE Fork		H Springs		Combined	
1	51		54		105	
2	52	102%	53	98%	105	100%
3	56	108%	61	115%	117	111%
4	48	86%	58	95%	106	91%
5	38	79%	52	90%	90	85%
6	35	92%	46	88%	81	90%
7	42	120%	51	111%	93	115%
8	45	107%	57	112%	102	110%
9	44	98%	64	112%	108	106%
10	46	105%	64	100%	110	102%
11	47	102%	67	105%	114	104%
12	45	96%	68	101%	113	99%
13	40	89%	64	94%	104	92%
14	43	108%	67	105%	110	106%
15	42	98%	72	107%	114	104%

October 2012

2012	SE Fork		H Springs		Combined	
1	62		82		144	
2	61	98%	76	93%	137	95%
3	66	108%	83	109%	149	109%
4	73	111%	89	107%	162	109%
5	73	100%	97	109%	170	105%
6	70	96%	94	97%	164	96%
7	69	99%	93	99%	162	99%
8	68	99%	90	97%	158	98%
9	76	112%	97	108%	173	109%
10	73	96%	99	102%	172	99%
11	76	104%	101	102%	177	103%
12	74	97%	103	102%	177	100%
13	75	101%	102	99%	177	100%
14	70	93%	99	97%	169	95%
15	66	94%	90	91%	156	92%

From: Doug.Leeper@swfwmd.state.fl.us
 Date: Tue, 23 Oct 2012 07:13:15 -0400
 Subject: Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Minimum Flows Update

Greetings:

I'm writing to provide an update on the planned discussion of proposed minimum flows for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa River systems that is scheduled to occur at the October 30, 2012 meeting of the Southwest Florida Water Management District Governing Board.

A meeting agenda and information document for the meeting are now available on the District web site. The Chassahowitzka-Homosassa minimum flows discussion is identified in these documents as agenda item number 21.

The agenda is available at:

http://www.swfwmd.state.fl.us/calendar/agendas/govboard_10-30-12_agenda_2245.pdf

The meeting information document is available at:

http://www.swfwmd.state.fl.us/calendar/notebooks/govboard_10-30-12_notebook_2245.pdf

Thanks again for your continued interest in the development of minimum flows for the river systems.

Douglas A. Leeper
Chief Environmental Scientist
Water Resources Bureau
Southwest Florida Water Management District
2379 Broad Street
Brooksville, Florida 34604-6899
1-800-423-1476, ext. 4272 (FL only)
352-796-7211, ext. 4272
352-754-6885 (Fax)
doug.leeper@watermatters.org

IMPORTANT NOTICE: All E-mail sent to or from this address are public record and archived. The Southwest Florida Water Management District does not allow use of District equipment and E-mail facilities for non-District business purposes.

From: [Executive](#)
To: [Dianna Brass](#)
Cc: [Lou Kavouras](#); [Mike Heyl](#); [Doug Leeper](#); [Ron Basso](#); [Virginia Singer](#); [Gwen Brown](#)
Subject: FW: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers
Date: Thursday, October 25, 2012 9:29:58 AM

Please handle accordingly or forward to the appropriate staff for handling.

Thank you.

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

Sr. Document Specialist
Southwest Florida Water Management District
shellie.ferreira@swfwmd.state.fl.us
352-796-7211, ext. 4053

From: Julie Jo [<mailto:mail@change.org>]
Sent: Thursday, October 25, 2012 1:51 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees, and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Julie Jo
Santa Fe, New Mexico

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#) ||

From: Doug Leeper
To: ["mail@change.org"](mailto:mail@change.org)
Cc: [Dianna Brass](#); [Shellie Ferreira-Lee](#)
Subject: RE: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers
Date: Thursday, October 25, 2012 5:20:00 PM

Dear Ms. Jo:

Thank you for your comments regarding the revised minimum flows and levels recommendations for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa river systems. Your input has been reviewed by District staff and will be provided to the District Governing Board for consideration.

Douglas A. Leeper
Chief Environmental Scientist
Water Resources Bureau
Southwest Florida Water Management District
2379 Broad Street
Brooksville, Florida 34604-6899
1-800-423-1476, ext. 4272 (FL only)
352-796-7211, ext. 4272
352-754-6885 (Fax)
doug.leeper@watermatters.org

From: Executive
Sent: Thursday, October 25, 2012 9:30 AM
To: Dianna Brass
Cc: Lou Kavouras; Mike Heyl; Doug Leeper; Ron Basso; Virginia Singer; Gwen Brown
Subject: FW: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Please handle accordingly or forward to the appropriate staff for handling.

Thank you.

Shellie Ferreira-Lee
Sr. Document Specialist
Southwest Florida Water Management District
shellie.ferreira@swfwmd.state.fl.us
352-796-7211, ext. 4053

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Sent: Thursday, October 25, 2012 1:51 AM
To: Executive
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Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Julie Jo
Santa Fe, New Mexico

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#) ||

From: [Executive](#)
To: [Dianna Brass](#)
Cc: [Lou Kavouras](#); [Mike Heyl](#); [Doug Leeper](#); [Ron Basso](#); [Virginia Singer](#); [Gwen Brown](#)
Subject: FW: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers
Date: Thursday, October 25, 2012 9:30:46 AM

Please handle accordingly or forward to the appropriate staff for handling.

Thank you.

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

Sr. Document Specialist
Southwest Florida Water Management District
shellie.ferreira@swfwmd.state.fl.us
352-796-7211, ext. 4053

From: Beth Foley [<mailto:mail@change.org>]
Sent: Thursday, October 25, 2012 12:11 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Beth Foley
Chiefland, Florida

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#) ||

From: Doug Leeper
To: ["mail@change.org"](mailto:mail@change.org)
Cc: [Dianna Brass](#); [Shellie Ferreira-Lee](#)
Subject: RE: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers
Date: Thursday, October 25, 2012 5:23:00 PM

Dear Ms. Foley:

Thank you for your comments regarding the revised minimum flows and levels recommendations for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa river systems. Your input has been reviewed by District staff and will be provided to the District Governing Board for consideration.

Douglas A. Leeper
Chief Environmental Scientist
Water Resources Bureau
Southwest Florida Water Management District
2379 Broad Street
Brooksville, Florida 34604-6899
1-800-423-1476, ext. 4272 (FL only)
352-796-7211, ext. 4272
352-754-6885 (Fax)
doug.leeper@watermatters.org

From: Executive
Sent: Thursday, October 25, 2012 9:31 AM
To: Dianna Brass
Cc: Lou Kavouras; Mike Heyl; Doug Leeper; Ron Basso; Virginia Singer; Gwen Brown
Subject: FW: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Please handle accordingly or forward to the appropriate staff for handling.

Thank you.

Shellie Ferreira-Lee
Sr. Document Specialist
Southwest Florida Water Management District
shellie.ferreira@swfwmd.state.fl.us
352-796-7211, ext. 4053

From: Beth Foley [<mailto:mail@change.org>]
Sent: Thursday, October 25, 2012 12:11 AM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Beth Foley
Chiefland, Florida

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#) ||

From: [Executive](#)
To: [Dianna Brass](#)
Cc: [Lou Kavouras](#); [Mike Heyl](#); [Doug Leeper](#); [Ron Basso](#); [Virginia Singer](#); [Gwen Brown](#)
Subject: FW: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers
Date: Thursday, October 25, 2012 9:31:25 AM

Please handle accordingly or forward to the appropriate staff for handling.

Thank you.

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

Sr. Document Specialist
Southwest Florida Water Management District
shellie.ferreira@swfwmd.state.fl.us
352-796-7211, ext. 4053

From: Jaewon Lee [<mailto:mail@change.org>]
Sent: Wednesday, October 24, 2012 11:45 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Jaewon Lee
Seoul, Korea, Republic of

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#) ||

From: Doug Leeper
To: ["mail@change.org"](mailto:mail@change.org)
Cc: [Dianna Brass](#); [Shellie Ferreira-Lee](#)
Subject: RE: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers
Date: Thursday, October 25, 2012 5:25:00 PM

Dear Jaewon:

Thank you for your comments regarding the revised minimum flows and levels recommendations for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa river systems. Your input has been reviewed by District staff and will be provided to the District Governing Board for consideration.

Douglas A. Leeper
Chief Environmental Scientist
Water Resources Bureau
Southwest Florida Water Management District
2379 Broad Street
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From: Executive
Sent: Thursday, October 25, 2012 9:31 AM
To: Dianna Brass
Cc: Lou Kavouras; Mike Heyl; Doug Leeper; Ron Basso; Virginia Singer; Gwen Brown
Subject: FW: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

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Thank you.

Shellie Ferreira-Lee
Sr. Document Specialist
Southwest Florida Water Management District
shellie.ferreira@swfwmd.state.fl.us
352-796-7211, ext. 4053

From: Jaewon Lee [<mailto:mail@change.org>]
Sent: Wednesday, October 24, 2012 11:45 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

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Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees, and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Jaewon Lee
Seoul, Korea, Republic of

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#) ||

From: [Executive](#)
To: [Dianna Brass](#)
Cc: [Lou Kavouras](#); [Mike Heyl](#); [Doug Leeper](#); [Ron Basso](#); [Virginia Singer](#); [Gwen Brown](#)
Subject: FW: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers
Date: Thursday, October 25, 2012 9:32:22 AM

Please handle accordingly or forward to the appropriate staff for handling.

Thank you.

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

Sr. Document Specialist
Southwest Florida Water Management District
shellie.ferreira@swfwmd.state.fl.us
352-796-7211, ext. 4053

From: lucia fabbo [<mailto:mail@change.org>]
Sent: Wednesday, October 24, 2012 10:49 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

lucia fabbo
plainview, New York

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From: Doug Leeper
To: ["mail@change.org"](mailto:mail@change.org)
Cc: [Dianna Brass](#); [Shellie Ferreira-Lee](#)
Subject: RE: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers
Date: Thursday, October 25, 2012 5:27:00 PM

Dear Lucia:

Thank you for your comments regarding the revised minimum flows and levels recommendations for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa river systems. Your input has been reviewed by District staff and will be provided to the District Governing Board for consideration.

Douglas A. Leeper
Chief Environmental Scientist
Water Resources Bureau
Southwest Florida Water Management District
2379 Broad Street
Brooksville, Florida 34604-6899
1-800-423-1476, ext. 4272 (FL only)
352-796-7211, ext. 4272
352-754-6885 (Fax)
doug.leeper@watermatters.org

From: Executive
Sent: Thursday, October 25, 2012 9:32 AM
To: Dianna Brass
Cc: Lou Kavouras; Mike Heyl; Doug Leeper; Ron Basso; Virginia Singer; Gwen Brown
Subject: FW: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Please handle accordingly or forward to the appropriate staff for handling.

Thank you.

Shellie Ferreira-Lee
Sr. Document Specialist
Southwest Florida Water Management District
shellie.ferreira@swfwmd.state.fl.us
352-796-7211, ext. 4053

From: Lucia fabbo [<mailto:mail@change.org>]
Sent: Wednesday, October 24, 2012 10:49 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees, and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

lucia fabbo
plainview, New York

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#) ||

From: [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [Louis Kovach](#)
To: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now
Date: Thursday, October 25, 2012 1:27:02 PM

Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

Dear Leeper,

Florida's springs and rivers are our most unique natural asset, creating vibrant natural environments for recreation and wildlife, and supplying our drinking water. The Homosassa and Chassahowitzka spring-fed river systems provide a home for manatees and a recreational mecca for Floridians and visitors. These springs and rivers supply vital fresh water to the vital estuaries and coastal ecosystems of the Gulf of Mexico along the Nature Coast.

Decades of over-pumping and 20 years of drought have slowed or dried up these magnificent sources of crystal clear water and many are now murky with slime from nitrates fed by over-fertilized lawns, septic tanks, and farm and ranch operations that have no incentive to conserve.

Floridians won't stand for more water giveaways, pollution and decline. Please stop the destruction of our springs and rivers by rejecting the SWFWMD staff recommendation to allow a 15% decline in habitat generated by a 3% flow reduction of the Homosassa River System and call for NO ADDITIONAL WATER LOSS in the Homosassa. Likewise, the Governing Board should reject staff proposals and set a restoration and recovery strategy for the Chassahowitzka River System, which has been reduced to 91% of its natural flow since 1975.

It's time for a mandate to preserve and protect these critical resources for all Floridians. The water management policy must be adaptable to drought, climate change and overpumping. Many springs have ceased to flow or are no longer "connecting" with larger waterways, affecting the downstream systems. The goal of each water management district and the State of Florida should be to restore maximum flows and levels for our most important resource, and reverse conditions of decline and degradation within our freshwater environments.

Sincerely,

Mr. Louis Kovach
122 Bella Vista Ter Unit D
North Venice, FL 34275-6729
(941) 484-7683

From: Doug Leeper
To: "[Louis Kovach](#)"
Subject: RE: Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now
Date: Thursday, October 25, 2012 5:31:00 PM

Dear Mr. Kovach:

Thank you for your comments regarding the revised minimum flows and levels recommendations for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa river systems. Your input has been reviewed by District staff and will be provided to the District Governing Board for consideration.

Douglas A. Leeper
Chief Environmental Scientist
Water Resources Bureau
Southwest Florida Water Management District
2379 Broad Street
Brooksville, Florida 34604-6899
1-800-423-1476, ext. 4272 (FL only)
352-796-7211, ext. 4272
352-754-6885 (Fax)
doug.leeper@watermatters.org

-----Original Message-----

From: Gulf Restoration Network [<mailto:info@healthygulf.org>] On Behalf Of Louis Kovach
Sent: Thursday, October 25, 2012 1:26 PM
To: Doug Leeper
Subject: Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now

Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

Dear Leeper,

Florida's springs and rivers are our most unique natural asset, creating vibrant natural environments for recreation and wildlife, and supplying our drinking water. The Homosassa and Chassahowitzka spring-fed river systems provide a home for manatees and a recreational mecca for Floridians and visitors. These springs and rivers supply vital fresh water to the vital estuaries and coastal ecosystems of the Gulf of Mexico along the Nature Coast.

Decades of over-pumping and 20 years of drought have slowed or dried up these magnificent sources of crystal clear water and many are now murky with slime from nitrates fed by over-fertilized lawns, septic tanks, and farm and ranch operations that have no incentive to conserve.

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It's time for a mandate to preserve and protect these critical resources for all Floridians. The water management policy must be adaptable to drought, climate change and overpumping. Many springs have ceased to flow or are no longer "connecting" with larger waterways, affecting the downstream systems. The goal of each water management district and the State of Florida should be to restore maximum flows and levels for our most important resource, and reverse conditions of decline and

degradation within our freshwater environments.

Sincerely,

Mr. Louis Kovach
122 Bella Vista Ter Unit D
North Venice, FL 34275-6729
(941) 484-7683

From: [Executive](#)
To: [Dianna Brass](#)
Cc: [Lou Kavouras](#); [Mike Heyl](#); [Doug Leeper](#); [Ron Basso](#); [Virginia Singer](#); [Gwen Brown](#)
Subject: FW: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers
Date: Thursday, October 25, 2012 9:32:59 AM

Please handle accordingly or forward to the appropriate staff for handling.

Thank you.

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

Sr. Document Specialist
Southwest Florida Water Management District
shellie.ferreira@swfwmd.state.fl.us
352-796-7211, ext. 4053

From: lee eunjung [<mailto:mail@change.org>]
Sent: Wednesday, October 24, 2012 9:49 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees, and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

lee eunjung
Samcheok-Si, Korea, Republic of

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#) ||

From: Doug Leeper
To: ["mail@change.org"](mailto:mail@change.org)
Cc: [Dianna Brass](#); [Shellie Ferreira-Lee](#)
Subject: RE: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers
Date: Thursday, October 25, 2012 5:34:00 PM

Dear Lee:

Thank you for your comments regarding the revised minimum flows and levels recommendations for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa river systems. Your input has been reviewed by District staff and will be provided to the District Governing Board for consideration.

Douglas A. Leeper
Chief Environmental Scientist
Water Resources Bureau
Southwest Florida Water Management District
2379 Broad Street
Brooksville, Florida 34604-6899
1-800-423-1476, ext. 4272 (FL only)
352-796-7211, ext. 4272
352-754-6885 (Fax)
doug.leeper@watermatters.org

From: Executive
Sent: Thursday, October 25, 2012 9:33 AM
To: Dianna Brass
Cc: Lou Kavouras; Mike Heyl; Doug Leeper; Ron Basso; Virginia Singer; Gwen Brown
Subject: FW: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Please handle accordingly or forward to the appropriate staff for handling.

Thank you.

Shellie Ferreira-Lee
Sr. Document Specialist
Southwest Florida Water Management District
shellie.ferreira@swfwmd.state.fl.us
352-796-7211, ext. 4053

From: lee eunjung [<mailto:mail@change.org>]
Sent: Wednesday, October 24, 2012 9:49 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

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Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

lee eunjung
Samcheok-Si, Korea, Republic of

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From: [Executive](#)
To: [Dianna Brass](#)
Cc: [Lou Kavouras](#); [Mike Heyl](#); [Doug Leeper](#); [Ron Basso](#); [Virginia Singer](#); [Gwen Brown](#)
Subject: FW: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers
Date: Thursday, October 25, 2012 9:33:50 AM

Please handle accordingly or forward to the appropriate staff for handling.

Thank you.

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

Sr. Document Specialist
Southwest Florida Water Management District
shellie.ferreira@swfwmd.state.fl.us
352-796-7211, ext. 4053

From: chris zacek [mailto:mail@change.org]
Sent: Wednesday, October 24, 2012 9:11 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

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Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

chris zacek
oak lawn, Illinois

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#) ||

From: Doug Leeper
To: ["mail@change.org"](mailto:mail@change.org)
Cc: [Dianna Brass](#); [Shellie Ferreira-Lee](#)
Subject: RE: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers
Date: Thursday, October 25, 2012 5:36:00 PM

Dear Chris:

Thank you for your comments regarding the revised minimum flows and levels recommendations for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa river systems. Your input has been reviewed by District staff and will be provided to the District Governing Board for consideration.

Douglas A. Leeper
Chief Environmental Scientist
Water Resources Bureau
Southwest Florida Water Management District
2379 Broad Street
Brooksville, Florida 34604-6899
1-800-423-1476, ext. 4272 (FL only)
352-796-7211, ext. 4272
352-754-6885 (Fax)
doug.leeper@watermatters.org

From: Executive
Sent: Thursday, October 25, 2012 9:34 AM
To: Dianna Brass
Cc: Lou Kavouras; Mike Heyl; Doug Leeper; Ron Basso; Virginia Singer; Gwen Brown
Subject: FW: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Please handle accordingly or forward to the appropriate staff for handling.

Thank you.

Shellie Ferreira-Lee
Sr. Document Specialist
Southwest Florida Water Management District
shellie.ferreira@swfwmd.state.fl.us
352-796-7211, ext. 4053

From: chris zacek [<mailto:mail@change.org>]
Sent: Wednesday, October 24, 2012 9:11 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees, and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and

Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

chris zacek
oak lawn, Illinois

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#) |

From: [Executive](#)
To: [Dianna Brass](#)
Cc: [Lou Kavouras](#); [Mike Heyl](#); [Doug Leeper](#); [Ron Basso](#); [Virginia Singer](#); [Gwen Brown](#)
Subject: FW: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers
Date: Thursday, October 25, 2012 9:34:27 AM

Please handle accordingly or forward to the appropriate staff for handling.

Thank you.

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

Sr. Document Specialist
Southwest Florida Water Management District
shellie.ferreira@swfwmd.state.fl.us
352-796-7211, ext. 4053

From: gary martin [<mailto:mail@change.org>]
Sent: Wednesday, October 24, 2012 6:41 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

gary martin
norton, Massachusetts

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#) ||

From: Doug Leeper
To: ["mail@change.org"](mailto:mail@change.org)
Cc: [Dianna Brass](#); [Shellie Ferreira-Lee](#)
Subject: RE: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers
Date: Thursday, October 25, 2012 5:38:00 PM

Dear Mr. Martin:

Thank you for your comments regarding the revised minimum flows and levels recommendations for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa river systems. Your input has been reviewed by District staff and will be provided to the District Governing Board for consideration.

Douglas A. Leeper
Chief Environmental Scientist
Water Resources Bureau
Southwest Florida Water Management District
2379 Broad Street
Brooksville, Florida 34604-6899
1-800-423-1476, ext. 4272 (FL only)
352-796-7211, ext. 4272
352-754-6885 (Fax)
doug.leeper@watermatters.org

From: Executive
Sent: Thursday, October 25, 2012 9:34 AM
To: Dianna Brass
Cc: Lou Kavouras; Mike Heyl; Doug Leeper; Ron Basso; Virginia Singer; Gwen Brown
Subject: FW: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Please handle accordingly or forward to the appropriate staff for handling.

Thank you.

Shellie Ferreira-Lee
Sr. Document Specialist
Southwest Florida Water Management District
shellie.ferreira@swfwmd.state.fl.us
352-796-7211, ext. 4053

From: gary martin [<mailto:mail@change.org>]
Sent: Wednesday, October 24, 2012 6:41 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

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Thank you.

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norton, Massachusetts

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From: [Executive](#)
To: [Dianna Brass](#)
Cc: [Lou Kavouras](#); [Mike Heyl](#); [Doug Leeper](#); [Ron Basso](#); [Virginia Singer](#); [Gwen Brown](#)
Subject: FW: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers
Date: Thursday, October 25, 2012 9:35:02 AM

Please handle accordingly or forward to the appropriate staff for handling.

Thank you.

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

Sr. Document Specialist
Southwest Florida Water Management District
shellie.ferreira@swfwmd.state.fl.us
352-796-7211, ext. 4053

From: RD Martin [<mailto:mail@change.org>]
Sent: Wednesday, October 24, 2012 6:11 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

It is wrong to allow further degradation of Outstanding Florida Waters, and foolhardy to sacrifice resources on which life and economic well-being depend.

RD Martin
Inverness, Florida

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#) ||

From: Doug Leeper
To: ["mail@change.org"](mailto:mail@change.org)
Cc: [Dianna Brass](#); [Shellie Ferreira-Lee](#)
Subject: RE: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers
Date: Thursday, October 25, 2012 5:40:00 PM

Dear RD Martin:

Thank you for your comments regarding the revised minimum flows and levels recommendations for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa river systems. Your input has been reviewed by District staff and will be provided to the District Governing Board for consideration.

Douglas A. Leeper
Chief Environmental Scientist
Water Resources Bureau
Southwest Florida Water Management District
2379 Broad Street
Brooksville, Florida 34604-6899
1-800-423-1476, ext. 4272 (FL only)
352-796-7211, ext. 4272
352-754-6885 (Fax)
doug.leeper@watermatters.org

From: Executive
Sent: Thursday, October 25, 2012 9:35 AM
To: Dianna Brass
Cc: Lou Kavouras; Mike Heyl; Doug Leeper; Ron Basso; Virginia Singer; Gwen Brown
Subject: FW: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Please handle accordingly or forward to the appropriate staff for handling.

Thank you.

Shellie Ferreira-Lee
Sr. Document Specialist
Southwest Florida Water Management District
shellie.ferreira@swfwmd.state.fl.us
352-796-7211, ext. 4053

From: RD Martin [<mailto:mail@change.org>]
Sent: Wednesday, October 24, 2012 6:11 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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RD Martin
Inverness, Florida

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From: [Executive](#)
To: [Dianna Brass](#)
Cc: [Lou Kavouras](#); [Mike Heyl](#); [Doug Leeper](#); [Ron Basso](#); [Virginia Singer](#); [Gwen Brown](#)
Subject: FW: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers
Date: Thursday, October 25, 2012 9:35:42 AM

Please handle accordingly or forward to the appropriate staff for handling.

Thank you.

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

Sr. Document Specialist
Southwest Florida Water Management District
shellie.ferreira@swfwmd.state.fl.us
352-796-7211, ext. 4053

From: Senninha Seynaeve [<mailto:mail@change.org>]
Sent: Wednesday, October 24, 2012 5:56 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Senninha Seynaeve
Oostende, Wyoming

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#) ||

From: Doug Leeper
To: ["mail@change.org"](mailto:mail@change.org)
Cc: [Dianna Brass](#); [Shellie Ferreira-Lee](#)
Subject: RE: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers
Date: Thursday, October 25, 2012 5:42:00 PM

Dear Senninha:

Thank you for your comments regarding the revised minimum flows and levels recommendations for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa river systems. Your input has been reviewed by District staff and will be provided to the District Governing Board for consideration.

Douglas A. Leeper
Chief Environmental Scientist
Water Resources Bureau
Southwest Florida Water Management District
2379 Broad Street
Brooksville, Florida 34604-6899
1-800-423-1476, ext. 4272 (FL only)
352-796-7211, ext. 4272
352-754-6885 (Fax)
doug.leeper@watermatters.org

From: Executive
Sent: Thursday, October 25, 2012 9:36 AM
To: Dianna Brass
Cc: Lou Kavouras; Mike Heyl; Doug Leeper; Ron Basso; Virginia Singer; Gwen Brown
Subject: FW: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

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Thank you.

Shellie Ferreira-Lee
Sr. Document Specialist
Southwest Florida Water Management District
shellie.ferreira@swfwmd.state.fl.us
352-796-7211, ext. 4053

From: Senninha Seynaeve [<mailto:mail@change.org>]
Sent: Wednesday, October 24, 2012 5:56 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

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Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Senninha Seynaeve
Oostende, Wyoming

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#) |

From: [Executive](#)
To: [Dianna Brass](#)
Cc: [Lou Kavouras](#); [Mike Heyl](#); [Doug Leeper](#); [Ron Basso](#); [Virginia Singer](#); [Gwen Brown](#)
Subject: FW: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers
Date: Thursday, October 25, 2012 9:36:21 AM

Please handle accordingly or forward to the appropriate staff for handling.

Thank you.

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

Sr. Document Specialist
Southwest Florida Water Management District
shellie.ferreira@swfwmd.state.fl.us
352-796-7211, ext. 4053

From: Thomas and Donna Dorwarth [<mailto:mail@change.org>]
Sent: Wednesday, October 24, 2012 5:40 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees, and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

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Thank you.

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Thomas and Donna Dorwarth
Crystal River, Florida

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From: Doug Leeper
To: ["mail@change.org"](mailto:mail@change.org)
Bcc: [Shellie Ferreira-Lee](#); [Dianna Brass](#)
Subject: RE: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers
Date: Thursday, October 25, 2012 5:45:00 PM

Dear Thomas & Donna:

Thank you for your comments regarding the revised minimum flows and levels recommendations for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa river systems. Your input has been reviewed by District staff and will be provided to the District Governing Board for consideration.

Douglas A. Leeper
Chief Environmental Scientist
Water Resources Bureau
Southwest Florida Water Management District
2379 Broad Street
Brooksville, Florida 34604-6899
1-800-423-1476, ext. 4272 (FL only)
352-796-7211, ext. 4272
352-754-6885 (Fax)
doug.leeper@watermatters.org

From: Executive
Sent: Thursday, October 25, 2012 9:36 AM
To: Dianna Brass
Cc: Lou Kavouras; Mike Heyl; Doug Leeper; Ron Basso; Virginia Singer; Gwen Brown
Subject: FW: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Please handle accordingly or forward to the appropriate staff for handling.

Thank you.

Shellie Ferreira-Lee
Sr. Document Specialist
Southwest Florida Water Management District
shellie.ferreira@swfwmd.state.fl.us
352-796-7211, ext. 4053

From: Thomas and Donna Dorwarth [<mailto:mail@change.org>]
Sent: Wednesday, October 24, 2012 5:40 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

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Chassahowitzka Rivers.

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Thank you.

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Thomas and Donna Dorwarth
Crystal River, Florida

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From: [Executive](#)
To: [Dianna Brass](#)
Cc: [Lou Kavouras](#); [Mike Heyl](#); [Doug Leeper](#); [Ron Basso](#); [Virginia Singer](#); [Gwen Brown](#)
Subject: FW: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers
Date: Thursday, October 25, 2012 9:36:52 AM

Please handle accordingly or forward to the appropriate staff for handling.

Thank you.

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

Sr. Document Specialist
Southwest Florida Water Management District
shellie.ferreira@swfwmd.state.fl.us
352-796-7211, ext. 4053

From: Niki Jones [<mailto:mail@change.org>]
Sent: Wednesday, October 24, 2012 5:40 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Greetings,

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Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Niki Jones
Satellite Beach, Florida

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From: Doug Leeper
To: ["mail@change.org"](mailto:mail@change.org)
Bcc: [Dianna Brass](#); [Shellie Ferreira-Lee](#)
Subject: RE: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers
Date: Thursday, October 25, 2012 5:47:00 PM

Dear Ms. Jones:

Thank you for your comments regarding the revised minimum flows and levels recommendations for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa river systems. Your input has been reviewed by District staff and will be provided to the District Governing Board for consideration.

Douglas A. Leeper
Chief Environmental Scientist
Water Resources Bureau
Southwest Florida Water Management District
2379 Broad Street
Brooksville, Florida 34604-6899
1-800-423-1476, ext. 4272 (FL only)
352-796-7211, ext. 4272
352-754-6885 (Fax)
doug.leeper@watermatters.org

From: Executive
Sent: Thursday, October 25, 2012 9:37 AM
To: Dianna Brass
Cc: Lou Kavouras; Mike Heyl; Doug Leeper; Ron Basso; Virginia Singer; Gwen Brown
Subject: FW: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Please handle accordingly or forward to the appropriate staff for handling.

Thank you.

Shellie Ferreira-Lee
Sr. Document Specialist
Southwest Florida Water Management District
shellie.ferreira@swfwmd.state.fl.us
352-796-7211, ext. 4053

From: Niki Jones [<mailto:mail@change.org>]
Sent: Wednesday, October 24, 2012 5:40 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

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From: [Executive](#)
To: [Dianna Brass](#)
Cc: [Lou Kavouras](#); [Mike Heyl](#); [Doug Leeper](#); [Ron Basso](#); [Virginia Singer](#); [Gwen Brown](#)
Subject: FW: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers
Date: Thursday, October 25, 2012 9:39:23 AM

Please handle accordingly or forward to the appropriate staff for handling.

Thank you.

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

Sr. Document Specialist
Southwest Florida Water Management District
shellie.ferreira@swfwmd.state.fl.us
352-796-7211, ext. 4053

From: Becky Ayech [<mailto:mail@change.org>]
Sent: Wednesday, October 24, 2012 3:05 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

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Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Becky Ayech
Sarasota, Florida

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From: [Executive](#)
To: [Dianna Brass](#)
Cc: [Lou Kavouras](#); [Mike Heyl](#); [Doug Leeper](#); [Ron Basso](#); [Virginia Singer](#); [Gwen Brown](#)
Subject: FW: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers
Date: Thursday, October 25, 2012 9:39:23 AM

Please handle accordingly or forward to the appropriate staff for handling.

Thank you.

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

Sr. Document Specialist
Southwest Florida Water Management District
shellie.ferreira@swfwmd.state.fl.us
352-796-7211, ext. 4053

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Sent: Wednesday, October 24, 2012 3:05 PM
To: Executive
Subject: No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

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Thank you.

Becky Ayech
Sarasota, Florida

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From: [Executive](#)
To: [Dianna Brass](#)
Cc: [Lou Kavouras](#); [Mike Heyl](#); [Doug Leeper](#); [Ron Basso](#); [Virginia Singer](#); [Gwen Brown](#)
Subject: FW: Homosassa Minimum Flows and Levels
Date: Thursday, October 25, 2012 9:40:16 AM
Attachments: [10-23-2012 Letter to SWFWMD Board.doc](#)

Please handle accordingly or forward to the appropriate staff for handling.

Thank you.

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

Sr. Document Specialist
Southwest Florida Water Management District
shellie.ferreira@swfwmd.state.fl.us
352-796-7211, ext. 4053

From: Ron Miller [mailto:rmille76@tampabay.rr.com]
Sent: Wednesday, October 24, 2012 11:58 AM
To: Executive
Subject: Homosassa Minimum Flows and Levels

October 24, 2012

Governing Board
Southwest Florida Water Management District
2379 Broad Street
Brooksville, FL 34604-6899

Subject: Staff Recommended Springs Coast MFL Rules

“..... The Water Management District is setting the stage for groundwater withdrawals that will permanently lower the river’s flow to the MFL level.....”
Sonny Vergara, Executive Director, SWFWMD 1997-2003.

Dear Governing Board Members,

The SWFWMD Minimum Flow Levels (MFL) program has set reduced river flow levels to be used in the water permitting process. This effectively sets

consumptive objectives: 9% for the Chassahowitzka River, 3% for the Homosassa River. Planners and engineers have already defined where the well fields will be for “regional distribution” of the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka water. Just this summer a permit was issued for pumping and shipping nearly a hundred thousand gallons a day from Crystal River to Ocala.

Initially the flow reduction targets of the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers were set at 5 and 11 percent respectively. After two years of re-evaluation these numbers were reduced by 2 percent. That is an important recognition of the sensitivity of these estuaries but it does not go far enough. SWFWMD has not recognized the stressed state of these coastal rivers and the profound changes that are taking place right now with our current level of water withdrawals. They have not recognized that these have both been designated as Outstanding Florida Waterways to provide legal protection against degradation.

An estuary is a transition area where fresh and salt waters are constantly shifting and mixing due to a tidal influence. A very sensitive, low salinity zone that is fundamental to the aquatic web of life exists near the springs. Reducing spring flow destroys this zone and the many fish, crabs and other critters that depend on it. The Homosassa and Chassahowitzka are a highly productive estuaries... and are highly sensitive to reduced spring flow.

A disturbing University of Florida study showed a steady decline in fish in the Homosassa from 2007 to 2010. In fact UF eventually stopped counting fish in the area near Otter Creek because of the total lack of fish and vegetation. We started calling this a “dead zone” and invited Gov. Scott to come see it. He put us in touch with the DEP folks responsible for our State Coastal Waterways. A team of DEP and SWFWMD scientists came to investigate. What they found was not just a dead zone, but a dead river!

SWFWMD Spokesperson Robyn Felix said:

“We have looked at the plant life in the Homosassa River and it is correct that they are dying, but we don’t know why.”

Aquatic vegetation has rapidly disappeared and is dead in most of the river. There is no good explanation of this except it appears to be related to a change in salinity at the springs. The proposed MFL flow reductions will further diminish the spring flows and greatly aggravate this situation.

You often hear of environmental tipping points where the delicate balance of nature and man falls out of line and something (usually nature) crashes. The Homosassa is at a tipping point.

There are choices to be made. Clearly you can choose to protect these unique, fragile, already impacted, coastal springs and rivers. Or you can choose to authorize their destruction.

The highly stressed condition of the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers must be recognized and the MFL flow reductions set to zero.

Sincerely,

Ron Miller
Vice President, Homosassa River Alliance
352-628-6066
Rmille76@tampabay.rr.com

October 24, 2012

Governing Board
Southwest Florida Water Management District
2379 Broad Street
Brooksville, FL 34604-6899

Subject: Staff Recommended Springs Coast MFL Rules

“..... The Water Management District is setting the stage for groundwater withdrawals that will permanently lower the river’s flow to the MFL level.....”
Sonny Vergara, Executive Director, SWFWMD 1997-2003.

Dear Governing Board Members,

The SWFWMD Minimum Flow Levels (MFL) program has set reduced river flow levels to be used in the water permitting process. This effectively sets consumptive objectives: 9% for the Chassahowitzka River, 3% for the Homosassa River. Planners and engineers have already defined where the well fields will be for “regional distribution” of the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka water. Just this summer a permit was issued for pumping and shipping nearly a hundred thousand gallons a day from Crystal River to Ocala.

Initially the flow reduction targets of the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers were set at 5 and 11 percent respectively. After two years of re-evaluation these numbers were reduced by 2 percent. That is an important recognition of the sensitivity of these estuaries but it does not go far enough. SWFWMD has not recognized the stressed state of these coastal rivers and the profound changes that are taking place right now with our current level of water withdrawals. They have not recognized that these have both been designated as Outstanding Florida Waterways to provide legal protection against degradation.

An estuary is a transition area where fresh and salt waters are constantly shifting and mixing due to a tidal influence. A very sensitive, low salinity zone that is fundamental to the aquatic web of life exists near the springs. Reducing spring flow destroys this zone and the many fish, crabs and other critters that depend on

it. The Homosassa and Chassahowitzka are highly productive estuaries... and are highly sensitive to reduced spring flow.

A disturbing University of Florida study showed a steady decline in fish in the Homosassa from 2007 to 2010. In fact UF eventually stopped counting fish in the area near Otter Creek because of the total lack of fish and vegetation. We started calling this a “dead zone” and invited Gov. Scott to come see it. He put us in touch with the DEP folks responsible for our State Coastal Waterways. A team of DEP and SWFWMD scientists came to investigate. What they found was not just a dead zone, but a dead river!

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Ron Miller
Vice President, Homosassa River Alliance
352-628-6066
Rmille76@tampabay.rr.com

From: [Executive](#)
To: [Dianna Brass](#)
Cc: [Lou Kavouras](#); [Mike Heyl](#); [Doug Leeper](#); [Ron Basso](#); [Virginia Singer](#); [Gwen Brown](#)
Subject: FW: Homosassa Minimum Flows and Levels
Date: Thursday, October 25, 2012 9:40:16 AM
Attachments: [10-23-2012 Letter to SWFWMD Board.doc](#)

Please handle accordingly or forward to the appropriate staff for handling.

Thank you.

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

Sr. Document Specialist
Southwest Florida Water Management District
shellie.ferreira@swfwmd.state.fl.us
352-796-7211, ext. 4053

From: Ron Miller [mailto:rmille76@tampabay.rr.com]
Sent: Wednesday, October 24, 2012 11:58 AM
To: Executive
Subject: Homosassa Minimum Flows and Levels

October 24, 2012

Governing Board
Southwest Florida Water Management District
2379 Broad Street
Brooksville, FL 34604-6899

Subject: Staff Recommended Springs Coast MFL Rules

“..... The Water Management District is setting the stage for groundwater withdrawals that will permanently lower the river’s flow to the MFL level.....”
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Sincerely,

Ron Miller
Vice President, Homosassa River Alliance
352-628-6066
Rmille76@tampabay.rr.com

From: [Luanne Stout](#)
To: [Alba Mas](#); [Blake Guillory](#); [David Rathke](#); [Kurt Fritsch](#); [Laura Donaldson](#); [Mark Hammond](#); [Mike Holtkamp](#); [Robert Beltran](#)
Cc: [Gwen Brown](#); [Doug Leeper](#); [Virginia Singer](#)
Subject: FW: Log Entry # 1.11.147613 10-25-2012 Larry A. Barnes
Date: Thursday, October 25, 2012 11:13:07 AM
Attachments: [10-22-2012 Larry A. Barnes.pdf](#)

FYI...

LuAnne Stout
Administrative Coordinator, x4605
Board & Executive Services Bureau

-----Original Message-----

From: CollabAdmin [<mailto:collabadmin@swfwmd.state.fl.us>]
Sent: Thursday, October 25, 2012 11:11 AM
To: Luanne Stout; Kenneth R. Herd
Subject: Log Entry # 1.11.147613 10-25-2012 Larry A. Barnes

Please click on the following link to open the document(s) (from a computer connected to District Network only)

<http://ecmvmprod01.ad.swfwmd.net/gm/folder-1.11.147613>

Subject: Larry A. Barnes sent a letter re: Gov Bd Mtg 10-30-2012 on MFLs for Homosassa River supporting revitalization not further degradation

Following is the tracking information for the above information:

Log#: 1.11.147613
Assigned To: Kenneth Herd
Assigned By: Carolyn Stout
Date Assigned: 10-25-2012
Date Completed: 10-25-2012
Date Required:

Source: Larry A. Barnes, resident of Homosassa, FL
Instructions: For your information and appropriate disposition.
Action Taken: Copied to Exec Leadership Team

Information Routed To: lou.kavouras@swfwmd.state.fl.us



Southwest Florida Water Management District
2379 Broad St
Brooksville, Florida 34604-6899

Oct 22, 2012

Re: Governing Board Meeting, Resource Management Committee, Oct 30, 2012, Minimum Flows and Levels, Homosassa River

Request this statement be included into the record for this meeting.

My name is Larry A. Barnes and I live at 5601 S. Island Dr., Homosassa, FL 34448. Our home is on the Homosassa River. We have lived here since August 1993. Since that time we have witnessed a significant change in the river. We used to be able to catch largemouth bass and other freshwater fish right in back of our home; that ended several years later. Since then no freshwater fish are caught in our location on the river. I am not a biologist but I must conclude that the environmental conditions must have changed. I also operated tour boats for a local company on the Homosassa River and Mason Creek area for several years. I witnessed a change in the areas that alligators frequent.. I am told that they do not tolerate areas where there is a high saline content. This must be the reason that they have moved further upstream in the river. I have also seen trees die further and further upstream. The locals say this is caused by salt water intrusion.

The river badly needs to be revitalized at this time unless your goal is to merely use it as a fresh water source and move the water to some other location. Decreasing the flow by small incremental amounts just means you will kill the ecosystem over a longer period of time and that is UNACCEPTABLE to me.

Do the RIGHT THING NOW and think in terms of revitalization not further degradation.

Sincerely,

Larry A. Barnes
5601 S. Island Dr
Homosassa, FL 34448

L. Barnes
Box 275
Homo Sassa, FL
34487

CERTIFIED MAIL™



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Southwest Florida Water Mgt District
2379 Board St.
Brooksville, FL

34604-6899

3460436899



From: Boyd_Blihovde@fws.gov
To: [Mike Heyl](#)
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Re: Chassahowitzka MFL comments
Date: Monday, October 22, 2012 4:16:06 PM

Mike,

Thanks for the reply. I understand.

This may seem like a strange request, but in order for me to keep a clear record of the "email thread" I like to save messages in pdfs "as one message". Would it be possible to send your reply with the message I sent as a history? If not, don't worry about it, I can piece it together!

I will hopefully see you and Doug on the 30th, but look forward to discussing the problem of monitoring the river in the future.

Thanks,

Boyd Blihovde
Deputy Project Leader
Crystal River National Wildlife Refuge Complex
1502 SE Kings Bay Drive
Crystal River, FL 34429
(P) 352-563-2088
(F) 352-795-7961
▼ Mike Heyl <Mike.Heyl@swfwmd.state.fl.us>

Mike Heyl
<Mike.Heyl@swfwmd.state.fl.us>

10/22/2012 06:57 AM

To: "Boyd_Blihovde@fws.gov"
<Boyd_Blihovde@fws.gov>
cc: Doug Leeper
<Doug.Leeper@swfwmd.state.fl.us>
Subject: Chassahowitzka MFL comments

Boyd – I saw your MFL comments come through. We will definitely be in touch with regard to monitoring, but I did want to address the water level issue. Since the Chassahowitzka is below sea level for the entire extent, the change in elevation will be negligible as inflow from the Gulf will fill any voids.

We did run the hydrodynamic model to check the change in elevation with the original proposed 11% MFL. The average decrease in water level at the boat ramp will be 0.01 feet.

MGH

=====
Michael G. Heyl - Chief Environmental Scientist
Mike.Heyl@SWFWMD.state.fl.us or Mike.Heyl@WaterMatters.org
=====

Natural Systems and Restoration Bureau / SWFWMD (7:00 am - 3:30 pm)
7601 U.S. Highway 301 1-813-985-7481 Ext 2211
Tampa, Fl. 33637-6759 1-813-987-6747 (Fax)

----- Note : District Limit for Incoming Email is 5 Megabytes -----

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From: [Mike Heyl](mailto:Mike_Heyl)
To: [Boyd Blihovde@fws.gov](mailto:Boyd_Blihovde@fws.gov)
Cc: [Doug Leeper](mailto:Doug_Leeper)
Subject: RE: Chassahowitzka MFL comments
Date: Tuesday, October 23, 2012 6:30:32 AM
Attachments: [Chassahowitzka MFL comments_MGH_reponse.pdf](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)

Boyd – Here you go. See attached pdf

MGH

=====

Michael G. Heyl - Chief Environmental Scientist
Mike.Heyl@SWFWMD.state.fl.us or Mike.Heyl@WaterMatters.org

=====

Natural Systems and Restoration Bureau / SWFWMD (7:00 am - 3:30 pm)
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From: Boyd_Blihovde@fws.gov [mailto:Boyd_Blihovde@fws.gov]
Sent: Monday, October 22, 2012 4:06 PM
To: Mike Heyl
Cc: Doug Leeper
Subject: Re: Chassahowitzka MFL comments

Mike,

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boyd blihovde
Deputy Project Leader
Crystal River National Wildlife Refuge Complex
1502 SE Kings Bay Drive
Crystal River, FL 34429
(P) 352-563-2088
(F) 352-795-7961

▼ Mike Heyl <Mike.Heyl@swfwmd.state.fl.us>

Mike Heyl
<Mike.Heyl@swfwmd.state.fl.us>

10/22/2012 06:57 AM

To "Boyd_Blihovde@fws.gov"
<Boyd_Blihovde@fws.gov>
cc Doug Leeper
<Doug.Leeper@swfwmd.state.fl.us>
Subject Chassahowitzka MFL comments

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MGH

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Michael G. Heyl - Chief Environmental Scientist

Mike.Heyl@SWFWMD.state.fl.us or Mike.Heyl@WaterMatters.org

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7601 U.S. Highway 301 1-813-985-7481 Ext 2211

Tampa, Fl. 33637-6759 1-813-987-6747 (Fax)

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From: Mike Heyl
To: ["Boyd_Blihovde@fws.gov"](mailto:Boyd_Blihovde@fws.gov)
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Chassahowitzka MFL comments
Date: Monday, October 22, 2012 6:55:00 AM

Boyd – I saw your MFL comments come through. We will definitely be in touch with regard to monitoring, but I did want to address the water level issue. Since the Chassahowitzka is below sea level for the entire extent, the change in elevation will be negligible as inflow from the Gulf will fill any voids.

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Mike.Heyl@SWFWMD.state.fl.us or Mike.Heyl@WaterMatters.org
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for records retention purposes in accordance with Florida's Public Records laws
and is available for inspection by the public upon request.

From: [Executive](#)
To: [Gwen Brown](#)
Cc: [Jet Houser](#); [Lou Kavouras](#); [Ron Basso](#); [Mike Heyl](#); [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: FW: MFL for Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers
Date: Thursday, October 18, 2012 10:45:05 AM

Please handle accordingly or forward to the appropriate staff for handling.

Thank you.

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

Sr. Document Specialist
Southwest Florida Water Management District
shellie.ferreira@swfwmd.state.fl.us
352-796-7211, ext. 4053

From: Boyd_Blihovde@fws.gov [mailto:Boyd_Blihovde@fws.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, October 17, 2012 11:07 PM
To: Executive
Subject: MFL for Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

The Chassahowitzka National Wildlife Refuge is primarily bordered to the North by the Homosassa River, and contains the mouth of the Chassahowitzka River within its boundary. The freshwater inflow from both these rivers is extremely important to the wildlife that the Refuge was established to protect for the American public. We are pleased to see that the SWFWMD has increased the recommended MFL for both the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers to 91% and 97% respectively. However, we are certainly concerned that if levels on the Chassahowitzka River were actually reduced by 9% (from present conditions) there could be potentially detrimental conditions for many species of wildlife. Refuge staff have witnessed extremely low water levels during low tides on the Chassahowitzka River. These extremely low water situations have resulted in virtually impassable or unnavigable water depths. This is a concern for boaters and for the endangered manatee. Of course, these extremes are not experienced very often, but it is a condition that can be assumed would increase in frequency and intensity if a 9% reduction in flow were to occur.

Former land use practices in the area around the Chassahowitzka River cannot be reversed, but the Chassahowitzka NWR is concerned with future land use practices that may have an impact on the resources we manage for all US citizens. The US Fish and Wildlife Service takes pride in the partnership we have cooperatively developed with the water management districts in Florida. The Chassahowitzka NWR staff are located within close proximity to the river systems discussed in this MFL proposal and we conduct numerous surveys for manatees, birds, whooping cranes, and we cooperate with various agencies and universities to answer more advanced biological questions.

Although Refuge management would feel more comfortable with higher flows allowed for the Chassahowitzka River, we are open to helping establish a monitoring plan that would include a partnership between our agencies. This partnership would hopefully prevent irreparable damage to the habitat in and around the Chassahowitzka River if water flow was

to further decrease. USFWS staff currently make numerous qualitative observations on habitat conditions, and that work will certainly continue. However, through this partnership, the USFWS and SWFWMD should prepare to monitor the effects of freshwater reduction on the estuary within the Refuge and surrounding areas. It is imperative to us that we protect the natural resources that have been entrusted to us by the US citizen and monitoring any proposed management activity (on or near the Refuge boundary) is a very important part of that. We hope that whatever MFL becomes implemented will also include requirements for monitoring the effects of future permitted freshwater withdrawals. We look forward to future cooperative endeavors with the SWFWMD that will help protect Florida's natural resources.

Thanks,

boyd blihovde
Deputy Project Leader
Crystal River National Wildlife Refuge Complex
1502 SE Kings Bay Drive
Crystal River, FL 34429
(P) 352-563-2088
(F) 352-795-7961

From: Doug Leeper
To: [Doug Leeper](#)
Cc: [Adrienne Vining](#); [Chris Zajac](#); [Christopher Pettit](#); [Dave Dewitt](#); [Eric DeHaven](#); [Gary E. Williams](#); [Jay Yingling](#); [Jerry Mallams](#); [Karen West](#); [Kenneth R. Herd](#); [Laura Donaldson](#); [Lou Kavouras](#); [Mark Barcelo](#); [Mark Hammond](#); [Michael Molligan](#); [Mike Heyl](#); [Robyn O. Felix](#); [Ron Basso](#); [Sid Flannery](#); [Tammy Hinkle](#); [Veronica Crow](#); [Virginia Singer](#); [Xinjian Chen](#); [Yassert Gonzalez](#)
Bcc: [\(janicehowie@aol.com\)](#); ["Abdon Sidibie"](#); [Alex McPherson \(aamcpherson@msn.com\)](#); [Ann - 2 Hodgson \(ahodgson@gmail.com\)](#); [Ann Hodgson \(ahodgsonphd@gmail.com\)](#); [Bernard Berauer \(bfberauer@aol.com\)](#); [Beverly Overa \(boverly@tampabay.rr.com\)](#); [Bill Garvin \(wgarvin@tampabay.rr.com\)](#); [Bob Caldwell \(Bobcaldwell51@yahoo.com\)](#); [Brack Barker \(brack154@msn.com\)](#); [Brad Rimbey \(BWR.CRRC@tampabay.rr.com\)](#); [Carl Matthai \(thebabesmimi@gmail.com\)](#); [Casey Emily \(fcnwr@atlantic.net\)](#); [Charles Dean \(dean.charles.web@flsenate.gov\)](#); [Charles Stonerock \(katcha.stonerock3@gmail.com\)](#); [Chris Safos \(chrissafos@embarqmail.com\)](#); [Czerwinski, Mike \(mcerwin@tampabay.rr.com\)](#); [Darlene Herth \(2cetechology21@gmail.com\)](#); [Darrell Snedecor \(president@citruscountyaudubon.com\)](#); [Don Hiers \(dhiers3@gmail.com\)](#); [Douglas Dame \(doug_dame@yahoo.com\)](#); [Elaine Luther \(barneyandcap@hotmail.com\)](#); [Emily Casey \(ecasey21@hotmail.com\)](#); [Emma Knight \(eknight@wetlandsolutionsinc.com\)](#); [George Harbin \(gharbin@tampabay.rr.com\)](#); [George McClog \(classof47@gmail.com\)](#); [Gorgon O'Connor \(gorgon_o@yahoo.com\)](#); [Harry Steiner \(harry109@aol.com\)](#); ["Helen Spivey"](#); [Jack Calbeck \(calbeckj@citrus.k12.fl.us\)](#); [jane Perrin \(jcsperinmd@sbcglobal.net\)](#); [Jerry Morton \(JerrMorton@aol.com\)](#); [Jessie Gourlie \(gourliej@thirdplanetwind.com\)](#); [Jim Collins \(jimmieky22@yahoo.com\)](#); [Jimmie Smith \(jimmie.smith@myfloridahouse.gov\)](#); [Joe Calamari](#); [John Lord \(jclord109@yahoo.com\)](#); [John Mayo \(freedomway1@gmail.com\)](#); [Karen Johnstone \(kjohns213@sbcglobal.net\)](#); [Kim Caldwell \(caldwell.kimberly@yahoo.com\)](#); [Kim Dinkins \(kim.dinkins@marioncountyfl.org\)](#); [Linda Pierce \(tpierce35@tampabay.rr.com\)](#); [Linda Vanderveen \(hernandoaudubon@yahoo.com\)](#); [Mary Anne Lynn \(mlynn1978@tampabay.rr.com\)](#); [Matthew Corona \(mcorona1@tampabay.rr.com\)](#); [Max Rhinesmith \(rhinesmith@webtv.net\)](#); ["Amber Breland"](#); [Andy Houston \(ahouston@crystalriverfl.org\)](#); [Art Yerian \(A.Yerian@dep.state.fl.us\)](#); ["Ben Weiss"](#); ["Beth Hovinde"](#); [Brad Thorpe \(brad.thorpe@bocc.citrus.fl.us\)](#); [Courtney Edwards \(cedwards@savethemanatee.org\)](#); [Dale Jones \(Jones@MyFWC.com\)](#); [Dana Bryan \(dana.bryan@dep.state.fl.us\)](#); ["Darrell Snedecor"](#); [David Hamilton \(countyadministrator@hernandocounty.us\)](#); [David Hankla \(david_hankla@fws.gov\)](#); [Don Wright \(wright@sura.org\)](#); [Dusty McDevitt \(mcdevitt@usgs.gov\)](#); [Ed Call \(marvin.call@MyFWC.com\)](#); [Eric Nagid \(eric.nagid@MyFWC.com\)](#); [FFWCC MFLs Review E-Mail Address \(fwccconservationplanningservices@myfwc.com\)](#); [J. J. Kenney \(jj.kenney@bocc.citrus.fl.us\)](#); [Jennene Norman-Vacha \(jnvacha@ci.brooksville.fl.us\)](#); [Joyce Kleen@fws.gov](#); [Kandi Harper \(kandi.harper@bocc.citrus.fl.us\)](#); [Keith Ramos \(Keith.Ramos@fws.gov\)](#); [Kent Smith \(kent.smith2@myfwc.com\)](#); [Kevin Grimsley \(kgrims@usgs.gov\)](#); [Michael Lusk \(Michael_Lusk@fws.gov\)](#); [Mitchell Newberger \(mnewberger@verizon.net\)](#); [Nick Robbins \(Nick.Robbins@dep.state.fl.us\)](#); [Nicole Adimey \(Nicole_Adimey@fws.gov\)](#); [Paul Thomas \(paulw.thomas@MyFWC.com\)](#); [Ron Mezich \(ron.mezich@MyFWC.com\)](#); [Shelly Yaun \(shelly.yaun@dep.state.fl.us\)](#); [Toby Brewer \(Toby.Brewer@dep.state.fl.us\)](#); ["Tracy Colson"](#); ["Adkins, Jim"](#); ["Bitter, Jim"](#); ["Bryant, Richard"](#); ["Cantero, Vince"](#); ["Carpenter, Paul"](#); ["Cheek, Ken"](#); ["Daniels, Chase"](#); ["Dueker, Duane"](#); ["Gordon, Lisa-Perras"](#); ["Gramling, Hugh"](#); ["Harrelson, Cathy"](#); ["Hubbell, Pete"](#); ["Johnson, Eric"](#); ["Johnson, Martyn"](#); ["Keim, Robert"](#); ["Kincaid, Todd"](#); ["Kline, Allen"](#); ["Knight, Bob"](#); ["Knudson, Ross"](#); ["Overa, Tom"](#); ["Owen, Rick"](#); ["Parrow, Liz"](#); [Rolf Auermann \(rauerman@tampabay.rr.com\)](#); ["Rusnak, Teddi"](#); ["Tarochinoe, Joseph"](#); ["Watkins, Priscilla"](#); ["Watrous, Russell"](#); ["Weber, Ken"](#); ["Wilson, Roger"](#); ["WRWSA"](#); ["aquahab@gmail.com"](#); ["bocacatlover@gmail.com"](#); ["bruceseaman@zoho.com"](#); ["btrfly21@msn.com"](#); ["casabanca@live.com"](#); ["celesteas@gmail.com"](#); ["christina.joyinmotion@gmail.com"](#); ["citizen@fsmail.net"](#); ["dancross@bellsouth.net"](#); ["dawnsdusks@bellsouth.net"](#); ["dreandvicki@bellsouth.net"](#); ["earthy_wolf@hotmail.com"](#); ["ecocosm@bellsouth.net"](#); ["egarvett@gmail.com"](#); ["gmorotti@gmail.com"](#); ["gregatourhouse@hotmail.com"](#); ["Gulf Restoration Network"](#); ["heylady1948@yahoo.com"](#); ["jiinabnw@att.net"](#); ["jumbys8@yahoo.com"](#); ["karensmith187@gmail.com"](#); ["licy75@aol.com"](#); ["linda@perry.net"](#); ["lbalaw@gmail.com"](#); ["mccunesfla@aol.com"](#); ["mejides@yahoo.com"](#); ["mshargel@gmail.com"](#); ["mwalker13fr@gmail.com"](#); ["pete22roc@aol.com"](#); ["prunemstr@aol.com"](#); ["rebeccaruby@msn.com"](#); ["riverguide2000@yahoo.com"](#); ["robertadever@yahoo.com"](#); ["robsand@bellsouth.net"](#); ["ronm430@aol.com"](#); ["rrriley71@att.net"](#); ["rst333@hotmail.com"](#); ["salleeba@me.com"](#); ["ssiegmenn@gmail.com"](#); ["staceydaniels@shellpoint.org"](#); ["sunpreston@gmail.com"](#); ["sunwrent@aol.com"](#); ["tonytke@yahoo.com"](#); ["warrior_red@hotmail.com"](#); ["zerogirl@gmail.com"](#); ["ahlers.karen@gmail.com"](#); ["apostolicboylargo@yahoo.com"](#); ["catsandcrocs@yahoo.com"](#); ["cattleya@comcast.net"](#); ["dan-lesley@att.net"](#); ["detrorachel@yahoo.com"](#); ["gunnhonican@aol.com"](#); ["jackyboy86@gmail.com"](#); ["jehallh20@aol.com"](#); ["jimbrunton@yahoo.com"](#); ["kbolomey@aol.com"](#); ["l.j.travers@gmail.com"](#); ["lazygin@bellsouth.net"](#); ["lfurgal@yahoo.com"](#); ["lrdevine@yahoo.com"](#); ["lrpm2@yahoo.com"](#); ["lrpm22@gmail.com"](#); ["meem4822@aol.com"](#); ["melissa.allen@hotmail.com"](#); ["missyno@bellsouth.net"](#); ["obyrrnen@bellsouth.net"](#); ["pjtpowers@hotmail.com"](#); ["popcomic@tampabay.rr.com"](#); ["rfay808700@aol.com"](#); ["rhinopias@comcast.net"](#); ["scott.logan@aon.com"](#); ["segnbora@gmail.com"](#); ["snorklmike@yahoo.com"](#); ["studio8@infionline.net"](#); ["tabdolphins@yahoo.com"](#); ["tno2007@aol.com"](#); ["vaughan@fireflyclay.com"](#); ["youelyoga@gmail.com"](#); ["ziffel1@bellsouth.net"](#); ["aairis@aol.com"](#); ["babij204@msn.com"](#); ["ban260zz@yahoo.com"](#); ["bv@wvmlaw.com"](#); ["Cheek, Ken"](#); ["crmclone@moose-mail.com"](#); ["dirgis3@aol.com"](#); ["dougpowless@hotmail.com"](#); ["facwetkat@hotmail.com"](#); ["faithoogs@aol.com"](#); ["firewaterair@gmail.com"](#); ["gomerlu@yahoo.com"](#); ["jacketchmson@hotmail.com"](#); ["jnovotny@comcast.net"](#); ["jrjzr@yahoo.com"](#); ["keth@awakening-healing.com"](#); ["Kramer, Gus"](#); ["lbedinger@yahoo.com"](#); ["long5892@bellsouth.net"](#); ["lori_mccraney@yahoo.com"](#); ["mark@bassanio.dsl.atlantic.net"](#); ["masonfamily@centurylink.net"](#); ["morgan@cc-events.org"](#); ["navistar@wildmail.com"](#); ["parneixr@cfl.rr.com"](#); ["quehoraes7@aol.com"](#); ["rantala.mervi@gmail.com"](#); ["robin@greenerpixels.com"](#); ["saralee.lem@gmail.com"](#); ["scooke1107@hotmail.com"](#); ["segoci@aol.com"](#); ["sharonbrich@yahoo.com"](#); ["skeiser@adadeschools.net"](#); ["slnofear@aol.com"](#); ["tcglover58@hotmail.com"](#); ["tcsmith57@hotmail.com"](#); ["terry@awakening-healing.com"](#); ["treehugger52768@gmail.com"](#); ["vinnymullins@live.com"](#); ["cdlaughlin@tampabay.rr.com"](#); ["chrislaughlin@tampabay.rr.com"](#)

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Subject: Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Minimum Flows Update
Date: Tuesday, October 23, 2012 7:13:00 AM

Greetings:

I'm writing to provide an update on the planned discussion of proposed minimum flows for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa River systems that is scheduled to occur at the October 30, 2012 meeting of the Southwest Florida Water Management District Governing Board.

A meeting agenda and information document for the meeting are now available on the District web site. The Chassahowitzka-Homosassa minimum flows discussion is identified in these documents as agenda item number 21.

The agenda is available at:

http://www.swfwmd.state.fl.us/calendar/agendas/govboard_10-30-12_agenda_2245.pdf

The meeting information document is available at:

http://www.swfwmd.state.fl.us/calendar/notebooks/govboard_10-30-12_notebook_2245.pdf

Thanks again for your continued interest in the development of minimum flows for the river systems.

Douglas A. Leeper
Chief Environmental Scientist
Water Resources Bureau
Southwest Florida Water Management District
2379 Broad Street
Brooksville, Florida 34604-6899
1-800-423-1476, ext. 4272 (FL only)
352-796-7211, ext. 4272
352-754-6885 (Fax)
doug.leeper@watermatters.org

From: Doug Leeper
To: ["drs@ymail.com"](mailto:drs@ymail.com)
Cc: [Shellie Ferreira-Lee](#); [Mike Heyl](#); [Ron Basso](#); [Lou Kavouras](#); [Dianna Brass](#)
Subject: RE: Springs Coast MFL
Date: Tuesday, October 23, 2012 8:43:00 AM

Dr. Zimmer:

Thank you for your comments regarding the revised minimum flows and levels recommendations for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa river systems. Your input has been reviewed by District staff and will be provided to the District Governing Board for consideration.

Douglas A. Leeper
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352-796-7211, ext. 4272
352-754-6885 (Fax)
doug.leeper@watermatters.org

From: Executive
Sent: Friday, October 19, 2012 8:09 AM
To: Dianna Brass
Cc: Lou Kavouras; Ron Basso; Doug Leeper; Mike Heyl
Subject: FW: Springs Coast MFL

Please handle accordingly or forward to the appropriate staff for handling.

Thank you.

Shellie Ferreira-Lee
Sr. Document Specialist
Southwest Florida Water Management District
shellie.ferreira@swfwmd.state.fl.us
352-796-7211, ext. 4053

From: Susan Zimmer [<mailto:drs@ymail.com>]
Sent: Thursday, October 18, 2012 4:24 PM
To: info
Subject: Springs Coast MFL

SWFWMD
Governing Board

I am a resident of Citrus County.

I do not favor any further reductions in water flow. The springs and rivers are already low, unhealthy, and actually need **more** flow to provide a healthy environment for fish, vegetation, drinking water, etc.

It is sad and scary to continually see various Springs, which provide our only drinking water, become stagnant and dry up.

Prevention is more sensible than Restoration (attempts).

Desalination, as an example, is too costly, etc., especially while we have the **opportunity to save** the precious Springs.

Thank you

Dr Susan Zimmer

From: Doug Leeper
To: ["JaniceHowie@aol.com"](mailto:JaniceHowie@aol.com)
Cc: [Shellie Ferreira-Lee](#); [Mike Heyl](#); [Ron Basso](#); [Lou Kavouras](#); [Gwen Brown](#)
Subject: RE: Proposed MFL's for the Homosassa and Chasahowitzka Rivers
Date: Tuesday, October 23, 2012 8:46:00 AM

Ms. Howie:

Thank you for your comments regarding the revised minimum flows and levels recommendations for the Chasahowitzka and Homosassa river systems. Your input has been reviewed by District staff and will be provided to the District Governing Board for consideration.

Douglas A. Leeper
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Water Resources Bureau
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352-796-7211, ext. 4272
352-754-6885 (Fax)
doug.leeper@watermatters.org

From: Executive
Sent: Friday, October 19, 2012 8:11 AM
To: Dianna Brass
Cc: Lou Kavouras; Ron Basso; Doug Leeper; Mike Heyl; Gwen Brown
Subject: FW: Proposed MFL's for the Homosassa and Chasahowitzka Rivers

Please handle accordingly or forward to the appropriate staff for handling.

Thank you.

Shellie Ferreira-Lee
Sr. Document Specialist
Southwest Florida Water Management District
shellie.ferreira@swfwmd.state.fl.us
352-796-7211, ext. 4053

From: JaniceHowie@aol.com [<mailto:JaniceHowie@aol.com>]
Sent: Thursday, October 18, 2012 1:53 PM
To: Executive
Subject: Proposed MFL's for the Homosassa and Chasahowitzka Rivers

The Federal Clean Water act does not allow for the degradation of these rivers, or any other rivers in the state. Your proposed MFL's for the Homosassa at 3% and the Chasahowitzka at 9 % would allow by your studies up to 15% degradation to the wildlife and environment of these rivers. Think about what will happen to these rivers

and to the conflict that will occur with the EPA if this degradation is allowed to happen. Wouldn't it be prudent to proactively ovoid this damage to our rivers.

Jan Howie
Conservation Chairman
Nature Coast Native Plant Society

From: Doug Leeper
To: ["hkck5@embarqmail.com"](mailto:hkck5@embarqmail.com)
Cc: [Shellie Ferreira-Lee](#); [Mike Heyl](#); [Ron Basso](#); [Lou Kavouras](#); [Gwen Brown](#)
Subject: RE: Chassahowitzka
Date: Tuesday, October 23, 2012 8:48:00 AM

Ms. Klein:

Thank you for your comments regarding the revised minimum flows and levels recommendations for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa river systems. Your input has been reviewed by District staff and will be provided to the District Governing Board for consideration.

Douglas A. Leeper
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352-796-7211, ext. 4272
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doug.leeper@watermatters.org

From: Executive
Sent: Friday, October 19, 2012 8:15 AM
To: Dianna Brass
Cc: Lou Kavouras; Gwen Brown; Ron Basso; Doug Leeper; Mike Heyl
Subject: FW: Chassahowitzka

Please handle accordingly or forward to the appropriate staff for handling.

Thank you.

Shellie Ferreira-Lee
Sr. Document Specialist
Southwest Florida Water Management District
shellie.ferreira@swfwmd.state.fl.us
352-796-7211, ext. 4053

From: cindy [<mailto:hkck5@embarqmail.com>]
Sent: Thursday, October 18, 2012 12:54 PM
To: Executive
Cc: Executive
Subject: Chassahowitzka

Please don't take any more fresh water from the spring system of the Chassahowitzka or Homosassa Rivers. As you know, both are in peril. Let whoever wants our most precious resource on the nature coast to invest in a desalinization facility. There is plenty of fresh water in our gulf. May I even suggest the Florida cross barge canal system as the perfect location for such a project. Eventually it will come

to this anyway, why not lead the way. You have the power. Thank You. Chassahowitzka resident for 30 years, in love with the nature coast, the State of Florida and thankful for our State Land programs and Government Organizations set up to protect our natural resources. Cindy Klein

From: [Dan](#)
To: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Re: Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Minimum Flows Update
Date: Tuesday, October 23, 2012 12:26:01 PM

On 10/23/2012 7:13 AM, Doug Leeper wrote:

Greetings:

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The agenda is available at:

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Thanks Doug, do appreciate that. Can you give me an idea how long it might take the GB to work thru the consent agenda?

Dan

The meeting information document is available at:

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Thanks again for your continued interest in the development of minimum flows for the river systems.

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doug.leeper@watermatters.org

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From: Doug Leeper
To: "Dan"
Subject: RE: Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Minimum Flows Update
Date: Tuesday, October 23, 2012 1:33:00 PM

Dan – should be pretty quick. Fifteen minutes to half an hour tops, I would think.

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doug.leeper@watermatters.org

From: Dan [mailto:2buntings@comcast.net]
Sent: Tuesday, October 23, 2012 12:28 PM
To: Doug Leeper
Subject: Re: Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Minimum Flows Update

On 10/23/2012 7:13 AM, Doug Leeper wrote:

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From: [Dan](#)
To: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Re: Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Minimum Flows Update
Date: Tuesday, October 23, 2012 1:59:36 PM

Thanks.

D

On 10/23/2012 1:33 PM, Doug Leeper wrote:

Dan – should be pretty quick. Fifteen minutes to half an hour tops, I would think.

Douglas A. Leeper
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From: Dan [<mailto:2buntings@comcast.net>]
Sent: Tuesday, October 23, 2012 12:28 PM
To: Doug Leeper
Subject: Re: Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Minimum Flows Update

On 10/23/2012 7:13 AM, Doug Leeper wrote:

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From: cathyharrelson@gmail.com on behalf of [Cathy Harrelson](#)
To: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Re: Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Minimum Flows Update
Date: Wednesday, October 24, 2012 3:35:51 PM

Thanks Doug.

Question - If folks can't attend, can they email? I see a mailing address in there but the reality for most people is that email is the way they communicate. I'm currently showing email addresses of executive@watermatters.org for the Governing Board and info@watermatters.org for the ombudsman, in addition to your email address.

These are the addresses we'll be using, so I'm sure you can expect some comments.

Sincerely,

Cathy Harrelson

Florida Organizer

Gulf Restoration Network

cathy@healthygulf.org

727-415-8805

<http://healthygulf.org/>

On Tue, Oct 23, 2012 at 7:13 AM, Doug Leeper <Doug.Leeper@swfwmd.state.fl.us> wrote:

Greetings:

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Douglas A. Leeper

Chief Environmental Scientist

Water Resources Bureau

Southwest Florida Water Management District

2379 Broad Street

Brooksville, Florida 34604-6899

[1-800-423-1476](tel:1-800-423-1476), ext. 4272 (FL only)

[352-796-7211](tel:352-796-7211), ext. 4272

[352-754-6885](tel:352-754-6885) (Fax)

doug.leeper@watermatters.org

IMPORTANT NOTICE: All E-mail sent to or from this address are public record and archived. The Southwest Florida Water Management District does not allow use of District equipment and E-mail facilities for non-District business purposes.

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From: Doug Leeper
To: ["cathyharrelson@gmail.com"](mailto:cathyharrelson@gmail.com)
Subject: RE: Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Minimum Flows Update
Date: Thursday, October 25, 2012 5:14:00 PM

Hi Kathy:

We certainly accept and read e-mails. The addresses listed in your e-mail will work, but I would suggest that using the executive address will be sufficient. You can copy me if you like, but all e-mails to "executive" pertaining to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa minimum flow recommendations will be forwarded to me and other staff.

Douglas A. Leeper
Chief Environmental Scientist
Water Resources Bureau
Southwest Florida Water Management District
2379 Broad Street
Brooksville, Florida 34604-6899
1-800-423-1476, ext. 4272 (FL only)
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doug.leeper@watermatters.org

From: cathyharrelson@gmail.com [mailto:cathyharrelson@gmail.com] **On Behalf Of** Cathy Harrelson
Sent: Wednesday, October 24, 2012 3:36 PM
To: Doug Leeper
Subject: Re: Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Minimum Flows Update

Thanks Doug.

Question - If folks can't attend, can they email? I see a mailing address in there but the reality for most people is that email is the way they communicate. I'm currently showing email addresses of executive@watermatters.org for the Governing Board and info@watermatters.org for the ombudsman, in addition to your email address. These are the addresses we'll be using, so I'm sure you can expect some comments.

Sincerely,

Cathy Harrelson

Florida Organizer
Gulf Restoration Network
cathy@healthygulf.org
727-415-8805

<http://healthygulf.org/>

On Tue, Oct 23, 2012 at 7:13 AM, Doug Leeper <Doug.Leeper@swfwmd.state.fl.us> wrote:
Greetings:

I'm writing to provide an update on the planned discussion of proposed minimum flows for the

Chassahowitzka and Homosassa River systems that is scheduled to occur at the October 30, 2012 meeting of the Southwest Florida Water Management District Governing Board.

A meeting agenda and information document for the meeting are now available on the District web site. The Chassahowitzka-Homosassa minimum flows discussion is identified in these documents as agenda item number 21.

The agenda is available at:

http://www.swfwmd.state.fl.us/calendar/agendas/govboard_10-30-12_agenda_2245.pdf

The meeting information document is available at:

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Thanks again for your continued interest in the development of minimum flows for the river systems.

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--

From: [Alan Martyn Johnson](#)
Cc: [Adrienne Vining](#); [Chris Zajac](#); [Christopher Pettit](#); [Dave Dewitt](#); [Karen West](#); [Mark Hammond](#); [Michael Molligan](#); [Mike Heyl](#); [Robyn O. Felix](#); [Ron Basso](#); [Sid Flannery](#); [Veronica Crow](#); [Xinjian Chen](#); [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: RE: Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Minimum Flows Rule 40D Amendments
Date: Thursday, October 25, 2012 8:38:15 AM

I trust you have (or will) read and are able to fully explain the proposed **Amendments to RULE 40D-8.041, F.A.C.** included in the Notebook for the October 30 2012 Governing Board Meeting. These Amendments were not included in the revised reports.

My concerns are with quantifying withdrawals to define natural flow and the use of the previous days natural flow in the wording.

Quote

"Natural flow is defined for the purpose of this rule as the flow that would exist in the absence of water withdrawal impacts. The Minimum Flow at any point downstream from these Gages is measured as the previous day's natural flow at that point minus 3%".
End Quote

Similar wording for Chassahowitzka.

Everyone in SWFWMD who has been involved in drafting these rule amendments needs to be able to explain exactly what this wording means in practical terms.

We all need to hear from SWFWMD's legal personel their rationale for basing Minimum Flows on the previous day's natural flow and how pumpage will be determined.

Additionally, recognized flow downstream of these gages are in short distance increased to by Halls River and Crab Creek, thus the downstream wording appears to require explanation.

As I carefully read these amendments it is difficult to see how they are of any practical value to define when the minimum flow has been reached. The flows as reported at the specified USGS Gage Sites do not include any measure of groundwater withdrawals. Withdrawals are not measured and are not presented in the reports, other than as approximations and comments: (focusing on the Homosassa Report);

- *"..reduced spring discharge to the river system by approximately 1 percent."* Page 20
- *"..in 2005, groundwater withdrawals within five miles of the Homosassa Main Springs averaged 1.3 mgd , and averaged 8.2 mgd within ten miles of the spring complex"* Page 64 Note:1.3 mgd (2 cfs) 8.2 mgd (12 cfs)
- *"Given the relatively minor (1.1 percent) potential impact of withdrawals on spring discharge"* Page 66
- In Table 2-4 page 66 the 2005 withdrawals are 2.31 cfs Table 2-5 page 67 the withdrawals for 2030 are shown as 5.13 cfs as predicted by the Northern District Model
- *"This natural flow may be calculated based on withdrawal-impact corrected combined flows measured at...02310678...02310688, or based on modeled flows developed through application of numerical or statistical models."* Page 201/2
- Synthetic natural flow record is discussed in connection with the 5 and 10 year moving average statistics page 202, but synthetic natural flows are not used in any of the modeling e.g. calibration and validation periods. Baseline flows are used.

In the above there is lack of clarity:

- The 2005 figures for withdrawals within five/ten miles fails to mention Crystal River and Chassahowitzka Springs are six miles from Homosassa.
- The NDM covers a large area (10,000 sq mls) and it is difficult to accept, despite staffs assertion otherwise, this model can accurately predict changes of 0.05 cfs over a 25 year period for individual springs. 10 miles radius from Homosassa is 0.15% of this models area.
- Lists of permitted water withdrawals in Citrus County furnished by SWFWMD identify 42 mgd or about 65 cfs. (It did not include the wells not requiring a WUP).

For practical understanding consider some reported flows at the Homosassa gage sites (02310678 and 02310688).

The reported flow at both the gage sites was about 30% less in early June 2012 than at present. This results from the difference in the level in the aquifer Weeki Wachee Well.

In round numbers the combined flow was 100cfs early June and is now 150cfs. Both of these are 'natural flow less withdrawals'. Where are the groundwater withdrawals quantified? Are the withdrawals a constant percentage of discharge, or a constant volume per day? Could withdrawals 20 miles away have an influence?

Appears the best we have is withdrawals as presented in Table 2-4 where the NDM presents 2005 combined pumpage of 0.97 cfs for the six springs; Halls River and Hidden River are not monitored at the above gage sites. 2005 NDM data is seven years old, where are todays withdrawals reported, preferably without being based on a myriad of assumptions used in the model.

EXTRACTS FROM THE NOTEBOOK FOR THE OCTOBER 30 MEETING

EXHIBIT D

(b) The Minimum Flow for the Homosassa River System is 97% of the combined natural flow as measured at the United States Geological Survey (USGS) Homosassa Springs at Homosassa Springs, FL Gage (No. 02310678), and the USGS SE Fork Homosassa Spring at Homosassa Springs, FL Gage (No. 02310688). Natural flow is defined for the purpose of this rule as the flow that would exist in the absence of water withdrawal impacts. The Minimum Flow at **any point downstream** from these Gages are measured as the **previous day's natural flow** at that point minus 3%.

EXHIBIT B

(b) The Minimum Flow for the Chassahowitzka River System is 91% of the natural flow as measured at the United States Geological Survey (USGS) Gage Chassahowitzka River near Homosassa (Gage No. 02310650). Natural flow is defined for the purpose of this rule as the flow that would exist in the absence of water withdrawal impacts. The Minimum Flow at any **point downstream** from this Gage is measured as the **previous day's natural flow** at that point minus 9%.

Martyn

Numbers to support my point. Daily change each gage site as well as combined is shown.

Before someone points out the USGS Data for these dates still shows as provisional (June was last years Water Year and would normally have been approved by now). USGS daily data is based on a 24 hour day not a 24.84 hour tidal cycle.

Discharge cfs and Percent Change from Previous Day

June 2012

2012	SE Fork		H Springs		Combined	
1	51		54		105	
2	52	102%	53	98%	105	100%
3	56	108%	61	115%	117	111%
4	48	86%	58	95%	106	91%
5	38	79%	52	90%	90	85%
6	35	92%	46	88%	81	90%
7	42	120%	51	111%	93	115%
8	45	107%	57	112%	102	110%
9	44	98%	64	112%	108	106%
10	46	105%	64	100%	110	102%
11	47	102%	67	105%	114	104%
12	45	96%	68	101%	113	99%
13	40	89%	64	94%	104	92%
14	43	108%	67	105%	110	106%
15	42	98%	72	107%	114	104%

October 2012

2012	SE Fork		H Springs		Combined	
1	62		82		144	
2	61	98%	76	93%	137	95%
3	66	108%	83	109%	149	109%
4	73	111%	89	107%	162	109%
5	73	100%	97	109%	170	105%
6	70	96%	94	97%	164	96%
7	69	99%	93	99%	162	99%
8	68	99%	90	97%	158	98%
9	76	112%	97	108%	173	109%
10	73	96%	99	102%	172	99%
11	76	104%	101	102%	177	103%
12	74	97%	103	102%	177	100%
13	75	101%	102	99%	177	100%
14	70	93%	99	97%	169	95%
15	66	94%	90	91%	156	92%

From: Doug.Leeper@swfwmd.state.fl.us
 Date: Tue, 23 Oct 2012 07:13:15 -0400
 Subject: Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Minimum Flows Update

Greetings:

I'm writing to provide an update on the planned discussion of proposed minimum flows for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa River systems that is scheduled to occur at the October 30, 2012 meeting of the Southwest Florida Water Management District Governing Board.

A meeting agenda and information document for the meeting are now available on the District web site. The Chassahowitzka-Homosassa minimum flows discussion is identified in these documents as agenda item number 21.

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From: [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [Louis Kovach](#)
To: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now
Date: Thursday, October 25, 2012 1:27:02 PM

Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

Dear Leeper,

Florida's springs and rivers are our most unique natural asset, creating vibrant natural environments for recreation and wildlife, and supplying our drinking water. The Homosassa and Chassahowitzka spring-fed river systems provide a home for manatees and a recreational mecca for Floridians and visitors. These springs and rivers supply vital fresh water to the vital estuaries and coastal ecosystems of the Gulf of Mexico along the Nature Coast.

Decades of over-pumping and 20 years of drought have slowed or dried up these magnificent sources of crystal clear water and many are now murky with slime from nitrates fed by over-fertilized lawns, septic tanks, and farm and ranch operations that have no incentive to conserve.

Floridians won't stand for more water giveaways, pollution and decline. Please stop the destruction of our springs and rivers by rejecting the SWFWMD staff recommendation to allow a 15% decline in habitat generated by a 3% flow reduction of the Homosassa River System and call for NO ADDITIONAL WATER LOSS in the Homosassa. Likewise, the Governing Board should reject staff proposals and set a restoration and recovery strategy for the Chassahowitzka River System, which has been reduced to 91% of its natural flow since 1975.

It's time for a mandate to preserve and protect these critical resources for all Floridians. The water management policy must be adaptable to drought, climate change and overpumping. Many springs have ceased to flow or are no longer "connecting" with larger waterways, affecting the downstream systems. The goal of each water management district and the State of Florida should be to restore maximum flows and levels for our most important resource, and reverse conditions of decline and degradation within our freshwater environments.

Sincerely,

Mr. Louis Kovach
122 Bella Vista Ter Unit D
North Venice, FL 34275-6729
(941) 484-7683

From: Doug Leeper
To: "[Louis Kovach](#)"
Subject: RE: Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now
Date: Thursday, October 25, 2012 5:31:00 PM

Dear Mr. Kovach:

Thank you for your comments regarding the revised minimum flows and levels recommendations for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa river systems. Your input has been reviewed by District staff and will be provided to the District Governing Board for consideration.

Douglas A. Leeper
Chief Environmental Scientist
Water Resources Bureau
Southwest Florida Water Management District
2379 Broad Street
Brooksville, Florida 34604-6899
1-800-423-1476, ext. 4272 (FL only)
352-796-7211, ext. 4272
352-754-6885 (Fax)
doug.leeper@watermatters.org

-----Original Message-----

From: Gulf Restoration Network [<mailto:info@healthygulf.org>] On Behalf Of Louis Kovach
Sent: Thursday, October 25, 2012 1:26 PM
To: Doug Leeper
Subject: Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now

Oct 25, 2012

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Florida's springs and rivers are our most unique natural asset, creating vibrant natural environments for recreation and wildlife, and supplying our drinking water. The Homosassa and Chassahowitzka spring-fed river systems provide a home for manatees and a recreational mecca for Floridians and visitors. These springs and rivers supply vital fresh water to the vital estuaries and coastal ecosystems of the Gulf of Mexico along the Nature Coast.

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122 Bella Vista Ter Unit D
North Venice, FL 34275-6729
(941) 484-7683

From: [Executive](#)
To: [Dianna Brass](#)
Cc: [Lou Kavouras](#); [Mike Heyl](#); [Doug Leeper](#); [Ron Basso](#); [Virginia Singer](#); [Gwen Brown](#)
Subject: FW: Homosassa Minimum Flows and Levels
Date: Thursday, October 25, 2012 9:40:16 AM
Attachments: [10-23-2012 Letter to SWFWMD Board.doc](#)

Please handle accordingly or forward to the appropriate staff for handling.

Thank you.

Shellie Ferreira-Lee

Sr. Document Specialist
Southwest Florida Water Management District
shellie.ferreira@swfwmd.state.fl.us
352-796-7211, ext. 4053

From: Ron Miller [mailto:rmille76@tampabay.rr.com]
Sent: Wednesday, October 24, 2012 11:58 AM
To: Executive
Subject: Homosassa Minimum Flows and Levels

October 24, 2012

Governing Board
Southwest Florida Water Management District
2379 Broad Street
Brooksville, FL 34604-6899

Subject: Staff Recommended Springs Coast MFL Rules

“..... The Water Management District is setting the stage for groundwater withdrawals that will permanently lower the river’s flow to the MFL level.....”
Sonny Vergara, Executive Director, SWFWMD 1997-2003.

Dear Governing Board Members,

The SWFWMD Minimum Flow Levels (MFL) program has set reduced river flow levels to be used in the water permitting process. This effectively sets

consumptive objectives: 9% for the Chassahowitzka River, 3% for the Homosassa River. Planners and engineers have already defined where the well fields will be for “regional distribution” of the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka water. Just this summer a permit was issued for pumping and shipping nearly a hundred thousand gallons a day from Crystal River to Ocala.

Initially the flow reduction targets of the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers were set at 5 and 11 percent respectively. After two years of re-evaluation these numbers were reduced by 2 percent. That is an important recognition of the sensitivity of these estuaries but it does not go far enough. SWFWMD has not recognized the stressed state of these coastal rivers and the profound changes that are taking place right now with our current level of water withdrawals. They have not recognized that these have both been designated as Outstanding Florida Waterways to provide legal protection against degradation.

An estuary is a transition area where fresh and salt waters are constantly shifting and mixing due to a tidal influence. A very sensitive, low salinity zone that is fundamental to the aquatic web of life exists near the springs. Reducing spring flow destroys this zone and the many fish, crabs and other critters that depend on it. The Homosassa and Chassahowitzka are a highly productive estuaries... and are highly sensitive to reduced spring flow.

A disturbing University of Florida study showed a steady decline in fish in the Homosassa from 2007 to 2010. In fact UF eventually stopped counting fish in the area near Otter Creek because of the total lack of fish and vegetation. We started calling this a “dead zone” and invited Gov. Scott to come see it. He put us in touch with the DEP folks responsible for our State Coastal Waterways. A team of DEP and SWFWMD scientists came to investigate. What they found was not just a dead zone, but a dead river!

SWFWMD Spokesperson Robyn Felix said:

“We have looked at the plant life in the Homosassa River and it is correct that they are dying, but we don’t know why.”

Aquatic vegetation has rapidly disappeared and is dead in most of the river. There is no good explanation of this except it appears to be related to a change in salinity at the springs. The proposed MFL flow reductions will further diminish the spring flows and greatly aggravate this situation.

You often hear of environmental tipping points where the delicate balance of nature and man falls out of line and something (usually nature) crashes. The Homosassa is at a tipping point.

There are choices to be made. Clearly you can choose to protect these unique, fragile, already impacted, coastal springs and rivers. Or you can choose to authorize their destruction.

The highly stressed condition of the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers must be recognized and the MFL flow reductions set to zero.

Sincerely,

Ron Miller
Vice President, Homosassa River Alliance
352-628-6066
Rmille76@tampabay.rr.com

October 24, 2012

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Ron Miller
Vice President, Homosassa River Alliance
352-628-6066
Rmille76@tampabay.rr.com

From: [Luanne Stout](#)
To: [Alba Mas](#); [Blake Guillory](#); [David Rathke](#); [Kurt Fritsch](#); [Laura Donaldson](#); [Mark Hammond](#); [Mike Holtkamp](#); [Robert Beltran](#)
Cc: [Gwen Brown](#); [Doug Leeper](#); [Virginia Singer](#)
Subject: FW: Log Entry # 1.11.147613 10-25-2012 Larry A. Barnes
Date: Thursday, October 25, 2012 11:13:07 AM
Attachments: [10-22-2012 Larry A. Barnes.pdf](#)

FYI...

LuAnne Stout
Administrative Coordinator, x4605
Board & Executive Services Bureau

-----Original Message-----

From: CollabAdmin [<mailto:collabadmin@swfwmd.state.fl.us>]
Sent: Thursday, October 25, 2012 11:11 AM
To: Luanne Stout; Kenneth R. Herd
Subject: Log Entry # 1.11.147613 10-25-2012 Larry A. Barnes

Please click on the following link to open the document(s) (from a computer connected to District Network only)

<http://ecmvmprod01.ad.swfwmd.net/gm/folder-1.11.147613>

Subject: Larry A. Barnes sent a letter re: Gov Bd Mtg 10-30-2012 on MFLs for Homosassa River supporting revitalization not further degradation

Following is the tracking information for the above information:

Log#: 1.11.147613
Assigned To: Kenneth Herd
Assigned By: Carolyn Stout
Date Assigned: 10-25-2012
Date Completed: 10-25-2012
Date Required:

Source: Larry A. Barnes, resident of Homosassa, FL
Instructions: For your information and appropriate disposition.
Action Taken: Copied to Exec Leadership Team

Information Routed To: lou.kavouras@swfwmd.state.fl.us



Southwest Florida Water Management District
2379 Broad St
Brooksville, Florida 34604-6899

Oct 22, 2012

Re: Governing Board Meeting, Resource Management Committee, Oct 30, 2012, Minimum Flows and Levels, Homosassa River

Request this statement be included into the record for this meeting.

My name is Larry A. Barnes and I live at 5601 S. Island Dr., Homosassa, FL 34448. Our home is on the Homosassa River. We have lived here since August 1993. Since that time we have witnessed a significant change in the river. We used to be able to catch largemouth bass and other freshwater fish right in back of our home; that ended several years later. Since then no freshwater fish are caught in our location on the river. I am not a biologist but I must conclude that the environmental conditions must have changed. I also operated tour boats for a local company on the Homosassa River and Mason Creek area for several years. I witnessed a change in the areas that alligators frequent.. I am told that they do not tolerate areas where there is a high saline content. This must be the reason that they have moved further upstream in the river. I have also seen trees die further and further upstream. The locals say this is caused by salt water intrusion.

The river badly needs to be revitalized at this time unless your goal is to merely use it as a fresh water source and move the water to some other location. Decreasing the flow by small incremental amounts just means you will kill the ecosystem over a longer period of time and that is UNACCEPTABLE to me.

Do the RIGHT THING NOW and think in terms of revitalization not further degradation.

Sincerely,


Larry A. Barnes
5601 S. Island Dr
Homosassa, FL 34448

L. Barnes
Box 275
Homo Sassa, FL
34487

CERTIFIED MAIL™



7009 3410 0000 7824 5741

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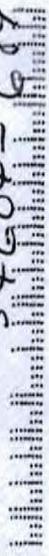
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Southwest Florida Water Mgt District
2379 Board St.
Brooksville, FL

34604-6899

3460436899



From: [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [Jan Novotny](#)
To: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now
Date: Thursday, October 25, 2012 7:29:27 PM

Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

Dear Leeper,

Florida's springs and rivers are our most unique natural asset, creating vibrant natural environments for recreation and wildlife, and supplying our drinking water. The Homosassa and Chassahowitzka spring-fed river systems provide a home for manatees and a recreational mecca for Floridians and visitors. These springs and rivers supply vital fresh water to the vital estuaries and coastal ecosystems of the Gulf of Mexico along the Nature Coast.

Decades of over-pumping and 20 years of drought have slowed or dried up these magnificent sources of crystal clear water and many are now murky with slime from nitrates fed by over-fertilized lawns, septic tanks, and farm and ranch operations that have no incentive to conserve.

Floridians won't stand for more water giveaways, pollution and decline. Please stop the destruction of our springs and rivers by rejecting the SWFWMD staff recommendation to allow a 15% decline in habitat generated by a 3% flow reduction of the Homosassa River System and call for NO ADDITIONAL WATER LOSS in the Homosassa. Likewise, the Governing Board should reject staff proposals and set a restoration and recovery strategy for the Chassahowitzka River System, which has been reduced to 91% of its natural flow since 1975.

It's time for a mandate to preserve and protect these critical resources for all Floridians. The water management policy must be adaptable to drought, climate change and overpumping. Many springs have ceased to flow or are no longer "connecting" with larger waterways, affecting the downstream systems. The goal of each water management district and the State of Florida should be to restore maximum flows and levels for our most important resource, and reverse conditions of decline and degradation within our freshwater environments.

Sincerely,

Ms. Jan Novotny
401 15th Ave N
Jacksonville Beach, FL 32250-4710

From: Doug Leeper
To: ["Jan Novotny"](#)
Cc: [Virginia Singer](#); [Mike Heyl](#); [Ron Basso](#)
Subject: RE: Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now
Date: Friday, October 26, 2012 6:42:00 AM

Dear Ms. Novotny:

Thank you for your comments regarding the revised minimum flows and levels recommendations for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa river systems. Your input has been reviewed by District staff and will be provided to the District Governing Board for consideration.

Douglas A. Leeper
Chief Environmental Scientist
Water Resources Bureau
Southwest Florida Water Management District
2379 Broad Street
Brooksville, Florida 34604-6899
1-800-423-1476, ext. 4272 (FL only)
352-796-7211, ext. 4272
352-754-6885 (Fax)
doug.leeper@watermatters.org

-----Original Message-----

From: Gulf Restoration Network [<mailto:info@healthygulf.org>] On Behalf Of Jan Novotny
Sent: Thursday, October 25, 2012 7:29 PM
To: Doug Leeper
Subject: Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now

Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

Dear Leeper,

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maximum flows and levels for our most important resource, and reverse conditions of decline and degradation within our freshwater environments.

Sincerely,

Ms. Jan Novotny
401 15th Ave N
Jacksonville Beach, FL 32250-4710

From: [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [Stephen Tonjes](#)
To: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now
Date: Thursday, October 25, 2012 8:30:11 PM

Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

Dear Leeper,

Our springs are already losing their appeal to tourists, and downstream industries that depend on their water are threatened. Their flows are already unacceptably low. It is unconscionable to plan for further reductions.

Please restore our springs; don't make plans to do more damage.

Sincerely,

Mr. Stephen Tonjes
423 W Pennsylvania Ave
Deland, FL 32720-3336

From: Doug Leeper
To: ["Stephen Tonjes"](#)
Cc: [Virginia Singer](#); [Mike Heyl](#); [Ron Basso](#)
Subject: RE: Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now
Date: Friday, October 26, 2012 6:45:00 AM

Dear Mr. Tonjes:

Thank you for your comments regarding the revised minimum flows and levels recommendations for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa river systems. Your input has been reviewed by District staff and will be provided to the District Governing Board for consideration.

Douglas A. Leeper
Chief Environmental Scientist
Water Resources Bureau
Southwest Florida Water Management District
2379 Broad Street
Brooksville, Florida 34604-6899
1-800-423-1476, ext. 4272 (FL only)
352-796-7211, ext. 4272
352-754-6885 (Fax)
doug.leeper@watermatters.org

-----Original Message-----

From: Gulf Restoration Network [<mailto:info@healthygulf.org>] On Behalf Of Stephen Tonjes
Sent: Thursday, October 25, 2012 8:30 PM
To: Doug Leeper
Subject: Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now

Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

Dear Leeper,

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Sincerely,

Mr. Stephen Tonjes
423 W Pennsylvania Ave
Deland, FL 32720-3336

From: [Alan Martyn Johnson](#)
To: [Doug Leeper](#); [Ron Basso](#); [Mike Heyl](#); [Chris Zajac](#); [Mark Hammond](#); [Michael Molligan](#)
Subject: Very Questionable Sentence in Chassahowitzka MFL Report
Date: Friday, October 26, 2012 9:20:50 AM

Every time I open my notated copies of these MFL reports I find another question in my notes at the side of the page. As it is Friday I thought I would share another with you, simply for coffee conversation.

Chassahowitzka Revised Report

Prologue Page xvii

"The public expressed a consensus that environmental changes (namely tree die-off and upstream barnacle encroachment) associated with sea level change should not be exacerbated by additional freshwater withdrawals."

I was not at all the meetings, but this statement does not reflect anything I heard.

Maybe someone can recall when this consensus was reached.

Considering the barnacles, as I recall public input was the barnacles are much further up the Homosassa than a few years ago. Barnacles are now knocking at the door of the main spring run. The only sea level change at this location is sea water ingress to the spring discharge. Tree die-off was for both the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka, but I do not recall any consensus this was due solely to sea level change.

No technical analysis needed, just where did this idea/consensus originate?

Martyn

From: Doug Leeper
To: ["asidibe@chronicleonline.com"](mailto:asidibe@chronicleonline.com)
Bcc: [Robyn O. Felix](#); [Virginia Singer](#)
Subject: Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Minimum Flows
Date: Friday, October 26, 2012 3:31:00 PM

A.B.,

I just wanted to follow up with you about what we talked about this morning. We've had an extensive public input process over the last several years. As a result of that process, the revised minimum flows are more protective and based on the best data available. The revised minimum flows will protect 91% of the natural flows for the Chassahowitzka River System and 97% of the natural flows for the Homosassa River System. The revised minimum flows for each system have been reviewed by separate panels of independent scientific experts and they agreed that we've taken a reasonable approach to establishing the minimum flows. We will present the staff recommendations to the Governing Board on Tuesday and it will be up to the Board to make the final decision. Thanks again and have a great weekend.

Douglas A. Leeper
Chief Environmental Scientist
Water Resources Bureau
Southwest Florida Water Management District
2379 Broad Street
Brooksville, Florida 34604-6899
1-800-423-1476, ext. 4272 (FL only)
352-796-7211, ext. 4272
352-754-6885 (Fax)
doug.leeper@watermatters.org

From: [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [Steven Handwerker](#)
To: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now
Date: Friday, October 26, 2012 6:27:56 PM

Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

Dear Leeper,

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Sincerely,

Dr. Steven Handwerker
6465 Via Benita
Boca Raton, FL 33433-6421
(561) 417-2494

From: [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [Lee Patrizzi](#)
To: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now
Date: Friday, October 26, 2012 6:36:19 PM

Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

Dear Leeper,

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Sincerely,

Mrs. Lee Patrizzi
265 Riverwoods Trl
Chuluota, FL 32766-9258

From: [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [Keth Luke](#)
To: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now
Date: Friday, October 26, 2012 6:36:36 PM

Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

Dear Leeper,

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Sincerely,

Mr. Keth Luke
5438 Tennessee Ave
New Port Richey, FL 34652-2932
(727) 842-6788

From: [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [Dena Garcia](#)
To: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now
Date: Friday, October 26, 2012 6:36:30 PM

Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

Dear Leeper,

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Sincerely,

Mrs. Dena Garcia
4805 Citrus Oak Ln
Saint Cloud, FL 34771-8900

From: [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [Maggie Davidson](#)
To: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now
Date: Friday, October 26, 2012 6:36:47 PM

Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

Dear Leeper,

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Sincerely,

Ms. Maggie Davidson
750 Pine Dr Apt 11
Pompano Beach, FL 33060-7281

From: [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [Maggie Davidson](#)
To: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now
Date: Friday, October 26, 2012 6:36:41 PM

Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

Dear Leeper,

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Sincerely,

Ms. Maggie Davidson
750 Pine Dr Apt 11
Pompano Beach, FL 33060-7281

From: [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [Patti Constantino-Martin](#)
To: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now
Date: Friday, October 26, 2012 6:36:58 PM

Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

Dear Leeper,

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Sincerely,

Mrs. Patti Constantino-Martin
17249 Helen K Dr
Spring Hill, FL 34610-7720

From: [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [DK Bolen](#)
To: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now
Date: Friday, October 26, 2012 6:36:52 PM

Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

Dear Leeper,

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Sincerely,

Ms. DK Bolen
5600 - 59 Way N
St Petersburg, FL 33709

From: [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [Stefan Taylor](#)
To: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now
Date: Friday, October 26, 2012 6:37:03 PM

Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

Dear Leeper,

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Sincerely,

Mr. Stefan Taylor
7517 N 40th St Apt F204
Tampa, FL 33604-4514

From: [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [Steven Handwerker](#)
To: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now
Date: Friday, October 26, 2012 6:37:23 PM

Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

Dear Leeper,

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It's time for a mandate to preserve and protect these critical resources for all Floridians. The water management policy must be adaptable to drought, climate change and overpumping. Many springs have ceased to flow or are no longer "connecting" with larger waterways, affecting the downstream systems. The goal of each water management district and the State of Florida should be to restore maximum flows and levels for our most important resource, and reverse conditions of decline and degradation within our freshwater environments.

Sincerely,

Dr. Steven Handwerker
6465 Via Benita
Boca Raton, FL 33433-6421
(561) 417-2494

From: [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [Steven Handwerker](#)
To: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now
Date: Friday, October 26, 2012 6:37:14 PM

Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

Dear Leeper,

Florida's springs and rivers are our most unique natural asset, creating vibrant natural environments for recreation and wildlife, and supplying our drinking water. The Homosassa and Chassahowitzka spring-fed river systems provide a home for manatees and a recreational mecca for Floridians and visitors. These springs and rivers supply vital fresh water to the vital estuaries and coastal ecosystems of the Gulf of Mexico along the Nature Coast.

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Sincerely,

Dr. Steven Handwerker
6465 Via Benita
Boca Raton, FL 33433-6421
(561) 417-2494

From: [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [sally harkness](#)
To: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now
Date: Friday, October 26, 2012 6:35:19 PM

Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

Dear Leeper,

Florida's springs and rivers are our most unique natural asset, creating vibrant natural environments for recreation and wildlife, and supplying our drinking water. The Homosassa and Chassahowitzka spring-fed river systems provide a home for manatees and a recreational mecca for Floridians and visitors. These springs and rivers supply vital fresh water to the vital estuaries and coastal ecosystems of the Gulf of Mexico along the Nature Coast.

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Sincerely,

Ms. sally harkness
12400 6th St E
Treasure Island, FL 33706-2925
(727) 368-9113

From: [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [kristina harper](#)
To: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now
Date: Friday, October 26, 2012 6:37:46 PM

Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

Dear Leeper,

Florida's springs and rivers are our most unique natural asset, creating vibrant natural environments for recreation and wildlife, and supplying our drinking water. The Homosassa and Chassahowitzka spring-fed river systems provide a home for manatees and a recreational mecca for Floridians and visitors. These springs and rivers supply vital fresh water to the vital estuaries and coastal ecosystems of the Gulf of Mexico along the Nature Coast.

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Sincerely,

Ms. kristina harper
1818 E Oakland Park Blvd
Oakland Park, FL 33306-1146

From: [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [Patricia Cooke](#)
To: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now
Date: Friday, October 26, 2012 6:37:29 PM

Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

Dear Leeper,

Florida's springs and rivers are our most unique natural asset, creating vibrant natural environments for recreation and wildlife, and supplying our drinking water. The Homosassa and Chassahowitzka spring-fed river systems provide a home for manatees and a recreational mecca for Floridians and visitors. These springs and rivers supply vital fresh water to the vital estuaries and coastal ecosystems of the Gulf of Mexico along the Nature Coast.

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I remember a time when the governing board members of SWFWMD stood for maintaining and improving the water quality of those lakes and rivers within the District's boundary. More and more citizens of Florida are watching carefully how you act to protect those water bodies, and will respond at the ballot box when it is time to elect those persons who appoint governing board members.

Floridians won't stand for more water giveaways, pollution and decline. Please stop the destruction of our springs and rivers by rejecting the SWFWMD staff recommendation to allow a 15% decline in habitat generated by a 3% flow reduction of the Homosassa River System and call for NO ADDITIONAL WATER LOSS in the Homosassa. Likewise, the Governing Board should reject staff proposals and set a restoration and recovery strategy for the Chassahowitzka River System, which has been reduced to 91% of its natural flow since 1975.

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Sincerely,

Mrs. Patricia Cooke
2263 Batten Rd
Brooksville, FL 34602-8325

From: [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [Rebekah Walters](#)
To: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now
Date: Friday, October 26, 2012 6:37:58 PM

Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

Dear Leeper,

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Sincerely,

Ms. Rebekah Walters
200 Agnes Ct Apt 25
Orlando, FL 32801-3834

From: [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [Karen Ahlers](#)
To: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now
Date: Friday, October 26, 2012 6:38:13 PM

Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

Dear Leeper,

Florida's springs and rivers are our most unique natural asset, creating vibrant natural environments for recreation and wildlife, and supplying our drinking water. The Homosassa and Chassahowitzka spring-fed river systems provide a home for manatees and a recreational mecca for Floridians and visitors. These springs and rivers supply vital fresh water to the vital estuaries and coastal ecosystems of the Gulf of Mexico along the Nature Coast.

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Sincerely,

Ms. Karen Ahlers
124 Vause Lake Rd
Hawthorne, FL 32640-6108

From: [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [Steven Handwerker](#)
To: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now
Date: Friday, October 26, 2012 6:38:07 PM

Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

Dear Leeper,

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Sincerely,

Dr. Steven Handwerker
6465 Via Benita
Boca Raton, FL 33433-6421
(561) 417-2494

From: [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [Barbara Fite](#)
To: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now
Date: Friday, October 26, 2012 6:38:41 PM

Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

Dear Leeper,

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Sincerely,

Mrs. Barbara Fite
PO Box 1766
Lutz, FL 33548-1766

From: [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [Candace Arnold](#)
To: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now
Date: Friday, October 26, 2012 6:38:55 PM

Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

Dear Leeper,

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Sincerely,

Mrs. Candace Arnold
5380 Alcola Way S
St Petersburg, FL 33712-4930
(727) 867-9149

From: [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [Candace Arnold](#)
To: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now
Date: Friday, October 26, 2012 6:38:49 PM

Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

Dear Leeper,

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Sincerely,

Mrs. Candace Arnold
5380 Alcola Way S
St Petersburg, FL 33712-4930
(727) 867-9149

From: [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [Benjamin Joannou Jr](#)
To: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now
Date: Friday, October 26, 2012 6:39:07 PM

Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

Dear Leeper,

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Sincerely,

Mr. Benjamin Joannou Jr
6401 SW 134th Dr
Pinecrest, FL 33156-7046
(305) 663-1890

From: [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [Candace Arnold](#)
To: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now
Date: Friday, October 26, 2012 6:39:01 PM

Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

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Sincerely,

Mrs. Candace Arnold
5380 Alcola Way S
St Petersburg, FL 33712-4930
(727) 867-9149

From: [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [Vaughan Greene](#)
To: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now
Date: Friday, October 26, 2012 6:35:35 PM

Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

Dear Leeper,

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Sincerely,

Ms. Vaughan Greene
217 Walton Rose Ln
Panama City Beach, FL 32413-7249
(850) 231-0956

From: [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [M S Dillon III](#)
To: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now
Date: Friday, October 26, 2012 6:39:24 PM

Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

Dear Leeper,

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Sincerely,

Mr. M S Dillon III
4100 Malaga Ave
Coconut Grove, FL 33133-6325

From: [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [margaret silver](#)
To: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now
Date: Friday, October 26, 2012 6:39:18 PM

Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

Dear Leeper,

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Sincerely,

Mrs. margaret silver
1829 Sea Oats Dr
Atlantic Beach, FL 32233-4511

From: [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [Candace Arnold](#)
To: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now
Date: Friday, October 26, 2012 6:39:13 PM

Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

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It's time for a mandate to preserve and protect these critical resources for all Floridians. The water management policy must be adaptable to drought, climate change and overpumping. Many springs have ceased to flow or are no longer "connecting" with larger waterways, affecting the downstream systems. The goal of each water management district and the State of Florida should be to restore maximum flows and levels for our most important resource, and reverse conditions of decline and degradation within our freshwater environments.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Candace Arnold
5380 Alcola Way S
St Petersburg, FL 33712-4930
(727) 867-9149

From: [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [Ronald H. Silver, CEP](#)
To: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now
Date: Friday, October 26, 2012 6:39:35 PM

Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

Dear Leeper,

Florida's springs and rivers are our most unique natural asset, creating vibrant natural environments for recreation and wildlife, and supplying our drinking water. The Homosassa and Chassahowitzka spring-fed river systems provide a home for manatees and a recreational mecca for Floridians and visitors. These springs and rivers supply vital fresh water to the vital estuaries and coastal ecosystems of the Gulf of Mexico along the Nature Coast.

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Sincerely,

Mr. Ronald H. Silver, CEP
1829 Sea Oats Dr
Atlantic Beach, FL 32233-4511

From: [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [Candace Arnold](#)
To: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now
Date: Friday, October 26, 2012 6:39:30 PM

Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

Dear Leeper,

Florida's springs and rivers are our most unique natural asset, creating vibrant natural environments for recreation and wildlife, and supplying our drinking water. The Homosassa and Chassahowitzka spring-fed river systems provide a home for manatees and a recreational mecca for Floridians and visitors. These springs and rivers supply vital fresh water to the vital estuaries and coastal ecosystems of the Gulf of Mexico along the Nature Coast.

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Sincerely,

Mrs. Candace Arnold
5380 Alcola Way S
St Petersburg, FL 33712-4930
(727) 867-9149

From: [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [Genevieve Woolsey](#)
To: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now
Date: Friday, October 26, 2012 6:40:04 PM

Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

Dear Leeper,

Florida's springs and rivers are our most unique natural asset, creating vibrant natural environments for recreation and wildlife, and supplying our drinking water. The Homosassa and Chassahowitzka spring-fed river systems provide a home for manatees and a recreational mecca for Floridians and visitors. These springs and rivers supply vital fresh water to the vital estuaries and coastal ecosystems of the Gulf of Mexico along the Nature Coast.

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Sincerely,

Ms. Genevieve Woolsey
714 Granite Rd
Brandon, FL 33510-3543

From: [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [Paula Powers](#)
To: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now
Date: Friday, October 26, 2012 6:39:59 PM

Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

Dear Leeper,

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Sincerely,

Ms. Paula Powers
172 SE 30th Ave
Boynton Beach, FL 33435-8235
(561) 369-0854

From: [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [Bill Harding](#)
To: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now
Date: Friday, October 26, 2012 6:39:42 PM

Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

Dear Leeper,

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Sincerely,

Mr. Bill Harding
4125 Park St N Lot 444
St Petersburg, FL 33709-4062
(727) 244-2391

From: [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [Lindsay Johnson](#)
To: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now
Date: Friday, October 26, 2012 6:40:20 PM

Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

Dear Leeper,

Florida's springs and rivers are our most unique natural asset, creating vibrant natural environments for recreation and wildlife, and supplying our drinking water. The Homosassa and Chassahowitzka spring-fed river systems provide a home for manatees and a recreational mecca for Floridians and visitors. These springs and rivers supply vital fresh water to the vital estuaries and coastal ecosystems of the Gulf of Mexico along the Nature Coast.

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Sincerely,

Mr. Lindsay Johnson
941 S Forest Creek Dr
St Augustine, FL 32092-3779

From: [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [Todd Dripps](#)
To: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now
Date: Friday, October 26, 2012 6:40:15 PM

Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

Dear Leeper,

Florida's springs and rivers are our most unique natural asset, creating vibrant natural environments for recreation and wildlife, and supplying our drinking water. The Homosassa and Chassahowitzka spring-fed river systems provide a home for manatees and a recreational mecca for Floridians and visitors. These springs and rivers supply vital fresh water to the vital estuaries and coastal ecosystems of the Gulf of Mexico along the Nature Coast.

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Sincerely,

Mr. Todd Dripps
2447 SW 13th Ter
Palm City, FL 34990-2127

From: [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [sally harkness](#)
To: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now
Date: Friday, October 26, 2012 6:35:28 PM

Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

Dear Leeper,

Florida's springs and rivers are our most unique natural asset, creating vibrant natural environments for recreation and wildlife, and supplying our drinking water. The Homosassa and Chassahowitzka spring-fed river systems provide a home for manatees and a recreational mecca for Floridians and visitors. These springs and rivers supply vital fresh water to the vital estuaries and coastal ecosystems of the Gulf of Mexico along the Nature Coast.

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Sincerely,

Ms. sally harkness
12400 6th St E
Treasure Island, FL 33706-2925
(727) 368-9113

From: [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [Faith Staggs](#)
To: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now
Date: Friday, October 26, 2012 6:40:09 PM

Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

Dear Leeper,

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Sincerely,

Ms. Faith Staggs
140 Hunter Lake Dr
Unit C
Oldsmar, FL 34677-4576

From: [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [WARREN HART](#)
To: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now
Date: Friday, October 26, 2012 6:40:37 PM

Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

Dear Leeper,

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Sincerely,

Mr. WARREN HART
1121 Pepperdine Ln
Sanford, FL 32771-6646

From: [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [Rebecca R. McFee](#)
To: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now
Date: Friday, October 26, 2012 6:40:31 PM

Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

Dear Leeper,

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Sincerely,

Ms. Rebecca R. McFee
3004 SE Salerno Rd
Stuart, FL 34997-6644

From: [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [Allie Tennant](#)
To: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now
Date: Friday, October 26, 2012 6:40:26 PM

Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

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Sincerely,

Ms. Allie Tennant
4763 Nottingham Dr
Fort Myers, FL 33905-4119

From: [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [Sharon Rich](#)
To: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now
Date: Friday, October 26, 2012 6:40:53 PM

Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

Dear Leeper,

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Sincerely,

Mrs. Sharon Rich
2834 Regent Cres
South Daytona, FL 32119-8556
(384) 304-7824

From: [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [Rebecca R. McFee](#)
To: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now
Date: Friday, October 26, 2012 6:40:48 PM

Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

Dear Leeper,

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Sincerely,

Ms. Rebecca R. McFee
3004 SE Salerno Rd
Stuart, FL 34997-6644

From: [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [Rebecca R. McFee](#)
To: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now
Date: Friday, October 26, 2012 6:40:42 PM

Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

Dear Leeper,

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Sincerely,

Ms. Rebecca R. McFee
3004 SE Salerno Rd
Stuart, FL 34997-6644

From: [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [Meyer Jordan](#)
To: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now
Date: Friday, October 26, 2012 6:41:04 PM

Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

Dear Leeper,

Florida's springs and rivers are our most unique natural asset, creating vibrant natural environments for recreation and wildlife, and supplying our drinking water. The Homosassa and Chassahowitzka spring-fed river systems provide a home for manatees and a recreational mecca for Floridians and visitors. These springs and rivers supply vital fresh water to the vital estuaries and coastal ecosystems of the Gulf of Mexico along the Nature Coast.

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Floridians won't stand for more water giveaways, pollution and decline. Please stop the destruction of our springs and rivers by rejecting the SWFWMD staff recommendation to allow a 15% decline in habitat generated by a 3% flow reduction of the Homosassa River System and call for NO ADDITIONAL WATER LOSS in the Homosassa. Likewise, the Governing Board should reject staff proposals and set a restoration and recovery strategy for the Chassahowitzka River System, which has been reduced to 91% of its natural flow since 1975.

It's time for a mandate to preserve and protect these critical resources for all Floridians. The water management policy must be adaptable to drought, climate change and overpumping. Many springs have ceased to flow or are no longer "connecting" with larger waterways, affecting the downstream systems. The goal of each water management district and the State of Florida should be to restore maximum flows and levels for our most important resource, and reverse conditions of decline and degradation within our freshwater environments.

Sincerely,

Mr. Meyer Jordan
403 W Michigan Ave
Pensacola, FL 32505-2503

From: [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [Barbara Sallee](#)
To: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now
Date: Friday, October 26, 2012 6:40:58 PM

Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

Dear Leeper,

Florida's springs and rivers are our most unique natural asset, creating vibrant natural environments for recreation and wildlife, and supplying our drinking water. The Homosassa and Chassahowitzka spring-fed river systems provide a home for manatees and a recreational mecca for Floridians and visitors. These springs and rivers supply vital fresh water to the vital estuaries and coastal ecosystems of the Gulf of Mexico along the Nature Coast.

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Sincerely,

Ms. Barbara Sallee
6045 39th Ct E
Bradenton, FL 34203-7003
(941) 739-2420

From: [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [Barbara Laxon](#)
To: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now
Date: Friday, October 26, 2012 6:41:25 PM

Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

Dear Leeper,

Florida's springs and rivers are our most unique natural asset, creating vibrant natural environments for recreation and wildlife, and supplying our drinking water. The Homosassa and Chassahowitzka spring-fed river systems provide a home for manatees and a recreational mecca for Floridians and visitors. These springs and rivers supply vital fresh water to the vital estuaries and coastal ecosystems of the Gulf of Mexico along the Nature Coast.

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Sincerely,

Ms. Barbara Laxon
1778 SW 85th Ave
Miramar, FL 33025-2190

From: [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [Marcia Hoodwin](#)
To: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now
Date: Friday, October 26, 2012 6:35:44 PM

Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

Dear Leeper,

Florida's springs and rivers are our most unique natural asset, creating vibrant natural environments for recreation and wildlife, and supplying our drinking water. The Homosassa and Chassahowitzka spring-fed river systems provide a home for manatees and a recreational mecca for Floridians and visitors. These springs and rivers supply vital fresh water to the vital estuaries and coastal ecosystems of the Gulf of Mexico along the Nature Coast.

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Sincerely,

Ms. Marcia Hoodwin
8236 Shadow Pine Way
Sarasota, FL 34238-5618

From: [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [Cris Costello](#)
To: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now
Date: Friday, October 26, 2012 6:41:19 PM

Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

Dear Leeper,

Florida's springs and rivers are our most unique natural asset, creating vibrant natural environments for recreation and wildlife, and supplying our drinking water. The Homosassa and Chassahowitzka spring-fed river systems provide a home for manatees and a recreational mecca for Floridians and visitors. These springs and rivers supply vital fresh water to the vital estuaries and coastal ecosystems of the Gulf of Mexico along the Nature Coast.

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Sincerely,

Ms. Cris Costello
127 Van Dyck Dr
Nokomis, FL 34275-4237
(941) 966-4101

From: [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [Judith Angley](#)
To: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now
Date: Friday, October 26, 2012 6:41:15 PM

Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

Dear Leeper,

Florida's springs and rivers are our most unique natural asset, creating vibrant natural environments for recreation and wildlife, and supplying our drinking water. The Homosassa and Chassahowitzka spring-fed river systems provide a home for manatees and a recreational mecca for Floridians and visitors. These springs and rivers supply vital fresh water to the vital estuaries and coastal ecosystems of the Gulf of Mexico along the Nature Coast.

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Sincerely,

Ms. Judith Angley
4410 NW 30th Ter
Gainesville, FL 32605-1529

From: [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [Judith Angley](#)
To: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now
Date: Friday, October 26, 2012 6:41:09 PM

Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

Dear Leeper,

Florida's springs and rivers are our most unique natural asset, creating vibrant natural environments for recreation and wildlife, and supplying our drinking water. The Homosassa and Chassahowitzka spring-fed river systems provide a home for manatees and a recreational mecca for Floridians and visitors. These springs and rivers supply vital fresh water to the vital estuaries and coastal ecosystems of the Gulf of Mexico along the Nature Coast.

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Floridians won't stand for more water giveaways, pollution and decline. Please stop the destruction of our springs and rivers by rejecting the SWFWMD staff recommendation to allow a 15% decline in habitat generated by a 3% flow reduction of the Homosassa River System and call for NO ADDITIONAL WATER LOSS in the Homosassa. Likewise, the Governing Board should reject staff proposals and set a restoration and recovery strategy for the Chassahowitzka River System, which has been reduced to 91% of its natural flow since 1975.

It's time for a mandate to preserve and protect these critical resources for all Floridians. The water management policy must be adaptable to drought, climate change and overpumping. Many springs have ceased to flow or are no longer "connecting" with larger waterways, affecting the downstream systems. The goal of each water management district and the State of Florida should be to restore maximum flows and levels for our most important resource, and reverse conditions of decline and degradation within our freshwater environments.

Sincerely,

Ms. Judith Angley
4410 NW 30th Ter
Gainesville, FL 32605-1529

From: [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [Michael Duffey](#)
To: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now
Date: Friday, October 26, 2012 6:41:30 PM

Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

Dear Leeper,

Florida's springs and rivers are our most unique natural asset, creating vibrant natural environments for recreation and wildlife, and supplying our drinking water. The Homosassa and Chassahowitzka spring-fed river systems provide a home for manatees and a recreational mecca for Floridians and visitors. These springs and rivers supply vital fresh water to the vital estuaries and coastal ecosystems of the Gulf of Mexico along the Nature Coast.

Floridians won't stand for more water giveaways, pollution and decline. Please stop the destruction of our springs and rivers by rejecting the SWFWMD staff recommendation to allow a 15% decline in habitat generated by a 3% flow reduction of the Homosassa River System and call for NO ADDITIONAL WATER LOSS in the Homosassa. Likewise, the Governing Board should reject staff proposals and set a restoration and recovery strategy for the Chassahowitzka River System, which has been reduced to 91% of its natural flow since 1975.

It's time for a mandate to preserve and protect these critical resources for all Floridians. The water management policy must be adaptable to drought, climate change and overpumping. Many springs have ceased to flow or are no longer "connecting" with larger waterways, affecting the downstream systems. The goal of each water management district and the State of Florida should be to restore maximum flows and levels for our most important resource, and reverse conditions of decline and degradation within our freshwater environments.

Sincerely,

Mr. Michael Duffey
19 Chestnut Ave SE
Apt 57
Fort Walton Beach, FL 32548-5662

From: [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [Michael Duffey](#)
To: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now
Date: Friday, October 26, 2012 6:41:39 PM

Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

Dear Leeper,

Florida's springs and rivers are our most unique natural asset, creating vibrant natural environments for recreation and wildlife, and supplying our drinking water. The Homosassa and Chassahowitzka spring-fed river systems provide a home for manatees and a recreational mecca for Floridians and visitors. These springs and rivers supply vital fresh water to the vital estuaries and coastal ecosystems of the Gulf of Mexico along the Nature Coast.

Floridians won't stand for more water giveaways, pollution and decline. Please stop the destruction of our springs and rivers by rejecting the SWFWMD staff recommendation to allow a 15% decline in habitat generated by a 3% flow reduction of the Homosassa River System and call for NO ADDITIONAL WATER LOSS in the Homosassa. Likewise, the Governing Board should reject staff proposals and set a restoration and recovery strategy for the Chassahowitzka River System, which has been reduced to 91% of its natural flow since 1975.

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Sincerely,

Mr. Michael Duffey
19 Chestnut Ave SE
Apt 57
Fort Walton Beach, FL 32548-5662

From: [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [Michael Ott](#)
To: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now
Date: Friday, October 26, 2012 6:36:00 PM

Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

Dear Leeper,

Florida's springs and rivers are our most unique natural asset, creating vibrant natural environments for recreation and wildlife, and supplying our drinking water. The Homosassa and Chassahowitzka spring-fed river systems provide a home for manatees and a recreational mecca for Floridians and visitors. These springs and rivers supply vital fresh water to the vital estuaries and coastal ecosystems of the Gulf of Mexico along the Nature Coast.

Decades of over-pumping and 20 years of drought have slowed or dried up these magnificent sources of crystal clear water and many are now murky with slime from nitrates fed by over-fertilized lawns, septic tanks, and farm and ranch operations that have no incentive to conserve.

Floridians won't stand for more water giveaways, pollution and decline. Please stop the destruction of our springs and rivers by rejecting the SWFWMD staff recommendation to allow a 15% decline in habitat generated by a 3% flow reduction of the Homosassa River System and call for NO ADDITIONAL WATER LOSS in the Homosassa. Likewise, the Governing Board should reject staff proposals and set a restoration and recovery strategy for the Chassahowitzka River System, which has been reduced to 91% of its natural flow since 1975.

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Sincerely,

Mr. Michael Ott
6105 Sheree Dr
Milton, FL 32570-8853

From: [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [Debra Mixon](#)
To: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now
Date: Friday, October 26, 2012 6:35:53 PM

Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

Dear Leeper,

I am a resident of Homosassa and my husband and I are the owners of a charter tour business. The health of the Homosassa River directly impacts our business.

Florida's springs and rivers are our most unique natural asset, creating vibrant natural environments for recreation and wildlife, and supplying our drinking water. The Homosassa and Chassahowitzka spring-fed river systems provide a home for manatees and a recreational mecca for Floridians and visitors, (impacting the economic health of businesses like mine). These springs and rivers supply vital fresh water to the vital estuaries and coastal ecosystems of the Gulf of Mexico along the Nature Coast.

Decades of over-pumping and 20 years of drought have slowed or dried up these magnificent sources of crystal clear water and many are now murky with slime from nitrates fed by over-fertilized lawns, septic tanks, and farm and ranch operations that have no incentive to conserve.

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Sincerely,

Ms. Debra Mixon
10515 W New York St
Homosassa, FL 34448-3826
(352) 628-5999

From: [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [Mark Hutchinson](#)
To: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now
Date: Friday, October 26, 2012 6:36:12 PM

Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

Dear Leeper,

Water is a natural resources that needs to be protected, not exploited. Before tapping into any more water supplies, double or triple charges for water until consumption and waste are significantly reduced.

It's time for a mandate to preserve and protect these critical resources for all Floridians. The water management policy must be adaptable to drought, climate change and over pumping. Many springs have ceased to flow or are no longer "connecting" with larger waterways, affecting the downstream systems. The goal of each water management district and the State of Florida should be to restore maximum flows and levels for our most important resource, and reverse conditions of decline and degradation within our freshwater environments.

Sincerely,

Mr. Mark Hutchinson
34549 Orchid Pkwy
Ridge Manor, FL 33523-8859

From: [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [Andres Mejides](#)
To: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now
Date: Friday, October 26, 2012 6:36:06 PM

Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

Dear Leeper,

Florida's springs and rivers are our most unique natural asset, creating vibrant natural environments for recreation and wildlife, and supplying our drinking water. The Homosassa and Chassahowitzka spring-fed river systems provide a home for manatees and a recreational mecca for Floridians and visitors. These springs and rivers supply vital fresh water to the vital estuaries and coastal ecosystems of the Gulf of Mexico along the Nature Coast.

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Floridians won't stand for more water giveaways, pollution and decline. Please stop the destruction of our springs and rivers by rejecting the SWFWMD staff recommendation to allow a 15% decline in habitat generated by a 3% flow reduction of the Homosassa River System and call for NO ADDITIONAL WATER LOSS in the Homosassa. Likewise, the Governing Board should reject staff proposals and set a restoration and recovery strategy for the Chassahowitzka River System, which has been reduced to 91% of its natural flow since 1975.

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Sincerely,

Mr. Andres Mejides
25650 SW 197th Ave
Homestead, FL 33031-1611

From: [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [Nina Tatlock](#)
To: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now
Date: Friday, October 26, 2012 1:02:36 PM

Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

Dear Leeper,

Florida's springs and rivers are our most unique natural asset, creating vibrant natural environments for recreation and wildlife, and supplying our drinking water. The Homosassa and Chassahowitzka spring-fed river systems provide a home for manatees and a recreational mecca for Floridians and visitors. These springs and rivers supply vital fresh water to the vital estuaries and coastal ecosystems of the Gulf of Mexico along the Nature Coast.

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Sincerely,

Ms. Nina Tatlock
1413 Beach Club Ln
Apollo Beach, FL 33572-3063

From: [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [Jan Novotny](#)
To: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now
Date: Thursday, October 25, 2012 7:29:27 PM

Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

Dear Leeper,

Florida's springs and rivers are our most unique natural asset, creating vibrant natural environments for recreation and wildlife, and supplying our drinking water. The Homosassa and Chassahowitzka spring-fed river systems provide a home for manatees and a recreational mecca for Floridians and visitors. These springs and rivers supply vital fresh water to the vital estuaries and coastal ecosystems of the Gulf of Mexico along the Nature Coast.

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Sincerely,

Ms. Jan Novotny
401 15th Ave N
Jacksonville Beach, FL 32250-4710

From: Doug Leeper
To: ["Jan Novotny"](#)
Cc: [Virginia Singer](#); [Mike Heyl](#); [Ron Basso](#)
Subject: RE: Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now
Date: Friday, October 26, 2012 6:42:00 AM

Dear Ms. Novotny:

Thank you for your comments regarding the revised minimum flows and levels recommendations for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa river systems. Your input has been reviewed by District staff and will be provided to the District Governing Board for consideration.

Douglas A. Leeper
Chief Environmental Scientist
Water Resources Bureau
Southwest Florida Water Management District
2379 Broad Street
Brooksville, Florida 34604-6899
1-800-423-1476, ext. 4272 (FL only)
352-796-7211, ext. 4272
352-754-6885 (Fax)
doug.leeper@watermatters.org

-----Original Message-----

From: Gulf Restoration Network [<mailto:info@healthygulf.org>] On Behalf Of Jan Novotny
Sent: Thursday, October 25, 2012 7:29 PM
To: Doug Leeper
Subject: Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now

Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

Dear Leeper,

Florida's springs and rivers are our most unique natural asset, creating vibrant natural environments for recreation and wildlife, and supplying our drinking water. The Homosassa and Chassahowitzka spring-fed river systems provide a home for manatees and a recreational mecca for Floridians and visitors. These springs and rivers supply vital fresh water to the vital estuaries and coastal ecosystems of the Gulf of Mexico along the Nature Coast.

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maximum flows and levels for our most important resource, and reverse conditions of decline and degradation within our freshwater environments.

Sincerely,

Ms. Jan Novotny
401 15th Ave N
Jacksonville Beach, FL 32250-4710

From: [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [Stephen Tonjes](#)
To: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now
Date: Thursday, October 25, 2012 8:30:11 PM

Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

Dear Leeper,

Our springs are already losing their appeal to tourists, and downstream industries that depend on their water are threatened. Their flows are already unacceptably low. It is unconscionable to plan for further reductions.

Please restore our springs; don't make plans to do more damage.

Sincerely,

Mr. Stephen Tonjes
423 W Pennsylvania Ave
Deland, FL 32720-3336

From: Doug Leeper
To: ["Stephen Tonjes"](#)
Cc: [Virginia Singer](#); [Mike Heyl](#); [Ron Basso](#)
Subject: RE: Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now
Date: Friday, October 26, 2012 6:45:00 AM

Dear Mr. Tonjes:

Thank you for your comments regarding the revised minimum flows and levels recommendations for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa river systems. Your input has been reviewed by District staff and will be provided to the District Governing Board for consideration.

Douglas A. Leeper
Chief Environmental Scientist
Water Resources Bureau
Southwest Florida Water Management District
2379 Broad Street
Brooksville, Florida 34604-6899
1-800-423-1476, ext. 4272 (FL only)
352-796-7211, ext. 4272
352-754-6885 (Fax)
doug.leeper@watermatters.org

-----Original Message-----

From: Gulf Restoration Network [<mailto:info@healthygulf.org>] On Behalf Of Stephen Tonjes
Sent: Thursday, October 25, 2012 8:30 PM
To: Doug Leeper
Subject: Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now

Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

Dear Leeper,

Our springs are already losing their appeal to tourists, and downstream industries that depend on their water are threatened. Their flows are already unacceptably low. It is unconscionable to plan for further reductions.

Please restore our springs; don't make plans to do more damage.

Sincerely,

Mr. Stephen Tonjes
423 W Pennsylvania Ave
Deland, FL 32720-3336

From: [Alan Martyn Johnson](#)
To: [Doug Leeper](#); [Ron Basso](#); [Mike Heyl](#); [Chris Zajac](#); [Mark Hammond](#); [Michael Molligan](#)
Subject: Very Questionable Sentence in Chassahowitzka MFL Report
Date: Friday, October 26, 2012 9:20:50 AM

Every time I open my notated copies of these MFL reports I find another question in my notes at the side of the page. As it is Friday I thought I would share another with you, simply for coffee conversation.

Chassahowitzka Revised Report

Prologue Page xvii

"The public expressed a consensus that environmental changes (namely tree die-off and upstream barnacle encroachment) associated with sea level change should not be exacerbated by additional freshwater withdrawals."

I was not at all the meetings, but this statement does not reflect anything I heard.

Maybe someone can recall when this consensus was reached.

Considering the barnacles, as I recall public input was the barnacles are much further up the Homosassa than a few years ago. Barnacles are now knocking at the door of the main spring run. The only sea level change at this location is sea water ingress to the spring discharge. Tree die-off was for both the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka, but I do not recall any consensus this was due solely to sea level change.

No technical analysis needed, just where did this idea/consensus originate?

Martyn

From: Doug Leeper
To: ["asidibe@chronicleonline.com"](mailto:asidibe@chronicleonline.com)
Bcc: [Robyn O. Felix](#); [Virginia Singer](#)
Subject: Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Minimum Flows
Date: Friday, October 26, 2012 3:31:00 PM

A.B.,

I just wanted to follow up with you about what we talked about this morning. We've had an extensive public input process over the last several years. As a result of that process, the revised minimum flows are more protective and based on the best data available. The revised minimum flows will protect 91% of the natural flows for the Chassahowitzka River System and 97% of the natural flows for the Homosassa River System. The revised minimum flows for each system have been reviewed by separate panels of independent scientific experts and they agreed that we've taken a reasonable approach to establishing the minimum flows. We will present the staff recommendations to the Governing Board on Tuesday and it will be up to the Board to make the final decision. Thanks again and have a great weekend.

Douglas A. Leeper
Chief Environmental Scientist
Water Resources Bureau
Southwest Florida Water Management District
2379 Broad Street
Brooksville, Florida 34604-6899
1-800-423-1476, ext. 4272 (FL only)
352-796-7211, ext. 4272
352-754-6885 (Fax)
doug.leeper@watermatters.org

October 26, 2012

MEMORANDUM

TO: File

FROM: Douglas A. Leeper, Chief Environmental Scientist, Water Resources Bureau

Several e-mails of the form below pertaining to proposed minimum flows for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa River systems were inadvertently deleted by Doug Leeper on October 26, 2012. In an attempt to document these submissions, a listing of e-mail addresses associated with the submitted comments is provided below.

E-mail addresses associated with comments that were inadvertently deleted:

murphylarronde@gmail.com
randsscott@verizon.net
lisacunningham61@hotmail.com
marilynblackwel@wmconnect.com
malkerson10@verizon.net
gmorotti@gmail.com
cgula@tampabay.rr.com
jacqueline2662@cfl.rr.com
gmorotti@gmail.com
tatlock@verizon.net
pete22roc@aol.com
bocacatlover@gmail.com
rst333@hotmail.com
jserpico@tampabay.rr.com
hhollon1221@aol.com
hhollon1221@aol.com
nnalouisefontaine@yahoo.ca
hhollon1221@aol.com
hhollon1221@aol.com
hhollon1221@aol.com
edene.wetherell@gmail.com

Generic e-mail comments general form language:

Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

Dear Leeper,

Florida's springs and rivers are our most unique natural asset, creating vibrant natural environments for recreation and wildlife, and supplying our drinking water. The Homosassa and Chassahowitzka spring-fed river systems provide a home for manatees and a recreational mecca for Floridians and visitors. These springs and rivers supply vital fresh water to the vital estuaries and coastal ecosystems of the Gulf of Mexico along the Nature Coast.

Decades of over-pumping and 20 years of drought have slowed or dried up these magnificent sources of crystal clear water and many are now murky with slime from nitrates fed by over-fertilized lawns, septic tanks, and farm and ranch operations that have no incentive to conserve.

From: [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [ben dugger](#)
To: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now
Date: Friday, October 26, 2012 6:42:01 PM

Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

Dear Leeper,

Florida's springs and rivers are our most unique natural asset, creating vibrant natural environments for recreation and wildlife, and supplying our drinking water. The Homosassa and Chassahowitzka spring-fed river systems provide a home for manatees and a recreational mecca for Floridians and visitors. These springs and rivers supply vital fresh water to the vital estuaries and coastal ecosystems of the Gulf of Mexico along the Nature Coast.

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Floridians won't stand for more water giveaways, pollution and decline. Please stop the destruction of our springs and rivers by rejecting the SWFWMD staff recommendation to allow a 15% decline in habitat generated by a 3% flow reduction of the Homosassa River System and call for NO ADDITIONAL WATER LOSS in the Homosassa. Likewise, the Governing Board should reject staff proposals and set a restoration and recovery strategy for the Chassahowitzka River System, which has been reduced to 91% of its natural flow since 1975.

It's time for a mandate to preserve and protect these critical resources for all Floridians. The water management policy must be adaptable to drought, climate change and overpumping. Many springs have ceased to flow or are no longer "connecting" with larger waterways, affecting the downstream systems. The goal of each water management district and the State of Florida should be to restore maximum flows and levels for our most important resource, and reverse conditions of decline and degradation within our freshwater environments.

Sincerely,

Mr. ben dugger
4981porkylane
st.jamescity, FL 33956

From: [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [ben dugger](#)
To: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now
Date: Friday, October 26, 2012 6:42:41 PM

Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

Dear Leeper,

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Sincerely,

Mr. ben dugger
4981porkylane
st.jamescity, FL 33956

From: [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [Judith Angley](#)
To: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now
Date: Friday, October 26, 2012 6:42:36 PM

Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

Dear Leeper,

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Sincerely,

Ms. Judith Angley
4410 NW 30th Ter
Gainesville, FL 32605-1529

From: [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [Barbara Sallee](#)
To: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now
Date: Friday, October 26, 2012 6:43:07 PM

Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

Dear Leeper,

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Sincerely,

Ms. Barbara Sallee
6045 39th Ct E
Bradenton, FL 34203-7003
(941) 739-2420

From: [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [Colonel Meyer](#)
To: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now
Date: Friday, October 26, 2012 6:43:01 PM

Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

Dear Leeper,

Florida's springs and rivers are our most unique natural asset, creating vibrant natural environments for recreation and wildlife, and supplying our drinking water. The Homosassa and Chassahowitzka spring-fed river systems provide a home for manatees and a recreational mecca for Floridians and visitors. These springs and rivers supply vital fresh water to the vital estuaries and coastal ecosystems of the Gulf of Mexico along the Nature Coast.

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Sincerely,

Mr. Colonel Meyer
3701 Eagle Pass St
North Port, FL 34286-2009

From: [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [Susan Pelakh](#)
To: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now
Date: Friday, October 26, 2012 6:42:56 PM

Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

Dear Leeper,

Florida's springs and rivers are our most unique natural asset, creating vibrant natural environments for recreation and wildlife, and supplying our drinking water. The Homosassa and Chassahowitzka spring-fed river systems provide a home for manatees and a recreational mecca for Floridians and visitors. These springs and rivers supply vital fresh water to the vital estuaries and coastal ecosystems of the Gulf of Mexico along the Nature Coast.

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Sincerely,

Ms. Susan Pelakh
41 9th Ter
Cocoa Beach, FL 32931-2476

From: [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [Barbara Sallee](#)
To: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now
Date: Friday, October 26, 2012 6:42:52 PM

Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

Dear Leeper,

Florida's springs and rivers are our most unique natural asset, creating vibrant natural environments for recreation and wildlife, and supplying our drinking water. The Homosassa and Chassahowitzka spring-fed river systems provide a home for manatees and a recreational mecca for Floridians and visitors. These springs and rivers supply vital fresh water to the vital estuaries and coastal ecosystems of the Gulf of Mexico along the Nature Coast.

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Sincerely,

Ms. Barbara Sallee
6045 39th Ct E
Bradenton, FL 34203-7003
(941) 739-2420

From: [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [Barbara Sallee](#)
To: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now
Date: Friday, October 26, 2012 6:43:32 PM

Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

Dear Leeper,

Florida's springs and rivers are our most unique natural asset, creating vibrant natural environments for recreation and wildlife, and supplying our drinking water. The Homosassa and Chassahowitzka spring-fed river systems provide a home for manatees and a recreational mecca for Floridians and visitors. These springs and rivers supply vital fresh water to the vital estuaries and coastal ecosystems of the Gulf of Mexico along the Nature Coast.

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Sincerely,

Ms. Barbara Sallee
6045 39th Ct E
Bradenton, FL 34203-7003
(941) 739-2420

From: [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [S Logan](#)
To: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now
Date: Friday, October 26, 2012 6:43:26 PM

Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

Dear Leeper,

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Sincerely,

Mr. S Logan
1001 Brickell Bay Dr
Miami, FL 33131-4900

From: [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [RE Barnes](#)
To: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now
Date: Friday, October 26, 2012 6:43:22 PM

Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

Dear Leeper,

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Sincerely,

Mr. RE Barnes
1811 NW 51st St
Ft Lauderdale, FL 33309-7119

From: [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [Jane Schnee](#)
To: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now
Date: Friday, October 26, 2012 6:43:17 PM

Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

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Sincerely,

Ms. Jane Schnee
1022 Foster Rd Apt A
Sebastian, FL 32958-8658
(772) 589-3201

From: [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [Barbara Sallee](#)
To: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now
Date: Friday, October 26, 2012 6:41:55 PM

Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

Dear Leeper,

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Sincerely,

Ms. Barbara Sallee
6045 39th Ct E
Bradenton, FL 34203-7003
(941) 739-2420

From: [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [Thomas Bardroff](#)
To: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now
Date: Friday, October 26, 2012 6:43:12 PM

Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

Dear Leeper,

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Sincerely,

Mr. Thomas Bardroff
8009 High Oaks Trl
Myakka City, FL 34251-8303
(941) 322-2205

From: [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [lynn orourke](#)
To: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now
Date: Friday, October 26, 2012 6:44:00 PM

Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

Dear Leeper,

Florida's springs and rivers are our most unique natural asset, creating vibrant natural environments for recreation and wildlife, and supplying our drinking water. The Homosassa and Chassahowitzka spring-fed river systems provide a home for manatees and a recreational mecca for Floridians and visitors. These springs and rivers supply vital fresh water to the vital estuaries and coastal ecosystems of the Gulf of Mexico along the Nature Coast.

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It's time for a mandate to preserve and protect these critical resources for all Floridians. The water management policy must be adaptable to drought, climate change and overpumping. Many springs have ceased to flow or are no longer "connecting" with larger waterways, affecting the downstream systems. The goal of each water management district and the State of Florida should be to restore maximum flows and levels for our most important resource, and reverse conditions of decline and degradation within our freshwater environments.

Sincerely,

Ms. Lynn Orourke
3363 SW 173rd Ter
Miramar, FL 33029-1641
(954) 830-9810

From: [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [Susan Preston](#)
To: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now
Date: Friday, October 26, 2012 6:43:55 PM

Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

Dear Leeper,

Florida's springs and rivers are our most unique natural asset, creating vibrant natural environments for recreation and wildlife, and supplying our drinking water. The Homosassa and Chassahowitzka spring-fed river systems provide a home for manatees and a recreational mecca for Floridians and visitors. These springs and rivers supply vital fresh water to the vital estuaries and coastal ecosystems of the Gulf of Mexico along the Nature Coast.

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Sincerely,

Ms. Susan Preston
PO Box 415
La Crosse, FL 32658-0415

From: [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [Arturo Franco](#)
To: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now
Date: Friday, October 26, 2012 6:43:50 PM

Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

Dear Leeper,

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Sincerely,

Mr. Arturo Franco
Republicas 266
Mexico City, None 33310

From: [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [Judith Angley](#)
To: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now
Date: Friday, October 26, 2012 6:43:38 PM

Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

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Sincerely,

Ms. Judith Angley
4410 NW 30th Ter
Gainesville, FL 32605-1529

From: [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [Colonel Meyer](#)
To: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now
Date: Friday, October 26, 2012 6:44:16 PM

Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

Dear Leeper,

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Sincerely,

Mr. Colonel Meyer
3701 Eagle Pass St
North Port, FL 34286-2009

From: [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [ben dugger](#)
To: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now
Date: Friday, October 26, 2012 6:44:10 PM

Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

Dear Leeper,

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Sincerely,

Mr. ben dugger
4981porkylane
st.jamescity, FL 33956

From: [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [Michael Duffey](#)
To: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now
Date: Friday, October 26, 2012 6:44:05 PM

Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

Dear Leeper,

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Sincerely,

Mr. Michael Duffey
19 Chestnut Ave SE
Apt 57
Fort Walton Beach, FL 32548-5662

From: [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [ben dugger](#)
To: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now
Date: Friday, October 26, 2012 6:41:50 PM

Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

Dear Leeper,

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Sincerely,

Mr. ben dugger
4981porkylane
st.jamescity, FL 33956

From: [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [Judith Angley](#)
To: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now
Date: Friday, October 26, 2012 6:42:14 PM

Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

Dear Leeper,

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Sincerely,

Ms. Judith Angley
4410 NW 30th Ter
Gainesville, FL 32605-1529

From: [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [Todd Smith](#)
To: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now
Date: Friday, October 26, 2012 6:42:09 PM

Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

Dear Leeper,

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Sincerely,

Mr. Todd Smith
745 52nd Ave N
Saint Petersburg, FL 33703-2831

From: [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [Michael Duffey](#)
To: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now
Date: Friday, October 26, 2012 6:42:31 PM

Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

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Sincerely,

Mr. Michael Duffey
19 Chestnut Ave SE
Apt 57
Fort Walton Beach, FL 32548-5662

From: [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [Sue Lang](#)
To: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now
Date: Friday, October 26, 2012 6:42:26 PM

Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

Dear Leeper,

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Sincerely,

Ms. Sue Lang
421 Darling Dr
Venice, FL 34285-3304

From: [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [Joan Tibbetts](#)
To: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now
Date: Friday, October 26, 2012 6:42:20 PM

Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

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Sincerely,

Mrs. Joan Tibbetts
682 Youngstown Pkwy
Apt 331
Altamonte Springs, FL 32714-4578

From: [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [Bernard Berauer](#)
To: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now
Date: Friday, October 26, 2012 6:42:46 PM

Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

Dear Leeper,

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Sincerely,

Mr. Bernard Berauer
10332 S McClung Loop
Homosassa, FL 34448-5553

From: [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [Barbara Sallee](#)
To: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now
Date: Friday, October 26, 2012 6:41:45 PM

Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

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Sincerely,

Ms. Barbara Sallee
6045 39th Ct E
Bradenton, FL 34203-7003
(941) 739-2420

From: [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [Raleigh Hoke](#)
To: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now
Date: Friday, October 26, 2012 6:44:21 PM

Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

Dear Leeper,

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Sincerely,

Mr. Raleigh Hoke
1720 Washington Ave Apt 1
New Orleans, LA 70113-1753

From: [Jerry Morton](mailto:jerrymorton@aol.com)
To: jerrymorton@aol.com
Cc: BWR.CRRC@tampabay.rr.com; [Doug Leeper](mailto:Doug.Leeper@watermatters.org)
Subject: 15% loss of habitat in Florida's Outstanding Waters; SwiftMud decides Tues 9am.
Date: Saturday, October 27, 2012 6:01:32 PM

(Sorry to bother yall again but this subject is critical to Florida's Outstanding Waters. As of 6pm today (Sat Oct 27th) there were over 6,300 signatures on the petition to SwiftMud; it has gone 'viral' in the state in just 4 days. Thanks to all that have signed and those planning to sign; I encourage you to see the petition and the comments even if you do not sign)

I attended the last SwiftMud public meeting regarding reductions of water flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa rivers; the meeting was held in early October at the SwiftMud office in Lecanto, FL. I heard the SwiftMud Chief Environmental Scientist, Doug Leeper, say this paraphrased, 'a 9% reduction of water flow to the Chassahowitzka river and a 3% reduction to the Homosassa river is the percentage of water that can be diverted from these rivers without exceeding a 15% loss of habitat in those rivers'.

I was shocked by this statement; the state of Florida has declared that a 15% loss of habitat in Florida's Outstanding Waters is acceptable. This means that, with the board's approval, SwiftMud will be allowed to grant permits, for new water wells, that could result in a 15% loss of habitat in those rivers. I believe a ZERO percent reduction of flow and a ZERO percent loss of habitat should be the law for Florida's Outstanding Waters.

Next Tuesday morning, October 30th at 9am, the governing board of SwiftMud will vote to accept or deny the flow reductions for these 2 Outstanding Florida Waters. Please sign the petition link below and share it with anyone you know that wants to help preserve Florida's Outstanding Waters.

Petition link to the SwiftMud governing board.

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jeRRy

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Lakeland, Florida
863 279 2802
jerrymorton@aol.com

Very knowledgeable people you can talk to:

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Chassahowitzka River Restoration Committee
BWR.CRRC@tampabay.rr.com

Douglas A. Leeper
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800-423-1476, ext. 4272 (FL only)
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To: jermorton@aol.com
Cc: [Doug Leeper; BWR.CRRC@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:Doug.Leeper@BWR.CRRC@tampabay.rr.com)
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If you could provide a brief response I would be very grateful.

Martyn

From: lmotz@ce.ufl.edu
To: martynellijay@hotmail.com
CC: doug.leeper@watermatters.org
Subject: RE: Minimum Flows Homosassa River
Date: Fri, 12 Oct 2012 17:53:40 +0000

Mr. Johnson,
I'll look into this and respond to your question.
Thank you for your interest,
Louis Motz

From: Alan Martyn Johnson [martynellijay@hotmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, October 09, 2012 8:19 AM
To: Motz,Louis H
Cc: c.hackney@unf.edu
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Would appreciate any comments about my specific concern regarding the omission of Halls River flow in the modeling by HSW Engineering. If you wish to call me my telephone number is Cell 404-731-6187.

As an FYI I have copied Courtney Hackney as the Chair of the Peer Review Panel using the e-mail address from the report.

Martyn

From: [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [Raleigh Hoke](#)
To: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now
Date: Friday, October 26, 2012 6:44:21 PM

Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

Dear Leeper,

Florida's springs and rivers are our most unique natural asset, creating vibrant natural environments for recreation and wildlife, and supplying our drinking water. The Homosassa and Chassahowitzka spring-fed river systems provide a home for manatees and a recreational mecca for Floridians and visitors. These springs and rivers supply vital fresh water to the vital estuaries and coastal ecosystems of the Gulf of Mexico along the Nature Coast.

Decades of over-pumping and 20 years of drought have slowed or dried up these magnificent sources of crystal clear water and many are now murky with slime from nitrates fed by over-fertilized lawns, septic tanks, and farm and ranch operations that have no incentive to conserve.

Floridians won't stand for more water giveaways, pollution and decline. Please stop the destruction of our springs and rivers by rejecting the SWFWMD staff recommendation to allow a 15% decline in habitat generated by a 3% flow reduction of the Homosassa River System and call for NO ADDITIONAL WATER LOSS in the Homosassa. Likewise, the Governing Board should reject staff proposals and set a restoration and recovery strategy for the Chassahowitzka River System, which has been reduced to 91% of its natural flow since 1975.

It's time for a mandate to preserve and protect these critical resources for all Floridians. The water management policy must be adaptable to drought, climate change and overpumping. Many springs have ceased to flow or are no longer "connecting" with larger waterways, affecting the downstream systems. The goal of each water management district and the State of Florida should be to restore maximum flows and levels for our most important resource, and reverse conditions of decline and degradation within our freshwater environments.

Sincerely,

Mr. Raleigh Hoke
1720 Washington Ave Apt 1
New Orleans, LA 70113-1753

From: [Jerry Morton](mailto:Jerry.Morton)
To: jermorton@aol.com
Cc: BWR.CRRC@tampabay.rr.com; [Doug Leeper](mailto:Doug.Leeper)
Subject: 15% loss of habitat in Florida's Outstanding Waters; SwiftMud decides Tues 9am.
Date: Saturday, October 27, 2012 6:01:32 PM

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As an FYI I have copied Courtney Hackney as the Chair of the Peer Review Panel using the e-mail address from the report.

Martyn

Oct. 28, 2012



Director: Minimum flows will protect river systems

Marl Hammond, guest column, 10/28/12

Sunday, October 28, 2012 at 12:00 am (Updated: October 28, 12:00 am)

In recent weeks, there have been a number of articles concerning the setting of minimum flows and levels (MFLs) for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa river systems. State law requires minimum flows and levels to be set for rivers, streams, estuaries and springs and identify the limit beyond which further withdrawals will significantly harm the water resources or ecology of the area.

For the past seven years, scientists with the [Southwest Florida Water Management District](#) have been studying the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa river systems to determine these thresholds. During the district's analyses, the most sensitive indicators were used — manatee habitat for the Chassahowitzka River and salinity habitat for the Homosassa River. Scientists also used data and methodologies consistent with previously set MFLs. This method was reviewed by an independent panel of scientists and was determined to be scientifically sound.

Further studies considered existing water withdrawals, future sea level rise and effects of potential flow changes on water quality. The District's updated minimum flow recommendations for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa river systems are now more protective than previous proposals and will ensure future water withdrawals do not harm these precious resources.

In addition, district staff considered extensive public input throughout this process through a number of workshops, Governing Board meetings and nearly two dozen meetings with community groups and other interested stakeholders.

The MFL recommendations for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa river systems are based on science, and it is the district's intent to comply with its statutory requirements as well as balance the needs of all water users while protecting the river systems.

The district's Governing Board will vote on these MFLs at their meeting Tuesday, Oct. 30. For information, visit www.WaterMatters.org/SpringsCoastMFL.

Mark Hammond is resource management division director for the Southwest Florida Water Management District

Citrus County Chronicle Online

<http://www.chronicleonline.com/content/activists-urge-attendance-final-water-flow-vote-meeting-tuesday>

Activists urge attendance at final water-flow vote meeting Tuesday

By Jim Hunter

Sunday, October 28, 2012 at 12:00 am (Updated: October 28, 12:00 am)

For Homosassa resident Ron Miller, a longtime Citrus County environmental activist, it will be a moment that decides the future of the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka rivers, and he has put out a call for any citizens who care about the rivers to mobilize.

On Tuesday, the regional water district governing board will conduct a final adoption hearing at its headquarters on what Miller calls the approval of the reduced flow plans for the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka rivers.

The Southwest Florida Water Management District calls it the adoption of minimum flows and levels for the rivers, something being done by the state's water districts for all the fresh water bodies in the state.

The plan says 3 percent of the flow of the Homosassa could be taken before the minimum flow would be reached. The plan would allow for 9 percent of the flow of the Chassahowitzka to be reduced. Those levels are the points at which significant impact on the rivers could occur, according to district studies and conclusions.

The minimum flow proposed for the Homosassa had been 5 percent, but intensive protests and lobbying from Citrus residents and groups like the Save the Homosassa River Alliance got the water district to reassess the flow and reduce the percentage. District officials most recently said 1 percent would be considered already used; so, in effect, the minimum flow would be 2 percent.

Still, any allowed reduction would be too much, according to Miller and others who are dismayed at how the rivers' environments and their head-springs have been degraded in recent times.

In a statement as the vice president of the alliance, he said: "Small spring water flow reductions destroy the freshwater-salt water balance that is fundamental to the estuarine web of life. We all know these rivers and springs are already highly stressed, and the removal of more water will lead to their destruction.

"But no matter. The march to destroy the aquifer plows on."

Opponents of the minimum flow say the computer models used to figure the minimums are badly flawed.

For one thing, Miller said, "There is a real problem with measuring it in a tidal influenced river."

This region's coastal springs and rivers are distressed already, he said, and environmental changes already show impact of reduced flow.

"They should set and cap the minimum at zero — where the level is now," Miller said.

Brad Rimbey, a Chassahowitzka resident who has been fighting the minimum flows proposed for the Chassahowitzka River, said the water district touts the science behind its proposal. "They don't have sufficient data sets to come to a meaningful conclusion."

In addition to having insufficient data, he said, the district does not completely understand the river systems, how they work with all the influences on them.

"Look at the degradation that has already occurred in the river," he said. "They don't have a clue."

In addition, he said, both rivers are designated as Outstanding Florida Waters and allowing anything to increase saltwater intrusion would be degrading an OFW, which is illegal. The district, he said, contends the OFW designation only applies to point-source pollution, but he disagrees.

He also cites the anti-degradation provisions of Florida law that were adopted pursuant to the Federal Clean Water Act and said these protections must be applied in the minimum flows process.

Finally, he asked, how can the district reduce the minimum flow number for the Homosassa and not the Chassahowitzka? While he is not a hydrologist, he is a registered engineer and said he understands their modeling and it doesn't work.

"I don't buy much of their science," he said.

Rimbey and Miller said it makes a difference when large amounts of people show up to protest measures locals are against. He said 110 people came to the last hearing, which was in Lecanto. This time, more Citrus residents and officials who are concerned are needed to protect the future of the rivers.

Miller said the county commissioners, though seeming sympathetic individually, have not endorsed the residents demand the current river flows be the minimum flows, but he would welcome their support.

Tuesday's meeting will be in the governing board room of the district's headquarters, which is on the west side of U.S. 41, about seven miles south of Brooksville, just south of the airport. The address of the headquarters is 2379 Broad St. (U.S. 41).

The approval agenda is early in the meeting. Miller said anyone going should be in the board room at 9 a.m. sharp.

PHOTOGRAPH

MATTHEW BECK/Chronicle

The shallow, clear water of the Chassahowitzka River flows to the Gulf of Mexico.

Water flows: Board to decide withdrawals from rivers

By Abdon Sidibe
Sunday, October 28, 2012 at 12:00 am (Updated: October 28, 12:00 am)

To locals and visitors in the know, the Chassahowitzka is the languid river where paddlers would drift and the adventuresome would spelunker in its underwater caves.

The Native Americans called the riverine area the land of the hanging pumpkins, or Chassahowitzka, for the ubiquitous hanging gourds that draped the hardwood hammock.

Today, the 5-mile-long river and its tributaries still beckon, but according to local residents, the once-pristine waterway with its aqua-colored springs is under threat from a recommendation by the Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD) staff.

The water district's board of governors is on the verge of voting on possible changes to the "Minimum Flows and Levels" (MFLs) of the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa rivers. The vote will take place at a 9 a.m. meeting Tuesday at the SWFWMD office in Brooksville.

According to Norm Busche — owner of Nature Coast Outpost, which instructs people on the finer points of paddling — it's been heartbreaking watching the gradual deterioration of the Chassahowitzka River.

"The hardwood is dying. It used to be, the water was crystal clear and you could see the sandy bottom. There is less fish and the old-growth Cypress is dying all over the place because of saltwater intrusion," Busche said from his perch on the boat ramp near the campground.

Busche said in his eight years on the river since relocating from South Florida, he has noticed a precipitous degradation of the ecosystem.

"If you go down some of these creeks here," Busche said, "it looks like a hurricane just went through. It was not like that just a few years ago. Now they (SWFWMD) are talking about withdrawing more water. I don't know what they are thinking."

The petition

Hope Corona — whose organization, the Chassahowitzka River Restoration Committee, is also against the proposed flow changes — said she, too, has noticed "significant" degradation of plant and fish life.

"We also have seen a significant reduction in vallisneria (freshwater eelgrass). We think the saltwater intrusion is playing a major role in all of this," Corona said.

She said her group is seeking the restoration of the river and would like SWFWMD to rethink its proposals and instead restore more flow to the rivers.

A group called Friends of the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa has launched an online petition at www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow urging the rejection of the flow proposal.

The group cites, among other things, "these spring-fed coastal rivers are legally designated as Florida Outstanding Waterways," and are home to federally endangered species, including the West Indian Manatee. They "have already suffered significant degradation in recent years, and should be statutorily protected from further degradation and loss of spring flow."

SWFWMD's position

Doug A. Leeper, chief environmental scientist at SWFWMD, said the water district sets MFLs to gird against significantly harmful withdrawal to water resources or the ecology of an area.

The agency has set a 15 percent threshold for significant harm.

Leeper said the agency collected the best available data and coupled it with the opinions of peer review panels — one for each river — before coming up with the recommendations.

The peer review panels were comprised of independent scientists "who looked at the data and were found to be reasonable."

Leeper added the district has used the same approach it is using now in Chassahowitzka and Homosassa to protect other water resources.

Furthermore, he said when SWFWMD first came out with MFL proposals for the two rivers in 2010, the percentage of flow reductions were higher than they are currently. Leeper said if the proposals are adopted by the board, the issue could be revisited in a decade and "all of the data at that time will be considered."

He said numerous input sessions were conducted with stakeholders and members of the public. Leeper said what was gleaned from those sessions was combined with "additional science approach" to come to the current proposal.

Proposals the governing board will vote on Tuesday are:

+ Chassahowitzka River System, up to a 9 percent reduction in flows. According to SWFWMD, existing withdrawals have reduced flows by 1 percent, meaning this new minimum flow would allow an additional 8 percent reduction. The previous proposal sought an 11 percent reduction in flows.

+ Homosassa River System, up to 3 percent reduction in flows. Again, because existing withdrawals have reduced flows by 1 percent, according to SWFWMD, this new minimum flow would allow an additional 2 percent reduction. The previous proposal was for a 5 percent reduction in flows.

"We've had an extensive public input process over the last several years," Leeper said. "As a result of that process, the revised minimum flows are more protective and based on the best data available."

"We will present the staff recommendations to the governing board on Tuesday and it will be up to the board to make the final decision," he added.

Florida Springs Institute

Dr. Bob Knight, of the H.T. Odum Florida Springs Institute, said while he is not opposed to MFLs in theory, these proposals are flawed.

"If they are saying we are currently at 1 percent and that is meeting the water needs of the communities around the rivers, why go up 8 percent in one river and up 3 percent in another?" Knight queried.

He said if SWFWMD absolutely has to set MFLs, why not add only an extra percent to account for growth in demand. He said by SWFWMD's own analysis, a 1 percent reduction in both rivers should provide adequate groundwater availability for another 20 to 40 years.

The institute's website states its mission is to provide a focal point for improving the understanding of springs ecology and foster the development of science-based education and management actions needed to restore and protect springs throughout Florida.

Knight said as it stands right now, water consumption in the district is 1.1 billion gallons of water per day (gpd). He said if you add the St. Johns and Suwannee river districts, the water use jumps to 2.6 billion gpd. Knight said in those three water districts 4.7 billion gpd have been allocated through permitting.

"What I would like to see is for us stop issuing new permits," he said. "While I am not advocating a moratorium on permitting, I would like to see a system where we hold things where they are and reuse permits. A lot of the state's springs and rivers are stressed and need time to recover. We think all development should be more conservative. We don't need to make things worse."

Chronicle reporter A.B. Sidibe can be reached at 352-564-2925 or asidibe@chronicleonline.com.

PHOTOGRAPH

MATTHEW BECK/Chronicle

Norman Busche, owner of Nature Coast Outpost on the Chassahowitzka River, said he feels the impact of taking water from the river will negatively impact the river. "Why would you even tamper with an ecosystem that has been deemed an Outstanding Florida Waterway?" he said. "This is one of the nicest rivers on the entire west coast of Florida. It's not huge, but it's beautiful."

PHOTOGRAPH

MATTHEW BECK/Chronicle

Norman Busche operates a business along the banks of the Chassahowitzka River.



HERNANDO-CITRUS COUNTY FARM BUREAU

617 Lamar Avenue, Brooksville, Florida 34601 ♦ Phone: (352) 796-2526/800-282-8317

October 29, 2012

Paul Senft
Chairman District Governing Board
2379 Broad Street
Brooksville, FL 34604

On October 30th the Southwest Florida Water Management District's (District) Governing Board will be voting on minimum flows and levels (MFLs) for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Riverine Systems. The Hernando-Citrus Farm Bureau Board of Directors would like to express our support for the Districts recommended MFLs for these two Riverine Systems.

There has been much discussion and debate over this issue for many months now. It's been studied for the past seven years. District scientists have had to take into account a multitude of science-based methodologies including wildlife habitat, vegetation, water withdrawals, thermal refuge habitats, and fish evaluations, just to name a few. They are following state law which requires the establishment of minimum flows and level on rivers, lakes and streams. The outcomes of the science supports the MFLs recommended and these have also been peer reviewed by an independent panel of scientists.

The determination of Minimum Flows and Levels (MFL) for these water bodies has the potential to greatly affect the future of agricultural, which ultimately impacts the local economy. If MFL's are set to high, expansion of agricultural crops, public utilities and/or growth within the community can be jeopardized. This being the case, we strongly support the research-based MFL recommendations brought forth by SWFWMD scientists and staff.

What we need to do is plan for future growth in a responsible manner. That means planning for our future water supplies responsibility, and working with our partners in the agricultural community, the environmental community, economic development, and government to ensure economic growth and sustainability for our community far into the future.

Sincerely,

John Thomas, President
Hernando-Citrus County Farm Bureau Board of Directors

From: [hope](#)
To: [Executive](#)
Cc: [Doug Leeper](#)
Subject: Comments from some of the 11,261 Petitioners regarding the Chassahowitzka & Homosassa MFL
Date: Tuesday, October 30, 2012 7:20:29 AM
Attachments: [Petition comments_1351593802-1.pdf](#)

Attached are Comments from some of the 12,261 Petitioners who have responded this week regarding the Chassahowitzka & Homosassa MFLs.

Sheet1

Name	City	State	Zip	Country	SignedOn	Comment
E. Hope Corona	Homosassa	FL	34448	United States	10/23/12	Earth does not belong to man; man belongs to the Earth. We are but one of the species that relies on the Earth's fragile habitats and limited fresh water resources. I agree that we should preserve and protect rare spring habitats for ALL of the species that need them. I also think that we "older folks" should take some care and preserve some of these last beautiful wild places for our children, and their children to enjoy.
Brent Whitley	Brooksville	FL	34602	United States	10/23/12	Developing water resources that decimate spring systems already in decline is contrary to the mission statement of SWFWMD.
Ron Miller	Homosassa	FL	34448	United States	10/23/12	The Homosassa River feeds one of the most productive estuaries in the state. Millions have been spent to protect this estuary. Now the MFL program arbitrarily defines a reduction in fresh water flows that will certainly destroy this estuary.
Brad Rimbey	Chassahowitzka	FL	34448-5311	United States	10/23/12	The antidegradation provisions of Florida Law were adopted pursuant to the Federal Clean Water Act and these protections must be applied in the MFL process. SWFWMD's legal staff has been unable to provide any case law or legal precedent which allows SWFWMD to degrade these Outstanding Florida Water under the auspices of the MFL statute or any other statute
Elaine Moore	Homosassa	FL	34448	United States	10/23/12	We manage the Chassahowitzka River Campground and any lesser flows will kill our business and cause us to have to lay off employees if not shut down altogether.
jennifer stoltz	inverness	FL	34452	United States	10/23/12	keeping natural a plac for them to call home
rudy scheffer	safety harbor	FL	34695	United States	10/23/12	We need a healthy estuaries for healthy sea life.
Lane Dubroff	Pinole	CA	94564	United States	10/23/12	I grew up spending frequent weekends on the Chassahowitzka River and have since gone back to Florida to show my grandchildren this wonderful, wild river and to see the wildlife which thrives there, especially the manatees. PLEASE do not agree to any reductions in flow which would do tremendous harm to the river and its wildlife!
Bruce Blauer	RIVERVIEW	FL	33579	United States	10/23/12	i love manatee
Anthony Wareham	Indian Rocks Beach	FL	33785	United States	10/23/12	Manatees are such amazing, important creatures. They need our help.
Deborah and Carlto	Homosassa	FL	34446	United States	10/23/12	I live here and the Rivers is the most precious resource for all. It is not worth the risk. Now is the time to work to reduce water used, not tap into more.
John Reed	Largo	FL	33773	United States	10/23/12	Protection of habitat.
Robert Manning	Pinole	CA	94564	United States	10/23/12	I have been on both rivers and know of the great diversity of wildlife there. Also, there are endangered species that could very well be killed off with less water flow.
Carol Scarborough	Walanut Creek	CA	94596	United States	10/24/12	I am concerned about maintaining the habitat of the fresh water plant and animal species and of the West Indian Manatees.

Mark Bonaiuto	Homosassa	MA	34448	United States	10/24/12	This is a prestine natural habitat The Chaz river is so shallow now How can you degrade and endanger many animals and birds. This preserve is a perserve for a reason!! Any change to the ecosystem can be devestating Please perserve this timeless place called old Florida.
Marianne Korosy	Palm Harbor	FL	34683	United States	10/24/12	The Homosassa and Chassahowitzka rivers already suffer from excessive nutrient loading because of septic tank inflow from homes and businesses along the river and in the watershed and from stormwater runoff containing oils, greases, fertilizers, and detergents. Permitting further flow reductions will simply exacerbate the water pollution problems already in evidence in both rivers, resulting in a loss of revenue for businesses that capitalize on fishing, paddling, snorkeling, and manatee viewing. It will result in a loss of real estate value for people owning property along the rivers. And last but not least, it will cause more algae and vascular plant growth in the water, reduced water clarity, and will harm wildlife including the manatees that bring tourists to the area.
Terry Lemke	Irving	TX	75039	United States	10/24/12	preservation of the Manatees!!
Marc Washburn	Tarpon Springs	FL	34688	United States	10/24/12	Am an avid Kayak, Canoe and boater...lower water levels means less boating, fishing and wildlife. Lower waterlevel means less breeding ground for fish, shellfish and other wildlife. Stop this nonsense!
Kathy A. Beck	Old Homosassa	FL	34448	United States	10/24/12	The science has demonstrated that reductions in flows will further degrade the biological functions of these critical systems. I urge you to follow the science and support a sustainable, responsible solution without compromise to private interests.
OTTO KITTEL	HOMOSASSA	FL	34448	United States	10/24/12	The river is declining in every way. The wildlife has and will suffer more. SWFWMD said their job is to protect the water, reduction of the flow is destruction! Only gain political gain for the govt and big business. Scientific data that has been used can be wrong, which may surface later in sink hole legal action. We all can see what is going on, political gain and big business greed for money in the development of florida land.
Charles Laughlin	Homosassa	FL	34487	United States	10/24/12	Having lived on the Homosassa River for more than 20 years and having had access to it for over 60 years, we have seen the decline of the River due to the reduction in flow to the springs at the river's headwaters. To arbitrarily and artificially reduce this flow further for ANY reason is irresponsible stewardship of our environment.
Thomas Leonard	Hernando	FL	34442	United States	10/24/12	I feel it is imperative that we protect and preserve the natural resources of Florida and efforts to change the natural flow of water will have a negative impact on the environment and the plants/animals that depend on that environment for life!
Russ Duncan	Homosassa (Chas	FL	34448	United States	10/24/12	Because I live here and the Chassahowitzka river is My River.

Charles Holley	Clearwater	FL	33759	United States	10/24/12	Reduction in flow adversely affects wildlife habitat. It also affects human quality of life in those locations.
Dennis Blauer	Homosassa	FL	34448	United States	10/24/12	Just because something is legal, like the travesty that allowed a commercial water company to siphon out spring water near Three Sisters Springs in Crystal River, doesn't make it ethical. The extensive studies and science being thrown at us to justify this miscarriage of resource appropriation doesn't mean diddily squat to those of us who have watched the Chassahowitzka River slowly degrade visually over the past 25 years. Don't let this happen on our watch!
John Thatcher	Huntingdon		PE28 9LF	United Kingdom	10/24/12	The Florida Manatee is an endangered species and any interference with their habitat may be sufficient to send them into extinction. Once these creatures are gone, man has not the wit to recreate or replace them. Extinction is forever - your grandchildren will never forgive you.
elizabeth blauer	homosassa	FL	34448	United States	10/24/12	i love the chassahowitzka river
Norman Hopkins	Crystal River	FL	34429	United States	10/24/12	Further degradation of the subject waters by reducing flows will prejudice water quality of the OFW of Crystal River/Kings Bay spring fed from the common aquifer systems. Nitrate concentrations in the spring flows have not been adequately reflected in the MFL computations.
Stephanie Keener	Fort Collins	CO	80526	United States	10/24/12	I love the manatees....
Chris Newport	Indian Harbour Bea	FL	32937	United States	10/24/12	The reduction to the natural habitat of our natural resource's should be important to everyone. My family once owned Ponce de Leon Springs in Volusia. We sold it to the state so that they could better serve the protection of the spring. These resources are not renewable and the reduction of flow would not be reversable not to mention to late for the wild life. "SAVE OUR SPRINGS". Please dont risk it, many springs that existed in the sixties are already gone.
Roberta Gastmeyer	Gainesville	FL	32606	United States	10/24/12	Florida springs and rivers are DYING from overuse! Please use SCIENCE to determine appropriate sustainable use of Florida's waters.
William Killen	Murphy	NC	28906	United States	10/24/12	Stop messing with natural systems for the benefit of Business
Beverly Overa	Homosassa Springs	FL	34446	United States	10/24/12	The data SWIFTMUD collected does not accurately reflect current springs flows - they do include tidal influences from the Gulf, so the data is non-conclusive at best. Outstanding Florida Waterways should be set at ZERO to ensure future viability of this stakeholder resource. NO REDUCTION IS ACCEPTABLE for either the Homosassa or the Chassahowitzka Rivers - just look at pictures from the past. The disparity may be termed 'anecdotal', but seeing is believing. Withdrawals have already exceeded the Springs flow and the Riverine ecology's capacity to maintain, much less heal. ZERO, ZERO, ZERO.

Nancy Argenziano	TALLAHASSEE	FL	32311	United States	10/24/12	Because it is our lifeblood, and the lifeblood of other living beings. Not only do our lives depend on water, but so does our economy. We must be proper stewards of what we have. Science shows us that ANY reduction to an already diminished waterway will be detrimental. We surely can do better.
Susan Storie Newport	Melbourne	FL	32901	United States	10/24/12	I would like to keep our remaining wildlife and vegetation alive and well. Reducing the volume of water flows will result in the death of too many plants and animals that rely solely on these waters for their food and habitat.
Patrick Condray	Crystal River	FL	34429	United States	10/24/12	We dive and kayak. And some of our best friends are manatees.
Nancy Turner	Citrus Springs	FL	34434	United States	10/24/12	These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the fresh water habitats they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife). Reason enough!
Roger Dobronyi	Columbus	OH	43224	United States	10/24/12	I don't feel that the SWFWMD science is correct and I believe their model is very faulty. There have been springs going dry and yet they don't seem to think there is a problem. Rivers all the way up to the springheads are collecting barnacles from the salt water and they don't think there is a problem. When asked why the trees are dying along the river they shrug their shoulders and say "I don't know"! Like that is that and they should just move on. The scientists are either inept or corrupt or maybe both. The WMD should have an invested interest in preserving the drinking water supply for their region. Right now it survives only to aid developers.
Terri-Anne Auner	Homosassa	FL	34487	United States	10/24/12	The rivers are dead, but if you think it cannot get any worse, it can and will. We live here for the beauty and the wildlife of this area which is already reduced and will continue to disappear. When manatees come in the rivers to feed this winter they will find no food and will have to go back to the Gulf of Mexico to find new feeding grounds. At that point they will likely starve to death or freeze to death. How is that helping anything?
Virginia Fitzgerald	Beverly Hills	FL	34465	United States	10/24/12	The protection of our water
Rochelle Kaiser	Homosassa	FL	34448	United States	10/24/12	Since 1975 I have watched the Homosassa River deteriorate. No longer does the eel grass wave just below the surface and lily pads are a plant of the past. The reduced flow of freshwater output from the spring has already been felt by the amount of saltwater intrusion and the lack of natural vegetation. We need further legislation to prevent any future reductions in flow levels and stop this from happening all together.
Dr Susan Zimmer	CRYSTAL RIVER	FL	34423	United States	10/24/12	Florida's aquifer is its lifeline. No springs, no life. Springs need INCREASE in flow, not reduction.

Sheet1

janice howie	new port richey	FL	34652	United States	10/24/12	We are facing a serious water crisis in Florida, and need to insure that our water supply will remian adequate and healthy. I love these rivers for the habitat that they provide for wildlife and the recreational opportunities that they provide. I don't want to see them harmed at all.
Harold Seckinger	Homosassa	FL	34448	United States	10/24/12	I LIVE ON THE RIVER AND WATCH ITS DEGRADATION DAILY.
Craig Royal	Tampa	FL	33635	United States	10/24/12	We need to preserve these unique habitats for wildlife and for future generations.
Patricia Auffhamme	inverness	FL	34451	United States	10/24/12	Water for Wildlife!!
Robert Giles	Blacksburg	VA	24060	United States	10/24/12	Total watershed management needed for Refuge, cranes, and surroundings + manatees
Wes Calhoun	St Petersburg	FL	33710	United States	10/24/12	I love kayaking Florida rivers and seeing the wildlife. Please keep our rivers intact and don't put manatee habitats at risk.
Mary Louise DeWol	Crystal River	FL	34429	United States	10/24/12	I care about the quality of water for people and all life. Good water should always be available now and in the future. Don't let profits for a few destroy our quality of life.
Dave Howard	Gulfport	FL	33707	United States	10/24/12	Endangered Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat.
Marjorie Corey	Homosassa	FL	34448	United States	10/24/12	We are destroying our natural waterways. We need to start preserving what is beautiful and natural.
Valerie Keith	Crystal River	FL	34428	United States	10/24/12	These rivers are precious jewels in our state. Let's not destroy them for future generations.
Jeanne Murphy	Seminole	FL	33778	United States	10/24/12	SWFWMD and Florida residents should not accept damaging and destroying more habitat especially those designated as "Florida Outstanding Waterways."
Winston Perry	Homosassa	FL	34448	United States	10/24/12	The health of the Homosassa River is tenuous at best. Any further reduction of water will destroy it completely.
Dwight Adams	Gainesville	FL	32605	United States	10/24/12	We have to preserve something for our grandchildren!
Ellen Rentz	Lecanto	FL	34461	United States	10/24/12	Florida natural assets and beauty are being destroyed .Way past time to correcting the problems with our waterways!
Pam Atkinson	Floral City	FL	34436	United States	10/24/12	Crystal clear spring water is an asset. Let's preserve and maintain water quality and habitat where it belongs.
Grant Rimbey	Temple Terrace	FL	33617	United States	10/24/12	We need to fight nutrient runoff
Susan Pierce-Rimb	Temple Terrace	FL	33617	United States	10/24/12	Our freshwater needs to be fresh
Robert Keim	Bushnell	FL	33513	United States	10/24/12	Florida water are threatened by pollution, overuse and climate change. Setting such aggressively low MFLs, the state runs the risk of significantly harming our waters - a particularly bad thing not just for us, but for the future.
Joan Burnett	Crystal River	FL	34429	United States	10/24/12	I am concerned about the quality AND quantity of flow in our rivers
Gregg Mackler	Homosassa	FL	34448	United States	10/24/12	Reduced flow will affect water quality to local rivers, streams & the gulf. They have already suffered enough!

						It is of utmost importance to all of us! We as a county cannot continue to alter strong regulations to make it easier for people to get bottling permits or large consumptive permits. Water does not run to infinity. We must preserve with wise judgement now or there will be no future. Lowering the minimum flows in our rivers will only allow more water removal through outrageous grow and greed. Our leaders need to look in renewable resources areas to find clean growth for our state instead of relying on population growth to feed our economy. More solar farms, bring in solar panel manufacturers, look into tidal energy capture ideas and so on. Our state can be self sustainable if politicians would only think in new ways. The old ways have almost destroyed this country and the future holds all we need if only we would embrace it.
Theresa Waldron	Lecanto	FL	34460	United States	10/24/12	
Leslie Ramalho	Homosassa	FL	34446	United States	10/24/12	Because once it's gone...it's gone.
Shirley Knudsen	Homosassa	FL	34446	United States	10/24/12	As a member of the Friends of Crystal River NWR, saving the Manatees is our mission
Marcia Chesnicka	Crystal River	FL	34428	United States	10/24/12	The reduction in spring flow affects the water clarity and quality. As the years have passed I have watched the change in those creatures that can live in our water. SWFWMD should be protecting out water. Instead, their policies are just making it worse. It is not only manatees that are affected, it is the plant life, the birds, the fish, and the people.
Sandra Alpaugh	Temple Terrace	FL	33617	United States	10/24/12	The Chassahowitzka River is beautiful just as it is. It is already a shallow river so it cannot tolerate any reduction in the flow of it's springs.
Jill Lingard	Gainesville	FL	32653	United States	10/24/12	When will FL's political leaders realize the positive ECONOMIC impact of protecting our environment?
Mark Long	Chiefland	FL	32626	United States	10/24/12	Water is what makes Florida so wonderful and the manatees have been here for millenia. When we make it so that they can't survive, we aren't going to be far behind.
Thomas and Donna	Crystal River	FL	34428-2748	United States	10/24/12	Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters. Florida's Gulf waters get too cold for Manatees during winter months, and manatees unable to find thermal refuge in coastal springs like Chassahowitzka and Homosassa would certainly perish.
Tom Overa	Homosassa	FL	34446-1819	United States	10/24/12	Why is water important to anyone?
Lucinda Merritt	Fort White	FL	32038	United States	10/24/12	Our springs are our treasures, and our manatees need our help. If we drain our springs dry and our manatees die, will we be far behind?
Stewart Thomas	Gainesville	FL	32601	United States	10/24/12	Florida's waterways and her creatures are most beloved.

Sheet1

Robert Fenton	Winter Park	FL	32792	United States	10/24/12	Springs are a treasure known worldwide for their awe inspiring beauty.
Robert Bennett	Beverly Hills	FL	34465	United States	10/24/12	Water quality and quantity is our # 1 need. Wish SWFWMD management could catch up!
Melissa Wall	Morrison	FL	32668	United States	10/24/12	Stop messing with our water!!!
						The Homosassa River area has long been a favorite vacation spot for my family. Anything that is done that endangers this wonderful river is irresponsible by those who would do it and unacceptable to those who enjoy it's wonderfully beautiful environment.
Carolyn Callahan	Temple Terrace	FL	33617	United States	10/24/12	No one, in their right mind, who proposes these changes are extremely irresponsible and do not deserve to serve our citizens.
Candace Sasser	Beverly Hills	FL	34464	United States	10/25/12	MAKES SENSE
						once the spring flow is reduced it will be difficult to ever get back what is lost and thus the ecology of a springshed will change over time. what needs to change is the attitude about water quality and quantity. it is a limited resource!!
Emily Casey	inverness	FL	34450	United States	10/25/12	
Daryle Heldenbrand	Lees Summit	MO	64063	United States	10/25/12	Save the manatees
Lori McCraney	Live Oak	FL	32060	United States	10/25/12	I treasure manatees!
						The freshwater of the springs is essential for residents of Florida as well as for the manatees and other life forms.Francine Robinson(signed)
Francine Robinson	GAINESVILLE	FL	32605	United States	10/25/12	
Susan Woods)cala	FL	34482	United States	10/25/12	This is very important to me because we humans are NOT the only beings that matter!
Crystal Kazemfar	Miami	FL	33131	United States	10/25/12	If we do not act now to save the springs we will deeply regret it in the future!
						Healthy waterways depend on good flow rates. Rivers should not pay the price for human population pressure.
Daniel Preston	Gainesville	FL	32607	United States	10/25/12	
Carla Bernhardt	homosassa	FL	34448	United States	10/25/12	Ecology
Patricia Kirby	Clearwater	FL	33756	United States	10/25/12	Manatees need all the help they can get.
						MANage OUR Water Sensibly. Cedar Keys, Levy County now has Gulf water in their wells. Salt water is unfit for drinking for people, plants, animals, and even manatees. Who is responsible for MANaging that water flow and level travesty? What model was used to MANage Cedar Keys water flows and levels? Proper MANagement recognizes reality, observes mistakes, and learns from the past, and especially those occurring at this very moment, to make responsible decisions. It appears so obviously that there is alarming need to INCREASE water levels, before even considering any reduction.
GUS ZIMMER	BEVERLY HILLS	FL	34465	United States	10/25/12	The real question is how much percentage we need to INCREASE water flows!
M E Weldon	Lake Pan	FL	33538	United States	10/25/12	sounds about as good as the cross FI barge canal todo

Sheet1

Kimberly Caldwell	Homosassa	FL	34448	United States	10/25/12	I live here and so far they have no backup plan if they mess up.
Joyce Valentino	Inverness	FL	34452	United States	10/25/12	protect and preserve our lakes and rivers from future withdrawals causing further degradation.
steve tryon	temple terrace	FL	33617	United States	10/25/12	these are natural resources supporting all levels of marine and estuary life.
susan koenig	Berkeley	CA	94702	United States	10/25/12	Save the Rivers--we need a strong, healthy environment-water, air, food!
Mandy Hancock	Gainesville	FL	32609	United States	10/25/12	Save the rivers, save the springs! These are precious resources that cannot be replaced.
Gus Krayner	LECANTO	FL	34461-7912	United States	10/25/12	SWFWMD is charged with protecting the environment for the public good. Permitting further degradation of already degraded OFWs is outrageous! Please! Do the right thing, or we will forever lose our most precious resource!
Barbara Freeman	Beverly Hills	FL	34465	United States	10/25/12	Pure water is our most important natural resource.
Debbie Yandle	Lexington	SC	29072	United States	10/25/12	Such gentle creatures
Patricia Luck	Johns Island	SC	29455-3252	United States	10/25/12	Every manatee needs all the help it can get!
mike kulk	BEVERLY HILLS	FL	34465	United States	10/25/12	It's simple to understand: Reduce water flow, reduce life. Reduce water levels, increase short term \$\$ gain for a few.
Garth Hermanson	Chicago	IL	60613	United States	10/25/12	Manatees rock!
Kay Considine-Bara	Alsip	IL	60803	United States	10/25/12	The Manatees rely on these bodies of water to get where they need to be. Reducing the flow will harm them-do they even have another route?
Patrick Noland	IL	IL	60130	United States	10/25/12	Manatees have limited areas in winter months to live.
Gayle Gregg	Chicago, IL	IL	60654	United States	10/25/12	Beautiful and gentle creatures must be protected
Jessica Carleton	Chicago	IL	60640	United States	10/25/12	Manatees are incredibly gentle creatures and deserve to be protected. How dare we destroy more of their habitat then we already have? If the obvious ethic reasons for their protection are not enough to convince the board, consider the tourism you gain from a healthy community of Manatees. I have personally traveled to Florida to see them, and have been planning to return for that same reason. There should be no question about doing everything in our power to save manatees simply because it is the right thing to do
Steven Prchal	Tucson	AZ	85710-4606	United States	10/25/12	This is a unique habitat with unique species. Loss of habitat is the primary driver to a species extinction. This one should be protected.
Paula Rock	Apache Junction	AZ	85120	United States	10/25/12	Please leave the manatees homes alone. They are so few in numbers. Must we kill off every species before enough is enough.
Bill Edwards	Havana	IL	62644	United States	10/25/12	They are a gentle animal and need all the help they can get to survive!
Laura Williams	goose creek	SC	29445	United States	10/25/12	SAVE THESE AMAZING CREATURES! NO TO REDUCTIONS IN FLOW!
SIDNEY FINCANN	Mesa	AZ	85201	United States	10/25/12	Preservation of species
Kate Montgomery	seattle	WA	98122	United States	10/25/12	They are the sweetest most majestic creatures I have ever see. Please save them.

Sheet1

Kathleen True	Queen Creek	AZ	85140	United States	10/25/12	I love Manatees. They are sweet and harmless.
DErlin Gerard Clair	Slidell	LA	70458	United States	10/25/12	Because all animals,including marine ones,should be treated with respect,nd consideration,that's all.
Mary Gelpi	Covington	LA	70435	United States	10/25/12	I love manatees!
Glenn Counts	Leesville	LA	71446	United States	10/25/12	Animals have as much right to live as we do...
EVELYN DEBAUN	PHOENIX	AZ	85029	United States	10/25/12	I care for all animals and it is our duty to protect all life in the oceans!
john scanlon	Indianapolis	IN	46250	United States	10/25/12	Because they are endangered. Motor boats injure and kill them and loss of needed fresh water springs refuge will be to their detriment.
Roberta Peel	Tucson	AZ	85712	United States	10/25/12	I grew up in FL and am familiar with man-caused destruction of critical habitat. It's important to protect the vulnerable manatees.
Peter Krones	Waxhaw	NC	238173	United States	10/25/12	The reasons for supporting the survival of endangered ecosystems are obvious. I am signing because it APPEARS that the hazards are honestly and accurately documented. I do wish there were more data attached to the petition. Thanks for working to save this corner of the world.
Glorianne Leck	Bloomington	IN	47404-3643	United States	10/25/12	Because we must share the earth and water with these beautiful creatures
Yaedi Ignatow	Tucson	AZ	85719	United States	10/25/12	It is so obvious that Manatees should be protected and saved from losing fresh water flow, habitat and warmth of water in winter. We must make this happen.
Bekim Sejdiu	Cary	NC	27519	United States	10/25/12	There is always another way to solve a problem with out endangering the environment. It may be longer or tougher, but that doesn't make it right.
Laura Blanchette	Aiken	SC	29801	United States	10/25/12	They harm NO ONE!!!! Please, help save them. It is the least we can do.
IBobby Rothschild	Tucson	AZ	85705	United States	10/25/12	I have swum around these precious creatures and know how fragile they are due to being close to the shoreline which is very dangerous.
Kay Weaver	Myrtle Beach	SC	29588	United States	10/25/12	all living creatures are important
raymond martinez	yuma	AZ	85364	United States	10/25/12	LET THE ANIMALS LIVE
David Lefly	Chicago	IL	60625	United States	10/25/12	I vacation in Florida, and the Chassahowitzka National Wildlife Refuge is one of the places I like to visit.
Katrina Koric	Metairie	LA	70005	United States	10/25/12	Every being on this earth deserves their natural habitat. It is crucial to protect these animals who are already suffering so much from human issues.
Nicole Cannella	Peoria	AZ	85345	United States	10/25/12	ALL creatures deserve a chance at life!!! Overpopulation is NOT your concern! It is nature taking it's course! What next, human serilization???
Daniel Darrell	Candler	NC	28715	United States	10/25/12	I used to live in FL, and loved to watch the manatees. I want my grandchildren to be able to have that experience.

Sheet1

Susan Enwright	Asheville	NC	28806	United States	10/25/12	Florida is my home state, where my parents & brothers still live. I want my niece and, eventually, my own children to know these beautiful, gentle creatures as I did as a child.
Deborah Watson	Tucson	AZ	85741	United States	10/25/12	Manatees are so reliant upon us to be stewards for their well-being. We are absolutely responsible for their survival and ability to thrive alongside us.
Saralaine Millet	Tucson	AZ	85743	United States	10/25/12	Species diversity is crucial to all life, but Florida's manatees are an American icon in need of maximum protection.
Liliana Maya	Miami	FL	33186	United States	10/25/12	I love manatees
Brian McFarland	Chicago	IL	60614	United States	10/25/12	It is important to me because I have visited the Banana River and made friends with the loving and gentle Manatees.
Tamara Zamora	Miami	FL	33165	United States	10/25/12	Because preserving the manatees is important to me and my loved ones.
john Wert	Oviedo	FL	32765	United States	10/25/12	First you screw the public schools and now you screw the environment. I am truly sorry I voted for you. What a mistake. I hope you enjoy your first and last term in office.
kenny millions	hallandale	FL	33009	United States	10/25/12	do something right Scott.
Nannette S	Surprise	AZ	85374	United States	10/25/12	Come on! Really be nice!
Theresa Radcliff	St.Petersburg	FL	33710	United States	10/25/12	Love Animals
Bethany Englert	Tucson	AZ	85719	United States	10/25/12	i love manatees, we need to protect those that cant protect themselves.
Cynthia Wright	Jacksonville	FL	32223	United States	10/25/12	Only humans can protect these truly innocent creatures who clean our waterways of too much vegetation. They are beautiful and harmless
Arianna Reybitz	Belleair Bluffs	FL	33770	United States	10/25/12	Because manatees are cooler and more important than Rick Scott will ever be!
Richard Storman	GROVELAND	FL	34736	United States	10/25/12	I am a 5th generation Floridian from Cracker ancestry. There has been too much irreversible damage done to our ecosystem already. Our children and Grandchildren will never know the original beauty that was Florida.
Kathy Stallings	Louisburg	NC	27549	United States	10/25/12	We need to stop killing off and destroying life in the name of greed.
Lisa Phillips	Jacksonville	FL	32210	United States	10/25/12	Florida springs need to be restored whenever possible and practical and springs with existing ecosystems need to be protected.
Betty Cox	Fernandina Beach	FL	32034	United States	10/25/12	Preserving natural wildlife habitat is essential to prevent extinction.
Gina Rice	Tampa	FL	33617	United States	10/25/12	I am a travel agent and tourists will not come to Florida if we ruin it. I also kayak fish and love the manatees that I see all the time.
jonah freedman	brooklyn	NY	11216	United States	10/25/12	IT'S NOT OUR RIGHT TO DESTROY ALL THE ANIMALS ON EARTH!!
Mary Beattie	Sun City	AZ	85351	United States	10/25/12	As a child I loved to look in the river and see the manatees. I want my grandchildren to be able to do that too. I come from a long line of crackers. My ancestors settled Florida Territory many many year ago.
Carolyn Warner	St. Petersburg	FL	33715-1685	United States	10/25/12	manatees are scarce and need all the help they can get.

Sheet1

David Holzapfel - Tyme	Orlando Titusville	FL FL	32758 32796	United States United States	10/25/12 10/25/12	This planet and all walks of life , are the beginnings of and always will be forms of survival We are nothing without a healthy environment.
lorna bouthillette	tamarac	FL	33321	United States	10/25/12	Because they have the right to be free - they do not hurt anyone. They have the right to be alive - they are gentle giants.
Judy Edwards	viera	FL	32955	United States	10/25/12	cause I love manatees
Jayne Ortiz	Winter Park	FL	32792	United States	10/25/12	The manatees need more water to stay warm. Please do not reduce the flow. Thanks.
Gail Weber	Winter Park	FL	32793	United States	10/25/12	Do the right thing!
susan greenfield	southbend	IN	46615	United States	10/25/12	nature should not be disrupted
Sandy Holmes	Orlando	FL	32804	United States	10/25/12	I love manatees and I want them to have the best habitat for their survival.
Ed Gallio	Port Charlotte	FL	33981	United States	10/25/12	It's absurd I even have to give a reason for signing this but I will. I grew up in the inner city, when I was 10 years old we moved to the 'country' and the magnificense of God's creatures showed me what is truly beautiful in this world of ours. Let's all do what we can to protect those than cannot protect themselves, they are beautiful creatures and living in Florida I've come to appreciate the beauty of nature and it's residents. Aligators, manatees, panthers, even our birds are all majestic and it's up to us to protect them from the ASSHOLES of the world that believe they deserve to inhabit this beautiful environment and put profit and their bottom line before the welfare of all of these creatures that were here long before we were. That's MY reason for signing.
Carol Hindsman	Miami	FL	33183	United States	10/25/12	It is very important to me as a Florida resident to preserve our Manatees and our rivers. Please no reduction in flow for our rivers.
Shane Izzo	Sarasota	FL	34233	United States	10/25/12	Manatees are important!!!!
Jon King	SAINT JAMES CITY	FL	33956	United States	10/25/12	I been to these places, even diving & swimming with manatees. They are fragile environments & deserve protection
Melinda Winner	Zephyrhills	FL	33541	United States	10/25/12	One of the most memorible times in my life were swimming with the manatees. I also enjoy visiting them often.
Gail Toffey	Vero Beach	FL	32966	United States	10/25/12	Fresh water flow and levels should be maintained in Florida springs and waterways for preserving the life and safety of present and future manatee populations.
dawn spurling	frankfort	IN	46041	United States	10/25/12	we need to learn how to respect and honor all of gods creatures. how would we feel if the shoes were on the other feet and the animals kept taking all of our rights away to live worry free in this world just because they are animals they still have feelings and they do have rights i sure wouldn't want someone to just come in a take my home.
rena seibert	cocoa	FL	32926	United States	10/25/12	Because manatees are helpless and need protection.
Pauline Crawshaw	Hendersonville	NC	28791	United States	10/25/12	The manatees are a big tourist attraction in FL, without the springs they will be gone. That would be tragic!

Sheet1

Margaret Hunt	Homosassa	FL	34448	United States	10/25/12	The rivers need to be saved from further salt intrusion so fish and plant life can come back.
Barbara Ferguson	Fort White	FL	32038	United States	10/25/12	They don't deserve to loose their habitat and die. Humans need to learn to co-habitate.
Mark Suffridge	Clearwater	FL	33763	United States	10/25/12	These are God's creatures so save and preserve their springs!
Mindy McCormack	Plymouth	FL	327678	United States	10/25/12	I am a native of Florida, one of the few they have not managed to run out of here yet. I would like places and animals to be protected from destruction period!!!
Sylvia Campbell	Tampa	FL	33629	United States	10/25/12	We must protect this world for the future and all those who follow us. Once these precious gifts are gone, they are gone forever.
May Caschera	Dania Beach	FL	33004	United States	10/25/12	I love Manatees and they are the most gentle animals..we need to help.
Darlene Kelley	atlantic beach	FL	32233	United States	10/25/12	The springs and the manatees are part of what makes Florida special. We owe it to the future generations to save them
maggie smathers	port charlotte	FL	33948	United States	10/25/12	Because manatees are found in few places in the United States and we are their stewards.
Dorothy Chiles	Orlando	FL	32806	United States	10/25/12	Protecting the manatee population is important and by protecting them we'll end up protecting the quality of our lives too
Barbara Sallee	Bradenton	FL	34203	United States	10/25/12	We absolutely need to have high enough water levels for the Manatees and other wetland inhabitants.
Peter Mullen	Scottsdale	AZ	85251	United States	10/25/12	The nature of Florida is the only thing of value left and it's being raped. Stupid environmental choices that say Manatees and other wildlife are just in the way will soon devastate the states economy permanently.
Robert Hess	Dallas	NC	28034	United States	10/25/12	don't want to lose the critters.
Jerry Morton	Lakeland	FL	33813	United States	10/25/12	The residents of The Chaz have spent thousands of dollars each to convert their septic tanks to city sewage to clean up The Chaz and preserve it for future generations. To continue The Chaz restoration ZERO percent reduction in flows is necessary to maintain this Outstanding Florida Water!
Russell Riley	Pensacola	FL	32506	United States	10/25/12	I care about what the Army Corps of Engineers have done to the Everglades; THEY SCREWED IT UP for the sugar companies! I Love the marine animals and it's very sad to see them disappear from the earth just so politics and greedy people can feather their nest (bank accounts). Army Corps o Engineers are a bunch of nuts that hasn't the sense to flush a toilet! Let the manatees live!
Lauren Gabriel	Fort White	FL	32038	United States	10/25/12	I live in Florida, and love the manatees!
Marilyn Poff	Geneva	IL	60134	United States	10/25/12	I have been to Florida and have seen the Manatees, so should others
Kristine Roche	phoenix	AZ	85020	United States	10/25/12	All creatures of this earth are important to me. I use my voice, since they do not have one.
Joyce Umphlett	Pensacola	FL	32504	United States	10/25/12	We must protect these beautiful manatees...

Brenda Thompson	Jacksonville	FL	32224	United States	10/25/12	The Manatees have struggled for years to survive. Do not set wheels into action that will threaten them more than they already are.
yvette kastor	chuluota	FL	32766	United States	10/25/12	This is important to me because I've been living in Florida for over 40 years and I love this state. The effects of overuse of our aquifers will disrupt entire ecosystems. all over this state, spring fed rivers and springs health.
jacqueline mintz	ft lauderdale	FL	33301	United States	10/25/12	Please don't let the manatees die!
Linda Huizar	Casa Grande	AZ	85122	United States	10/25/12	Because all animals deserve the right to be protected. We shouldn't allow our fellow inhabitants of our world be slighted because they are not human.
RICHARD WINDLE	Citrus Springs	FL	34433	United States	10/25/12	These rivers a vital habitat for manatees and other marine life in west central Florida and currentvolumns should be maintained.
kate borra	waxhaw	NC	28173	United States	10/25/12	I LOOOOOOOOOOOOOOVE manatees! many people say, since they aren't as cute as Whales or Otters, they don't matter. Suck that! they need to be saved they're the sea cows. they never hurt nobody. so why do we have the right to hurt them?
Bill Bushnell	Amelia Island	FL	32034	United States	10/25/12	Because we are charged with protecting the earth and all its species.
M F	Plano	TX	75023	United States	10/25/12	If we don't help to save the species, who will?
Elmo Dunn	Longwood	FL	32779	United States	10/25/12	The springs must be saved for the manatees.
Elizabeth Frank	Homosassa	FL	34448	United States	10/25/12	Water shortages are coming, but we need not destroy what brings tourist dollars to our part of FL in order to continue overbuilding homes when present ones sit empty, and continue to encourage wasteful water usage. Betsy
Anzia Armstrong	Pompano Beach	FL	33064	United States	10/25/12	We are supposed to keep our waterways safe and protect the species within them.
naurlene cantermar	tucson	AZ	85750	United States	10/25/12	love all creatures!
James Frank	Homosassa	FL	34448	United States	10/25/12	We have an area whose main tourism revolves around 2 things: Golf and Kayaking in our beautiful spring fed rivers. Water conservation needs practice, but just lip service!!!! Jim
Karin Jeffery	Tallahassee	FL	32311-3753	United States	10/25/12	As a student at Florida State University, I feel strongly that we need to protect our state's official marine mammals, not just pay lip service to them.
Jason Howard	Goliad	TX	77963	United States	10/25/12	My family and I look forward to going to Homosassa in the summer to see the Manatees and enjoy (back when we first went) clear waters.
sophia flannaghan	tampa	FL	33624	United States	10/25/12	It wouldn't be fl without manatees!
Stephen York	Lake Worth	FL	33460	United States	10/25/12	All Life has consciousness and deserves to co-exist with humans who have failed miserably with being the care takers of this Earth. Government is heartless! It is time for the people to take action and by-pass greed and stupidity which runs rampant in our institutions. Save the Manatee, dissolve corrupt beauracry !

Sheet1

b holcombe	winterhaven	FL	33880	United States	10/25/12	we need to protect our waterways and wildlife.
sara taylor	venice	FL	34285	United States	10/25/12	I love manatees as most floridians do. We must preserve their habitat
Carol Keenan	Phoenix	AZ	85016	United States	10/25/12	saw the manatees while vacationing in FL. They are such gentle, trusting mammals.
joyce corrington	sierra vista	AZ	85635	United States	10/25/12	ALL ANIMALS NEED TO BE PROTECTED
Alan Lenowitz	Longboat Key	FL	34228	United States	10/25/12	Please protect the helpless, adorable manatees!!
raemona clark	largo	FL	33778	United States	10/25/12	Because manatees need clean water to live in and raise their families in, Peace and Love Raemona Mae Clark Largo Florida
jane stemmerman	Hallandale	FL	3E+008	United States	10/25/12	we need to provide for other life aside from ourselves
Mark Smith	Tampa	FL	33602	United States	10/25/12	All fresh water flow should not be limited, save all marine / river life
Ronald A Grimm Sr	Pensacola	FL	32505	United States	10/25/12	all life is from God, and must be protected
Sonia Wiard	Crystal River	FL	34428-2736	United States	10/25/12	For all the reasons stated. Save our manatee habitat
Grace Giammello	Boynton Beach	FL	33426	United States	10/25/12	We can't afford to keep on abusing the environment and wildlife. I don't know what they're thinking...
Michael Gedroc	West Palm Beach	FL	33409	United States	10/25/12	The entire Earth and all life is precious.
Elizabeth McNeil	Mesa	AZ	85210	United States	10/25/12	I love manatees.
Jared Jeffers	Camby	IN	46113	United States	10/25/12	Finally, a petition worth signing. Sorry Change.org, but I just don't care about some kid with cancer.
CONNIE CUETO	Lithia	FL	33547	United States	10/25/12	It's time to do all we can to save these endangered manatees.
Georgianne Ford	Mesa	AZ	85210	United States	10/25/12	We have to save the worlds creatures. It is our duty since we share the planet.
Rebecca Pack	Lake Charles	LA	70611	United States	10/25/12	Endangered species must be protected.
James Burford	Cocoa	FL	32927	United States	10/25/12	Lining your pockets only lasts a lifetime. Killing off species and the environment is forever.
Brenda Murray	Palm Coast	FL	32137	United States	10/25/12	We need to stop messing with nature in Florida!
Penny Leboeuf	Montegut	LA	70377	United States	10/25/12	It's important to save all animals.
Carol Partington	Tampa	FL	33604-4403	United States	10/25/12	I like manatees!
Robert Gamble	Palm Bay	FL	32908	United States	10/25/12	I live in Florida and our Manatees need all the help they can get. Reduction of water flow will also cause problems in oyster beds and other breeding beds for fish.
katie Vento	Sunny Isles Beach	FL	33160-2411	United States	10/25/12	We Floridians love our Manatees which are critically endangered. Help us protect the manatees for future generations
Karl Zedell	Jacksonville	FL	32223	United States	10/25/12	We love this wonderful creatures and they need to protected because they have no defense of their own!

Sheet1

Anthony Byrne	Naperville	IL	60540	United States	10/25/12	I'm a frequent visitor to Florida and love its natrual wonders.
Matthew Jonas	tucson	AZ	85701	United States	10/25/12	love'em
maralyn boysen	Inverness	FL	34450	United States	10/25/12	I want my grandchildren and their grandchildren to love our Springs for years to come. Also my friends love to tourist down here and the Springs is one reason.
Holly Reading	Phoenix	AZ	85023	United States	10/25/12	I have always love manatees, and they need our help
robert krueger	chicago	IL	60626	United States	10/25/12	because I travel there yearly & am impressed by their gentlemess & peace which is transmitted to my soul. Peace
Bob Campbell	Prescott Valley	AZ	86314	United States	10/25/12	Its their home!
Kim Hilts	Hudson	FL	34667	United States	10/25/12	I live in Florida very close to Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs and will protect the Manatees any way I can. They are special creatures and we need to protect them and preserve them. Do NOT Let This Happen!!
Ras Jamie De Bus	Tucson	AZ	85705	United States	10/26/12	Ras Tafari loves and protects ALL living plants and animals, Raaaaaaaas Tafari!!! Fai-yah Bun all haters of animals, Earth, and environments. Fuck you all corporate Capitalist Pigs!!!!!!!!!!!! Fai-yah!!!!!!!!!!!!
Julie Morton	Lakeland	FL	33813	United States	10/26/12	My family and I visit the river every weekend. We are not avid fishermen; however, we enjoy observing the plant and animal life, and the overall scenery as we boat down the Chassahowitzka River. It is a beautiful river, and any water reduction that would destroy 15% of the wildlife is too much. We paid big money to attach to the sewer system, to protect the waterways, to help clean up the river. Let's keep our rivers, full, clean, and restored to the way they need to be to help the flora and fauna survive. Most importantly, to be saved for future generations to enjoy.
carolyn finocchio	fernandina beach	FL	32034	United States	10/26/12	there aren't that many left, but are not manatee "friendly"!!!!!!
Jean Roberts	Oak Park	IL	60302	United States	10/26/12	habitats.
Jessica Smith	Jackson	MI	49201	United States	10/26/12	Manatees are amazing creatures that need protection.
Richard Pasichnyk	Mesa	AZ	85201	United States	10/26/12	It is our duty to protect and nurture all life.
Mia Elias	Asheville	NC	28801	United States	10/26/12	We need manatees.
Kate Noto	Clearwater	FL	33764	United States	10/26/12	Because manatees are apart of Florida
Jerome Gorski	Clermont	FL	34711	United States	10/26/12	Because it's the right thing to do!
Elaine Beggs	Spring Hill	FL	34609	United States	10/26/12	Because I don't want them to come extinct.
Barbara B Eddins	Isle of Wight	VA	23314	United States	10/26/12	Ever animal and their natural habitat must be protected.
Mark Venzke	Wildwood	FL	34785	United States	10/26/12	Our natural resources are precious and worth protecting. We can live comfortably without degrading or destroying them.
Laurie Bonham	Mesa	AZ	85202-2750	United States	10/26/12	Manatees are special and deserve all the help they can get from us humans
Connor Doty	Phoenix	AZ	85048	United States	10/26/12	In an odd way, I feel like doing any sort of harm to manatees on purpose is a guarantee of going to Hell.

Charles Belletsky	Homosassa	FL	34446	United States	10/26/12	I live near the Chazz springs and use it. Keep it the same. Leave it alone.
Dr, Monroe A. t Gilbert	Palm Coast	FL	32164	United States	10/26/12	manatees deserve every break they can get from us human overlords.
ANABELL M PICCA	North Bay Village	FL	33141	United States	10/26/12	i love animals
Marshall Magruder	Tubac	AZ	85646	United States	10/26/12	I was raised in Florida and know how important manatees are.
Isabel Strzepka	Palm Beach Garden	FL	33410	United States	10/26/12	Beacause we are responsible for the well being and health of our planet and the creatures that occupy it
MJ Cancro	Jupiter	FL	33458	United States	10/26/12	If we lose fresh water habitats we can never get them back. I've seen the manatees in this area and it's like no where else in our U.S.A. This is a real treasure.
JC Phillips	Gainesville	FL	32608	United States	10/26/12	The manatee is Florida natural wildlife and a delicate and sensitive creature. You have no business doing anything that might endanger such a sweet and gentle creature. You buttheads think you can decide for the rest of us, what will and wont happen in our world - well your WRONG and you need to suck it up and get a brain!
Leah King	Hudson	FL	34669	United States	10/26/12	I love manatee and homasassa springs is a beautiful place for these creatures
Sue Chalut	Tarpon Springs	FL	34689	United States	10/26/12	Important to leave mother nature ALONE
Mimi Greek	Tavernier	FL	33070	United States	10/26/12	I love Manatees
Ana Maria Aviles	Boca Raton	FL	33496	United States	10/26/12	1. I love and care for all animals. 2. Eliminate suffering. 3. Manatees are V.I.P. Manatees need our help; they're only endangered because of our actions.
Hope Maruzo	Bozrah	CT	6334	United States	10/26/12	
Hugh Hoadley	Sarasota	FL	34238	United States	10/26/12	Lets keep the manatees alive.
HEIDI VASQUEZ	PHOENIX	AZ	85031	United States	10/26/12	Animals are God's creation so why do something that can hurt them?
MaryAnn Johnson	Schererville	IN	46375	United States	10/26/12	I love all animals and these are such lovable creatures.
Lee Canel	Wilmette	IL	60091-2306	United States	10/26/12	Saving Endangered species and protecting habitats is important, and actually helps to protect us too.
Michael Farber	Mesa	AZ	85201	United States	10/26/12	I love nature. We're destroying it all. And will be left with nothing if we don't take a stand.
Ann Griffin	Flagstaff	AZ	86004	United States	10/26/12	This is an encroachment on the habitat and survival of an endangered species!
Florence Socolov	Fort Lauderdale	FL	33305	United States	10/26/12	Our gov. apparently doesn't care about anything other than satisfying his republican cohorts, and ecology is one of the last things on his agenda.
Monte Adkison	Ocala	FL	34476	United States	10/26/12	R U kidding? This is critical to preservation of the environment.
Diane Harris	Tampa	FL	33647	United States	10/26/12	We need to save all the fresh water in Florida. We are destroying the water ways to gain growth - Florida does not have enough fresh water for any more growth.

Sheet1

G Kemp	Dade City	FL	33525	United States	10/26/12	Leave the natural beauty alone.
andy siegel	bo0ca	FL	33486	United States	10/26/12	just is
Martha Iriarte	Cape Coral	FL	33990	United States	10/26/12	We need to protect our world this includes all of it!!!
george and donna g	Casa Grande	AZ	85122	United States	10/26/12	You must save these waters for the Manatees and for future generations. Every animal that is put in danger of extinction hurts us all.
Don Gorney	Tucson	AZ	85739	United States	10/26/12	All life is inter
LJ Hill	sneads	FL	32460	United States	10/26/12	Manatees are a gentle pre-historic looking creature who needs care to survive the onslaught of humans!
claudia rojas	phoenix	AZ	85042	United States	10/26/12	please help these wonderful creatures their arent many left for us to enjoy.....
Barbara Shaver	Sarasota	FL	34243	United States	10/26/12	Florida's Manatee is a tourist attraction and beloved by many in USA.
America Schroh	no. mia beach	FL	33162	United States	10/26/12	we need to solidarized with others.
Gary Bettum	Sedona	AZ	86336	United States	10/26/12	I love Manatees, can we please find a win-win!?
patricia eads	Phoenix	AZ	85014	United States	10/26/12	endagered manatees
Sharon Risley	Royal Palm Beach	FL	33411	United States	10/26/12	These animals must be protected from extinction, and the water must be protected for all of Florida
Judy Saeger	Sierra Vista	AZ	85650	United States	10/26/12	We need to do everything we can to save these endagered animals. Not to mention the other things that may be hurt if this is carried out!
Sharon Bodnar	Hoffman Estates	IL	60169	United States	10/26/12	These are beautiful animals...I think of Florida when I see them. Keep them flourishing please.
murray creighton	Toronto		M1K 1R6	Canada	10/26/12	They are wonderfull creatures...
Ross Knudsen	Homosassa	FL	34446	United States	10/26/12	Nothing is as important as water
D. A. Belvin	Elizabeth City	NC	27909	United States	10/26/12	These are such gentle creatures. Is nothing sacred any more? I used to live in FL and have seen these up close. How could anyone want to hurt them? I am so tired of money being the end all - which it will be one of these days! We're ending this planet's existence slowly but surely. Please leave these bodies of water alone and let the creatures who live there - live in peace!

James Land	Tallahassee	FL	32312	United States	10/26/12	I am signing this petition not only to assist the manatee, just one of Florida's many natural resoures, but to remind mankind that the most precious commodity in the world is clean, fresh, potable water. In the future, if (humanatee) survives, more wars will be fought over water than any commodity on Earth. Do your research! States have been feuding over water rights and our vast aquafers are being drained at an alarming rate. Saving the manatee is the least of our problems. Turning to polititions to solve our problems is a joke. Polititons are the very people, who in less than 30yrs. have taken the U.S. from the greatest creditor nation on Earth to the greatest debtor nation on Earth. My solution to this Gordian Knot is simple. To believers and non-believers alike, only God the Father of our Lord and Savior Christ Jesus can make right the mess man has made of the soon to be Late Great Planet Earth.
Caroline Barkley	Buckeye	AZ	85326	United States	10/26/12	This is very dear to my heart. I grew up in Miami and we lived on the Miami River. Every morning the gentle giants would swim down stream and every evening swim back up stream. This was before their populations were decimated by sped boats. Please leave them places that are safe for them to live and reproduce. Can't we just learn to live together without destroying everything we feel is in our way?
Robin Hicks	Taylorsville	NC	28681	United States	10/26/12	Manatees are so gentle and I have heard they are becoming endangered.
lori sauber	wesely chapel	FL	33543	United States	10/26/12	we need to save the manatees
Cheryl McGraw	Rocky Point	NC	28457	United States	10/26/12	We are the next species to be imperiled, the manatees situation is reflective of our own very soon.
Lynne Warberg	Sarasota	FL	34233	United States	10/26/12	Be kind to Fl's gentle giants.
Tina choate	Sedona	AZ	86336	United States	10/26/12	ALL wildlife is important. We must preserve these creations of God forthe ecological balance of the planet to be sustained. We have no right to destroy what we cannot recreate.
Christine Laughlin	Homosassa	FL	34448	United States	10/26/12	I remember when the Homosassa River was a beautiful clear flowing river with a white sand bottom, emerald green grasses and diverse wildlife in abundance. Now the water is often murky, there is only muck for vegetation, and very few fish. The fact that there are barnacles in what was formerly a first magnitude spring should be alarming to anyone who cares about our natural environment, especially those intrusted to protect it. If the springs are this detrimentally impacted by only a 1% reduction, what will happen with a 3% reduction????
Susan North	Tucson	AZ	85712	United States	10/26/12	all species deserve our respect and support
Sandra Rosenberg	San Diego	CA	92108	United States	10/26/12	Manatees have no choice in their environment. Humans have plenty.
james mark Turner	Greer	SC	29651	United States	10/26/12	I have live in the area. I know the problems with this.

Sheet1

tom taylor	mesa	AZ	85213	United States	10/26/12	we should do all we can for all species.
Janet Cyktor	Tampa	FL	33624	United States	10/26/12	To save our manatees
Robert Valdivieso	Miami	FL	33131	United States	10/26/12	Enviromental protection and reduction of human polution.
Jennifer Austin	Spring Hill	FL	34606	United States	10/26/12	Save our fresh water, and all the life living there! We've raped our planet enough!!!!!!!!!!!!
MARY WILSON	LAKELAND	FL	33815	United States	10/26/12	manatees are a special Florida water animal and need adequate environment to survive.
Teresa McConnell	Palm Harbor	FL	34684	United States	10/26/12	Manatees welfare, plain and simple.
daniel Rod	caguas	LA	727	United States	10/26/12	Truth and justice
Christin Lopenzo	Deltona	FL	32725	United States	10/26/12	As a citizen of Volusia County I have the pleasure of seeing the manatees at Blue Springs State Park. They need as much help as they can, they are already in trouble.
Maxine Wooton	Science Hill	KY	42553	United States	10/26/12	manatees are a part of FI. they are educatioal and exciting for visitors.
colleen wilder'	englewood	FL	34223	United States	10/26/12	it is extremely important to me , being a floridian, manatee deserve our respect and protection, they are lovly gentle creatures that we have invaded.
carl barta	miami	FL	33140	United States	10/26/12	I am a FL resident, manatees are absolutely amazing creatures and highly endangered, this is a horrible proposal, lets hope Scott does not get worse than Napoleon Bonaparte Broward.
Annette Pedersen	Glendale	AZ	85302	United States	10/26/12	I am moving to FLorida soon, and would really like to be able to see manatees and tell my friends about them. Such gentle creatures, and something that Florida is well-known for!
Frances Dennis	Goldsboro	NC	27534	United States	10/26/12	These animals are amazing and their habitat should be preserved.
Christopher Molla	Tucson	AZ	85745	United States	10/26/12	The fate of endangered species is a bellwether for the health of the ehvironment. If the manatees do well, it means the wetlands are healthier.
Victor Beck	Phoenix	AZ	85048	United States	10/26/12	And manatees are wonderful creatures.
Dana Wickline	Jupiter	FL	33469	United States	10/26/12	Life should be important to us all.
Meghan Moroney	Orlando	FL	32819	United States	10/26/12	Do you REALLY have to ask "WHY" ????
Donald Holt	Masaryktown	FL	34604	United States	10/26/12	Because to disregard the earth and animals we have stewardship over is the worst kind of bullying. We've already brutalized this habitat, let's not make this much more of a mess of it.
Stacey Knudtson	Chandler	AZ	85225	United States	10/26/12	Manatees are one of Florida's most precious wildlife resources. These gentle giants need spring water flow to keep warm, survive and live.
Rick Smith	Raleigh	NC	27627	United States	10/26/12	I believe in saving these gentle creatures.
Philimina Louis	Jefferson City	FL	33309	United States	10/26/12	My parents live at big pine key wherre the manatees come up to the dock - they need to be protected from people like you!
Cherie Cortez	Maricopa	AZ	85139	United States	10/26/12	I would sign 10 more times if I had to.
						There really is nowhere else for them to go.

Sheet1

melissa roldan	sarasota	FL	34243	United States	10/26/12	As a floridian I truly believe it is our job to protect these wonderful creatures.
Marie Meloy	Margate	FL	33063	United States	10/26/12	The Manatee's are unique to this area and their habitat should be protected.
Dorothy Schultz	El Mirage	AZ	85335	United States	10/26/12	Every species and life form plays a part in the balance of nature, regardless of whether we understand that role or not. When one species of plant or animal disappears, the balance is affected. We are all interdependent whether we believe it or not.
William Showalter	Miami	FL	33193-1212	United States	10/26/12	is this important to you?
Neil Stahl	Chapel Hill	NC	27514-1836	United States	10/26/12	Manatees are great and have a tough time mixing it up in busy waterways. And they were here first.
Eugene Banks	Seminole	FL	33772	United States	10/26/12	Manatees is one of Floridas' rare treasures. They should be cared for at all times.
L.D. Zafar	Orlando	FL	32807	United States	10/26/12	When we interfere with nature we are opening up a can of worms. When will human stop interfering with or trying to control nature thus jeopardizing the delicate balance she has created?
Emma Armshaw	Orlando	FL	32825	United States	10/26/12	Manatees are a symbol of Florida.
Theresa Springer	DeLand	FL	32724	United States	10/26/12	The manatees are lovely, cute creatures. Their habitat needs to be safe.
todd young	jacksonville	FL	32208	United States	10/26/12	they are a precious resource
Amber Sliger	Sanford	FL	32771	United States	10/26/12	Manatees are an indicator species, so if we lose them we may not have the requisite warning that human health is in danger and could cause our own demise. Additionally wildlife and aesthetic beauty are part of the public trust and the government has a responsibility to protect those resources for posterity.
Carol Vienna	Gulfport	FL	33707	United States	10/26/12	Have you ever seen a manatee???
jane jones	cape canaveral	FL	32920	United States	10/26/12	It's the right thing to do. They were here first!!
Lonnie Johnson	Lakeland	FL	33803	United States	10/26/12	to preserve what little is left of old florida
niki irving	coral springs	FL	33065	United States	10/26/12	The manatees cannot speak for themselves, they need refuge
Katherine Irwin	Jax beach	FL	32250	United States	10/26/12	Trying to make an effort on saving this planet and it's inhabitants from us
janet norfleet	elizabeth city	NC	27909	United States	10/26/12	We need to save all animals whenever possible
Cheryl Haium	Bloomington	IN	47403	United States	10/26/12	I remember how excited i was years ago when i "discovered" this creature existed, but disappointed in how quickly the species was being killed off by motor boats. You have yet another chance to do the right thing and not dam up the life-saving waters the manatee in Florida depends on! Please, do the right thing.
Judy Dufficy	Skokie	IL	60076	United States	10/26/12	We absolutely need to stop tampering and altering the environment. It is time we stood up to protect wildlife, their habitats and the planet.
harry hellmold	aripeka	FL	34679	United States	10/26/12	Saving all animals and wild life is important to the overall survival of the world,all live has an equal right to be here on this planet and deserves that respect as an equal.

Lisa Jasicki	Indianapolis	IN	46203	United States	10/26/12	available home space for all animals/fish/birds are being destroyed to build new houses/shopping centers/etc and leaving no place for these species to go. especially when there is plenty of available rental/livable space that is empty.
Linda Copeland	Ellenton	FL	34222	United States	10/26/12	Because this is their habitat and we should not mess with it. I don't want to see this animal or any animal perish. SAVE the animals for now and future generations to come.
Cindy Cardile	Celebration	FL	34747	United States	10/26/12	manatees are beautiful animals
FRANK COLANTUCCI	OSPREY	FL	34229	United States	10/26/12	SAVE THE MANATEES BEFORE THEY ARE EXTINCT!!!
Penny Hollie	homosassa	FL	34448	United States	10/26/12	They need our help! They are beautiful!
Leanne Zeller	North Fort Myers	FL	33903	United States	10/26/12	If you've had the privilege of seeing these gentle creatures swimming you have to realize it's our job to protect them.
David Garner	Brownsburg	IN	46112	United States	10/26/12	Manatees are endangered and it is time that we cease trying to change the earth to fit us and start changing our behavior and expectations.
John Wrench	Wilton Manors	FL	33334	United States	10/26/12	We have few manatees left. Lets not lose any more.
Chris Jordan	Orlando	FL	32835	United States	10/26/12	All creatures are!
Laurene Cujko	Daytona Beach	FL	32114	United States	10/26/12	Such a gentle creature, please keep them safe!
Lana May	Mt. Prospect	IL	60056-3418	United States	10/26/12	Manatees are gentle giants and an endangered specie, as far as I'm concerned, because of motor boats and actions, such as this, to harm their ability to find refuge in spring-fed warm water environments.
Gail Parsons	Odessa	FL	33556	United States	10/26/12	I am a native Floridian and want to protect our native Florida resources. I was swimming in these springs as a kid 60 years ago. Springs such as the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa are precious Florida treasures and need your protection. Allowing reductions in flow is not protection these springs deserve and each governing board member who votes to allow flow reduction is betraying the public trust. I also lead Sierra Club kayak trips on these rivers and I am intimately familiar with them. I wonder how many board members have paddled these rivers and truly understand them?
Karen Judge	Oakland Park	FL	33334	United States	10/26/12	We keep taking away what is rightfully theirs-all animals!!! We, humans just think we are so superior and entitled.
Joyce Charles	New Port Richey	FL	34654	United States	10/26/12	I live close to this area and want my child to be able to experience the same things I did as a child. Manatees are endangered and there should be no screwing around with God's habitats!
Lorraine Sherman	Gainesville	FL	32609	United States	10/26/12	I am sick and tired of privatizing profits and socializing liabilities - all on the backs of the tax payers. I am also concerned about unintended consequences. Sucking water out of the ground faster than it's replaced is piss poor water management.
Jenny Andry	Baton Rouge	LA	70816	United States	10/26/12	Manatees have experienced enough harm from humans resulting in drastic population decline.

Sheet1

Jean Yedkois	Clearwater	FL	33764	United States	10/26/12	We are animals voice...
Fran Randall	Flagstaff	AZ	86001	United States	10/26/12	This area is a National Treasure to be cared for and preserved. Please do not reduce the flow.
Andrew Jacobsen	Apache Junction	AZ	85120	United States	10/26/12	I hate to see the environments of all the animals and fish be altered which may cause harm to those beings.
Pattie Lewis	Cocoa	FL	32927	United States	10/26/12	All species are important and we cannot continue to let non-scientists make these decisions.
Debra Byrd	North Charleston	SC	29420	United States	10/26/12	Manatees are the gentle giants. They are precious gifts from God as are all animals.
Steven Blizard	Johnston	SC	29832	United States	10/26/12	The beautiful Manatee should be protected forever.
Dennis Balgemann	North Fort Myers	FL	33917-4407	United States	10/26/12	Changing the natural order of water flow can often result in reversible loss of habitat for endangered species such as the Florida Manatee.
Ann Callahan	Aiken	SC	29803	United States	10/26/12	These beautiful and gentle animals are an intrinsic part of a healthy Florida ecosystem, as are all animals in their own habitats. Please, do not reduce their flow of water and put them in more danger than they are already in from human mistreatment.
Colin Dugger	Tallahassee	FL	32304	United States	10/26/12	I'm tired of rick scott being the worst governor possible.
max suarez	Pompano Beach	FL	33065	United States	10/26/12	I like animals
M Wurzbach	Holmes Beach	FL	34217	United States	10/26/12	Peaceful, beautiful animals need protection.
shelley norris	palm bay	FL	32907	United States	10/26/12	i love the manatees and they need places to go when it gets cold
Linda Linke	Champaign	IL	61822	United States	10/26/12	We are losing so much of our wildlife through threatened habitats. Please save these gentle creatures for generations to come.
Michael Grantham	Tallahassee	FL	32308	United States	10/26/12	Because the manatees deserve protection.
Kaye Lloyd	Tampa	FL	33614	United States	10/26/12	They need our help.
R D	Gulf Breeze	FL	32561	United States	10/26/12	let the water flow
Thom Juul	HAMMOND	IN	46320	United States	10/26/12	These big ugly creatures should be protected.
marisela rivera	altamonte springs	FL	32714	United States	10/26/12	Protecting all ecosystems and their wildlife for future generations to enjoy and to keep the balance on earth should be important to all humanity.
Pricilla Smith	Tucson	AZ	85712	United States	10/26/12	We are interconnected with all species--save these animals.
Lyn Williams	Winter Haven	FL	33884	United States	10/26/12	They were here 1st..they should have more rights than we as "man" do...including all animals. They are kind, sweet, beauties, that deserve all the positive considerations that they deserve! What is the matter with "man" that they treat all species of animals, mammals etc. with such horrific disrespect. Please do not allow this to happen to the beautiful, defenseless Manatees.

Edith Torres	Orange City	FL	32763	United States	10/26/12	If you've never seen these creatures up close, you need to as soon as possible! Cumbersome they may seem, but in actuality they are gentle, graceful creatures! An intelligence shows in their eyes. I can understand why some called them Mermaids. These creatures are beautiful and a part of our ecosystem. Let them not be destroyed by our penchant of arrogance and egotistical superiority!
andrew ward	fernandina beach	FL	32034	United States	10/26/12	Having lived in Florida all my life, I have witnessed first-hand the slow and steady destruction of every facet of this states natural resources and beauty at the hands of its citizens and elected officials. I am losing hope that it will ever end.
Arlene Kiely	Silver Spring	MD	20904 5855	United States	10/26/12	We must protect the earth and environment for gentle creatures who preserve our link all creation.
D. Griffin	St. Charles	IL	60174	United States	10/26/12	Manatees are awesome.
Melissa Morales	Hialeah	FL	33016	United States	10/26/12	Manatees are gentle creatures who deserve our help! Being a Florida native I've only seen a few in my lifetime and I want my son & his children to see one one day too.
susan waters	Monticello	FL	32344	United States	10/26/12	leave the water alone and save the manatees
Cheryl Wilkerson	New Orleans	LA	70128	United States	10/26/12	Lover of all animals!!!! I don't like man's selfishness!!!
Joan Felkner	Apache junction	AZ	85178	United States	10/26/12	The manatees are gentle and should be saved
Nancy Lasseter	Gainesville	FL	32605- 2511	United States	10/26/12	I am a native Floridian who wants to do what is right for our beautiful rivers and springs. They must be protected.
James Witt	New Port Rchy	FL	34654	United States	10/26/12	Winter months, bring water tourist into Florida's fresh water. Change, means Florida's Tourist Income, gone.
jackie fletcher	homosassa	FL	34448	United States	10/26/12	for very obvious reasons!!
						It is important for many reasons -at the top of the list: 1. Manatees are an important attraction for tourists from all over the world. 2. Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs are destinations for state, national and international tourists. 3. Reductions will environmentally affect these fragile spring-fed fresh water ecosystems. 4. The proposed reductions of fresh water flow and increased salinity could lead to "destroying" saline intolerant species. 5. In addition to the potential reduction in Manatees, other numerous rare and imperiled species of plants and animals that rely on the springs and fresh water habitats also risk extinction including: Fresh Water Mussels, Old Cypress Trees and Terrestrial Orchids, Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, and other native feathered friends.
Sarah Lansky	Sarasota	FL	34241	United States	10/26/12	
Linda Jones	San Antonio	TX	78245	United States	10/26/12	Use to live in Florida. Want to keep it beautiful.

Sheet1

Janet Clark	Clearwater	FL	33764	United States	10/26/12	Every species of animal's habitats, especially the endangered species need to be protected. The reason we moved to Florida was for my daughter to work with the manatees.
Paula Mather	Lutz	FL	33558	United States	10/26/12	God put the rivers and springs here, then He added the manatees and fish. Why do we always put our own interests first?
Dewey Steele	Homestead	FL	33031	United States	10/26/12	Concern about the health and availability of Florida's waters
Tonie Cruz	Tucson	AZ	85705	United States	10/26/12	Save our animals for our little one to view.
Rhonda Goodman	Miami	FL	33156	United States	10/26/12	The manatees deserve to be protected. They are an important part of the environment.
Barbara Stout	Myrtle beach	SC	29588	United States	10/26/12	One of the most amazing experiences of my life was swimming with the manatees....these are gentle and amazing creatures...any loss of them is a loss for us all!
Debra Meister	tampa	FL	33613	United States	10/26/12	Manatees don't hurt anyone. Why would you want to do something to endanger their lives?
Robert Campana	Lutz	FL	33549	United States	10/26/12	Preserving ALL species on this planet is important to me!!!
Nancy DeForge	Inverness	FL	34450	United States	10/26/12	We are all guardians of our water whether it is in the aquifer, springs, lakes, ocean, and especially in our rivers, of which Citrus County has 7. Citizens who pay taxes for your budgets and salaries expect no less of you than trust that you WILL do this care for our precious water, wildlife, and ultimately, US!
Oliver Bucolo	Grants Pass	OR	97526	United States	10/26/12	I'm from Florida
Raheem whiteside	Arden	NC	28704	United States	10/26/12	I am all about wild life
Judith Hand	Daytona Beach	FL	32118	United States	10/26/12	When I first moved to FL 25 years ago, I was astounded by the manatees. Such peaceful creatures, so unique and so badly beaten by what we humans have done. We need to take care of the manatees before they again are threatened with the extinction list!
Brett Robert	Coral Springs	FL	33071	United States	10/26/12	Gov. Scott has done a lot of harm to people in this state. We need to keep him from doing even more harm to the wildlife and environment!
Eileen Hallberg	Brooksville	FL	34604	United States	10/26/12	Manatees are beautiful, gentle creatures and we need to protect their environment!
darrell rich	Sarasota	FL	34238	United States	10/26/12	People need to stop destroying the environment. I can see a future where there are no humans left because we allow certain people to take advantage of our ecosystem. If we want to continue to be a species, we need to start thinking far ahead before we destroy it all.
Eileen Green	Tucson	AZ	85713	United States	10/26/12	There is nothing more important to me than the interrelationship between all living beings...people, animals and plants. We must do everything we can to educate the American people and imagine that we are these animals.
Martha Moser	Evanston	IL	60202	United States	10/26/12	Take every measure to preserve the habitat of Florida wildlife. The manatee is rare and precious.
Marty Senetra	Crystal River	FL	34428	United States	10/26/12	I'm a cave diver and conduct snorkeling tours with manatee.

Sheet1

John Peterson	Green Cove Springs	FL	32043	United States	10/26/12	We can't continue as a viable species without the full diversity of animal life on the planet.
Nancy Becton	Fort Lauderdale	FL	33322-4906	United States	10/26/12	I have always lived in FL and want to see this area preserved for the manatee and fresh water habitat. We do not need to mess with what nature herself has established.
Natalie Philip	Orange Park	FL	32065	United States	10/26/12	Manatees must be protected!
Heather Wildman	North Fort Myers	FL	33917	United States	10/26/12	I live in FL and see the damage we do to our creatures & waters in many different ways. It needs to stop.
Norma Jean Zvosek	Cape Haze	FL	33946	United States	10/26/12	It is the right thing to do!
Kris Lindbeck	Boca Raton	FL	33431	United States	10/26/12	Not only is this the right thing to do ethically for the manatees and Florida citizens, but saving the manatees will preserve tourism to the region.
Duane Matlack	Asheville	NC	28805	United States	10/26/12	Every creature on this planet has a purpose we should not interfere with any creatures livelihood
Debora Hartzell	Atlanta	GA	30328	United States	10/26/12	The manatees need protection to survive! They are harmless, beautiful, and endangered. We have NO right to push them to extinction for our own 'needs'.
Mari Helen High	Tucson	AZ	85745	United States	10/26/12	If we are to survive, we must maintain the ecosystems that keep us alive, and the animals, like Manatees, and essential to each of their ecosystems.
STINA HUBB	Mandeville	LA	70448	United States	10/26/12	Florida is my hometown and manatee's are a part of what Florida has to offer. They are beautiful, harmless animals. Save the Florida Manatees!
John Howie	New Port Richey	FL	34652	United States	10/26/12	Salt water intrusion is killing all these rivers. Don't make it worse by taking even more water out.
bill descalzi	dunnellon	FL	34432-9525	United States	10/26/12	SWFWMD approves too many water bottling plants
norma frost	springhill	FL	34609	United States	10/26/12	Manatees are an endangered species in FL, one of many. If we can make some positive moves to save them, I think we should.
Candi Webb	Lakeland	FL	33810	United States	10/26/12	These very special animals should be protected, not driven to extinction.
THOMASINA ARMSTRONG	PEMBROKE PINES	FL	33026	United States	10/26/12	because I was born and raised in florida
Mr. & Mrs FRANK C	Edenton	NC	27932	United States	10/26/12	We love all animals
Dana Nielsen	Palm Bay	FL	32907	United States	10/26/12	OK YOU'RE NOT ALLOWED TO TOUCH THEM... WHAT ON EARTH IS THAT LADY DOING? (BREAKING THE LAW!!!!)
Daniel Racine	Estero	FL	33928	United States	10/26/12	Mother Nature KNOWS BEST. So, don't mess with Mom.
John O'Keefe	Durham	NC	27713	United States	10/26/12	While it has been many years since I last visited Homosassa Springs, I still vividly remember the almost ethereal manatees there. They are among the gentlest and most helpless creatures to be found, but we humans seen determined to wipe them out through both thoughtless and planned actions. We must come to understand that there are consequences to our actions -- in this case, bad consequences!

Sheet1

Elizabeth Smyth	Crystql River	FL	34429	United States	10/26/12	I live off Dixie Bay at the Islands and even here we see the results of water quality and supply. Oten there are manatee here mating, otters and dolphins. Don't let them ruin our waters.
Jamie Sandstedt	Winter Park	FL	32789	United States	10/26/12	They are beautiful, peaceful creatures that need and deserve to have their natural habitat.
shauna sherman	Ocala	FL	34482	United States	10/26/12	so that our future generations can see the beautiful water n animals that i grew up to love n learn from
DELORIS GUTIER	ocala	FL	34472	United States	10/26/12	we need are manatees so keep the water flowing please
james branaman	st petersburg	FL	33701	United States	10/26/12	This could allow salt water intrusion and affect many plants and animals in the ecosytem.
Janice Jacoby	Crystal River	FL	34428	United States	10/26/12	We are the only place in the world where you can swim in the springs with the Manatee! We love them and they love us!
Cynthia Doyle	Clermont	FL	34711	United States	10/26/12	I love our manatees!
Nancy Marshall	Gibsonton	FL	33534	United States	10/26/12	I grew up on the Chaz and the thought of it not being there in its pristine condition for future generation sickens me. I have already begun to notice a difference in the salt content and the clarity of the springs/river. NO more reduction of flow!!
Ronald Leh	Largo	FL	33771	United States	10/26/12	because we have to protect the manatees from mans destuctive policies.
Marcia Biggs	Safety Harbor	FL	34695	United States	10/26/12	For the manatees
Sarah Carter	Sarasota	FL	34276	United States	10/26/12	No one has said -why- they are suggesting doing this, but there must be another creative solution to whatever the problem is that isn't going to hurt the environment.
Charlotte Fant	Melbourne	FL	32934	United States	10/26/12	There is little space left for the manatees to congregate in warm water.
Amanda Miles	Ft Lauderdale	FL	33305	United States	10/26/12	Manatees deserve our protection.
Heather Donnelly	Seminole	FL	33772	United States	10/26/12	Here's the thing: It's wrong to put the manatee on a license plate and then not protect it's habitat. You shouldn't get to be proud of a creature you are imperiling with extinction.
alison morton	Gainesville	FL	32608	United States	10/26/12	Disrputon of our ecosystems have long term, often irreparable effects
Betty Whitmer	Holly Hill	FL	32117	United States	10/26/12	We need to watch over every creature. Not just r self. We need to do the right thing
Vicki Meyer	Sarasota	FL	34243	United States	10/26/12	Manatees are wonderful creatures. They need our protection.
Tracy Stevanov	Tallahassee	FL	32308	United States	10/26/12	This is like saving Florida itself. One of the true redeeming features of Florida Wildlife are these majestic docile creatures. That not only never disturb others but live side by side alligators. They are a large animal that needs are protection!
Robyn Sparrow	Largo	FL	33770	United States	10/26/12	I love manatees with all my heart and any way I can help them I will!
francine slack	holmes beach	FL	34217	United States	10/26/12	We need to save our springs and the wildlife which depends upon it because our health and our state's economy are prime beneficiaries as well.
Sandra Goldblatt	Ottershaw		KT16 0QG	United Kingdom	10/26/12	Saving Manatees

Angela Murrell	Titusville	FL	32780	United States	10/26/12	keeping wildlife safe is a duty that all people should be held accountable for, they where here long before us and we are destoring their habitates. They are the childern of this earth and its our job to help them live in this ever changing world that we seem hell bent on destoring.
roberto soto	west palm beach	FL	33417	United States	10/26/12	I'm an animal lover and these creatures need our protection.
Eric Durham	Dade City	FL	33523	United States	10/26/12	No further reductions should be allowed. These spring fed fresh water ecosystems need to be protected from further degradation.
Jaxs Powell	Vero Beach	FL	32961	United States	10/26/12	Manatees are an endangered species and therefore are protected. Reducing the fresh water flow destroys their home and the homes of many other wildlife. It is irresponsible and a crime against earth, animals and humans.
Diane Schroeder	Ft. Myers	FL	33967	United States	10/26/12	WE need to be smart and quite destroying what is good for us. Nature only has us to help .
Frank Kopczynski	Clearwater	FL	33762	United States	10/26/12	I would like to leave at least one or two of the things I love about Florida for my grandchildren
Andreu J MacAndre	Fort Lauderdale	FL	33305-3412	United States	10/26/12	The environment and the preservation of wildlife is sacrosanct above all else. It is irreplaceable and must be maintained, preserved and held sacred no matter the financial, economic or social cost. Nothing matters more.
Lindsay Carson	Tarpon Springs	FL	34689-2029	United States	10/26/12	We should protect animals, but that aside...Beautiful places and animals in Florida nature offer priceless memories for families, appreciation for nature and tourism.
Diane Lewis	Lecanto	FL	34461	United States	10/26/12	I am a 5th generation FL native. I have seen too much of my precious state destroyed, it needs to be stopped. I am also an avid kayaker and amateur photographer and enjoy combining both of these activities. If they continue to reduce flows I will not be able to enjoy kayaking on some of my local rivers.
marina sharts	summerville	SC	29485	United States	10/26/12	i visited Homosassa Spings some years ago and loved seeing the manatees up close
Lois Wright	Ponte Vedra	FL	32082	United States	10/26/12	We need to protect the manatees.
Judi Stephens	Bradenton	FL	34205	United States	10/26/12	They are gentle giants. To take away their water is to try to kill them. We have to learn to share the earth with the animals - not continue to take everything, without care.
Damaris Krois	Auburndle	FL	33823	United States	10/26/12	We need to protect these gentle creatures!
Catherine Harrelson	St. Petersburg	FL	33703	United States	10/26/12	Florida's freshwater springs and rivers are critical to the health and economic vitality of the state. And most are in serious decline, yet the powers that be want to continue withdrawing water at an unsustainable rate. Floridians understand the importance of water. It's time to stand up to protect it.

BARBARA MCGUIRE	Eustis	FL	32736	United States	10/26/12	I grew up spending my summers in Homosassa and Weeki Wachee. I saw the reduction of the Manatees first hand. These creatures need our help. Please do not reduce the flow of the fresh water to our rivers.
Arnold Tarling	Dunedin	FL	34698	United States	10/26/12	When they are gone we can't create another one.
Gail Nadeau	Kissimmee	FL	34744	United States	10/26/12	I live in Florida & think that people are taking to much of essential habitats away from wonderful animals like the Manatees & Want them to be here for future generations so it is important to preserve & help them in little ways like this.
Terry Widener	Wintergarden	FL	34473	United States	10/26/12	Keep Florida NATURAL!!!!!!!
Eilene Glick	Delray Beach	FL	33446	United States	10/26/12	Eilene A. Glick
Amy McReynolds	Carbondale	IL	62901	United States	10/26/12	Never mess with the ecosystem!
william livigni	Shreveport	LA	71105	United States	10/26/12	Because the Manatees are important!
Charles Savoree	Sebastian	FL	32958	United States	10/26/12	Because there is No excuse to endanger these Gentle Animals. Florida needs to learn to Quit playing God with the Enviroment, and let nature take it's course. You would think they would have learned from the Everglades...but No.
Samantha lubben	land o lakes	FL	34639	United States	10/26/12	Please don't vote for reductions. We can't just let thousands of Manatees die.
Mary Misiolek	crawfordville	FL	32327	United States	10/26/12	They need our help we are destroying our natural wonders.
Diane Zodda	Spring Hill	FL	34608	United States	10/26/12	Manatees are wonderful and we have young ones to watch them
Thomas Mealor	Tampa	FL	33604	United States	10/26/12	As a long time resident of the Hillsborough River, I have seen the problems that arise from low flow to the rive. All flow should be kept at regular flows for ALL waterways of Florida and the world.
Louise Colegrove	North Lauderdale	FL	33068	United States	10/26/12	I think it goes without saying. SAVE THE MANATEES.
Roberta Bauer	Boynton Beach	FL	33436	United States	10/26/12	I am a new resident of Florida (1 year) and I am astounded at the natural beauty and wildlife. It's in our interest to save the springs for the manatees.
GEORGIA KAKAROS	St Petersburg	FL	33711	United States	10/26/12	Manatees are a part of Florida's natural environment and a thing of beauty. Why do people like Rick Scott want to destroy our national treasures? Probably to put more money in his pocket. Stop thinking about yourself and your lobbist and start thinking about our state.
Janet Hassele	Okeechobee	FL	34972	United States	10/26/12	Do not wait to vote speak for ourselves so it's up to us to be their voice.
Jacqueline Georgi	Crestview	FL	32536	United States	10/26/12	As a resident of Florida, it is of great importance to me that we protect the natural environment of the state as well as the wild life. The manatees are a beautiful part of Florida.
Ben Burton	Dunedin	FL	34698	United States	10/26/12	Protecting an endangered species should always be a priority.
agata mosery	Boca Raton	FL	33487	United States	10/26/12	Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat.

Gaby Melzer	Sanford	FL	32771	United States	10/26/12	Manatees are such gentle, amazing creatures - Please don't cause them to freeze to death in the Winter - they need to be able to seek refuge from the cold in the springs! Manatees already have so much working against them - I urge you not to add another thing to the list!
Benjamin Phillips	San Jose	CA	95125	United States	10/26/12	I have always been in awe of Florida's natural beauty- anything done to harm its natural residents would be a shame. It's not worth it.
Kathleen Myers	Navarre	FL	32566	United States	10/26/12	I am a resident of Florida and believe that our wildlife should be protected, not endangered.
Greg Holeman	Sugarloaf key	FL	33042	United States	10/26/12	I live here
Lauren Leitkowski	Boca Raton	FL	33432	United States	10/26/12	Every time man tried to manipulate nature, it backfires. Changing the flow of a river or its natural course will only do harm. I am familiar with these springs and rivers which are incredible, beautiful places which must NOT be tampered with. Haven't we done enough damage to our planet?!
Helen Cuan	Miami	FL	33182	United States	10/26/12	We need to protect species that are in danger. As a result, they need of fresh water habitats for their continued survival.
Covington Campbe	Tequesta	FL	33469	United States	10/26/12	Manatees are an important part of our ecosystem.
margo williams	bradenton	FL	34208	United States	10/26/12	As a college student I visited these springs to enjoy the manatees. I have told my children of the great memories I built there. Please do not cut the flow and endanger the safety and health of these beautiful animals. I want my children to have the opportunity to have the same wonderful experience.
Bobby Pulliam	Vero Beach	FL	32960	United States	10/26/12	Why wouldn't this be important to anyone?
Bryce Gallentine	Orlando	FL	32811	United States	10/26/12	I LOVE THE MANATEES!
Linda Farin	Hollywood	FL	33019	United States	10/26/12	The manatees are national treasures, so peaceful.
Salacka Pamela	Merritt Island	FL	32953	United States	10/26/12	We need to preserve our natural wildlife and the manatees are very important to me.
Gerald Green	Miami	FL	33134	United States	10/26/12	Save the manatees and our springs. Stop the cheap sale of our spring waters to commercial bottles.
N. Elizabeth Markov	Tallahassee	FL	32308	United States	10/26/12	Manatees are losing population and are unique to Florida. They also eat weeds that choke up beautiful springs
Kathy Skipper	Webster	FL	33597	United States	10/27/12	I think we should do all we can to preserve the natural waterways of Florida & it's habitat. Plus Endangered species such as the manatee depend on these waterways & endangered species should be protected
Tracy Torres	Lakeland	FL	33810	United States	10/27/12	I live in fl, I love seeing these sweet creatures! Anything I can do to help I will!
MARY TELFER	Palm Coast	FL	32164	United States	10/27/12	we NEED TO PROTECT THESE CREATURESTHEY ARE DEPENDENTWE MUST SAVE ALL CREATURES IN NATURE

Sheet1

Paul Toneguzzo	Naples	FL	34109	United States	10/27/12	I am a avid defender of wildlife
Sharon Cohen	Boynton Beach	FL	33437	United States	10/27/12	Manatees have no protection except intelligent and caring humans. Please save them!
KAREN TURNER	ORLANDO	FL	32810	United States	10/27/12	To many people are not even aware these cuties exist. Let's change that! I was born & raised in FL. so it is very important to me.
Fred Price	bradenton	FL	34209	United States	10/27/12	to save the manatee's
william langley	fort lauderdale	FL	33305	United States	10/27/12	own property in chaz someday would like my kids and grand kids to enjoy the beauty of the manatees. Be kind respect live life
Kris Kelley	Cocoa	FL	32926	United States	10/27/12	would like to protect these areas for the next generation and for the wildlife
noahdm sanchez	Tampa	FL	33612-5494	United States	10/27/12	Be vegan. Save the manatees. Go green. All to save the planet.
Sharon Kermes	Miami	FL	33186	United States	10/27/12	Love our MANATEES!
Sean Harney	Boca Raton	FL	33433	United States	10/27/12	For our future
susan de nolf	Winter Springs	FL	32708	United States	10/27/12	Ever creature has a right to life,Please save the Manatees no reduction to the flow.
Kathy Sherrod	Greenacres	FL	33415	United States	10/27/12	Our economy is dependent upon our tropical and subtropical ecology. We must be good stewards of the Garden we were entrusted with.
Alexis Bellovich	sarasota	FL	34231	United States	10/27/12	I love Florida springs
Bianca Green	port saint lucie	FL	34953	United States	10/27/12	we only have one mother earth. she does not belong to us, but rather we belong to her...it is our moral obligation to protect the beauty of every creature
Elenora Sabin	St. Petersburg	FL	33710	United States	10/27/12	As a Floridian living on the Gulf Coast I love to see manatees. These endangered sea mammals deserve more protection, not further endangerment.
Catherine Christens	Sarasota	FL	34230	United States	10/27/12	Their habitat relies on our protection from civilization's destructive priorities
Simmons Walters	Miami	FL	33169	United States	10/27/12	I love animals, since they cannot speak for themselves, we humans have to.
Jennifer Marsh	Chapel Hill	NC	27514	United States	10/27/12	The manatees are special animals that should be protected.
Diana Law	Burien	WA	98148	United States	10/27/12	I am a former FL resident and my family still lives there. I would like to see the natural places protected for future generations.
T. norton	seminole	FL	33772	United States	10/27/12	testing mother nature like this -- is it really necessary?? many areas like this should always be protected- leave them well enough alone. AND YES PROTECTED SHOULD BE DEFINED! the oil drilling mess, now this? whats next? Seriously!
Mark Kafka	Lauderhill	FL	33319	United States	10/27/12	Manatees are among the gentlest creatures on earth and we -- as the supposed superior species -- should do everything we can to ensure their safety and survival.
Lisa King	Sarasota	FL	34238	United States	10/27/12	Manatees are one of the Florida icons..we have to help them

						Our rivers are already in critical condition and to allow any percentage at all in flow reduction is unconscionable. SWFWMD already allows water use permits to be issued for the cost to \$50 and no metering when someone 'says' they are only going to take 50,000 gallons per day. Of course, with no metering, how do they know how much water is being taken? Crystal River is going to be the next for MFL's to be set, and if permits without metering are already being issued, it scares me to death what they will do setting MFL's. The water permit issued recently is being transported to Ocala to be sold as bottled water. Water transfer!! And no metering on how much is really being taken. SWFWMD is allowing flow reduction in rivers that are already dying or dead. Data that is being used to justify this action can be manipulated to provide the desired results. Use common sense....look at the rivers....look at the lack of aquatic plants that are conducive to the rivers.....look at the salinity in areas that used to be fresh water....look at the decrease in wild life, fish, and flora and fauna, look at the degradation of our spings. It is obvious to the lay person what it happening...surely the scientists are smart enough to see what's going on without graphs and numbers and such. If we, the people who love are waterways can see what's happening, there's no data in the world that can change what is obvious to those of us who are aware and feel the pain of watching our rivers and our wildlife die.
Dee Atkins	Crystal River	FL	34428	United States	10/27/12	
Rev Clyde Sanda	Marathon	FL	33050	United States	10/27/12	Because they can't help themselves. They are one of God's creatures and have the right to live. They were here first.
Kim Savino	west palm beach	FL	33403	United States	10/27/12	I,m a water loving Floridian and I have never seen a Manatee in the wild! They are scarce enough.. lets not put them at more of a risk!
Tara Marr	Fellsmere	FL	32948	United States	10/27/12	Mess with there waters your messing with me. These awesome mammals deserve better than this sham on you!!!!
Heather Campbell	Clearwater	FL	33761	United States	10/27/12	Rick Scott has no regard for the environment what-so-ever. Good luck with this petition against his anti-green administration.
Varuni Roberts	New Smyrna	FL	32169	United States	10/27/12	Manatees are part of Florida's heritage and need to be saved for the generations still to come.
Patrice Williams	Jacksonville	FL	32205	United States	10/27/12	I'm all for protecting wildlife.
Irene Pilinger	N Miami Beach	FL	33162	United States	10/27/12	I love manatees and go to visit the parks to see them every winter.
William Garvin	Homosassa	FL	34448-3900	United States	10/27/12	I live in the head waters of the Homosassa River and have been here for ten years. I do Manatee watch and Lake Watch water testing as well as underwater photography. i have seen first hand the degradatin of the river to the point it seems dead. i do nt want to the the coffin nailed shut!!!
Teri Fainberg	Delray	FL	33446	United States	10/27/12	I own a boat in the Keys and these sweet mammals swim up to say hi all the time.

Sheet1

elizabeth balbin	coral gables	FL	33124	United States	10/27/12	FLorida manatees are one of the most beautiful and gentle creatures. We should do everything in our power to protect them and their environment.
Doug Coleman	Jacksonville	FL	32205	United States	10/27/12	Aside from recreational use and natural beauty, these springs depletion signal an unsustainable drawdown of the aquifer...a very bad scenario.
Jane Ciesielski	Dunedin	FL	34698	United States	10/27/12	and say yes to reduced speed of boats to protect the manatees.
Angela Logalbo	Palm Beach	FL	33480	United States	10/27/12	Why would this NOT be important?
Michael Byerly	Crestview	FL	32539	United States	10/27/12	Having lived in Citrus County for more than 20 years, and seeing the natural beauty of our rivers there, I must add my name to this petition.
stephen anderson	plantation	FL	33322	United States	10/27/12	Manatees have had a rough time trying to survive as it is.S.F.W.M hasn't helped much
Cherie Dam	Warwick		Wk08	Bermuda	10/27/12	We need a future worthwhile for our children!
Chelsea McMillan	Indian Rocks Beach	FL	33785	United States	10/27/12	I grew up with Manatees in Chassahowitzka. Say NO to reductions in flow.
Fawn Scher	Billings	MT	59101	United States	10/27/12	I lived in Fl my whole life and i love manatees, they deserve respect
Louise Collins	Avon Park	FL	33825	United States	10/27/12	WE are over running all of natural habitats leading to endangered species and it has got to stop!
Carl Brewer	Inglis	FL	34449	United States	10/27/12	I live here
Yvonne Townsley	Louisburg	NC	27549	United States	10/27/12	Manatees are endangered, fragile, and an important part of our ecosystem. Protect them now - they are part of us!!!
Linda Sobel	Boca Raton	FL	33487	United States	10/27/12	They are beautiful creatures and deserve to be protected. Please Help!
carmen micheletti	williston	FL	32696	United States	10/27/12	Need to save our springs
Chad Bower	North Fort Myers	FL	33917	United States	10/27/12	I fish SW florida (catch and release) We need to be focusing on ways to IMPROVE our environment, not destroying it.
Leitha Bowles	Temple Terrace	FL	33617	United States	10/27/12	These are spring fed coastal rivers, which need to be protected from further salt water encroachment, they are habitat to fresh water species and the cold provides live- saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.
Rene Tanner	Phoenix	AZ	85042	United States	10/27/12	The manatees cannot require, request or otherwise communicate their need for habitat. However, we know that they need it to survive. Do the right thing for this species and allow its survival.
Vicki Parker-Mabe	Cocoa	FL	32927	United States	10/27/12	We must save these wonderful mammals. They are so friendly and cause no harm to anyone. Gov. Scott get off your butt and save these mammals for our State.
Betty Pearce	Hickory	NC	28601	United States	10/27/12	many natural habiitats are, and have been, destroyed. It needs to stop to preserve the beauties of the earth.
lisa sullivan	palm harbor	FL	34684	United States	10/27/12	I live in florida and it wouldnt be florida without our wildlife!!

Sheet1

Laura Bork	MIAMI	FL	33176	United States	10/27/12	I have lived in Miami my whole life and am thankful that the "sea cows" are rebounding...this is a great tribute to protection laws...Thanks to everyone involved in the protection of this gentle creature...
Jacqui Thomas	LAFAYETTE	IN	47905	United States	10/27/12	If we do not protect God's creations, then what good are we to God>
SHIRLEY MAKSYM	BEVERLY HILLS	FL	34465	United States	10/27/12	To save our water life and preserve our water ways as God has intended when He created them.
Ellen Saunders	Manning	OR	97125	United States	10/27/12	I own property in Seabring Florida and have seen the devastation caused to the wild life. Please protect the environment.
Tamera Bell	Ocala	FL	34470	United States	10/27/12	because God gave us these waters and these animals and we have to take care of them and do the right thing this is there home and we should protect there home just like we protect our own home.
Alice Jacobs	Pt. Richey	FL	34668	United States	10/27/12	To preserve the natural beauty of Florida & to save the Manatees & fish & the rest of Florida's wild life & beauty.
stacy rowicki	port saint lucie	FL	34952	United States	10/27/12	Saving the beautiful FI manatee is of utmost importance to protect yet another unique gift of love to be tortured and killed due to humanity's ignorant selfish decisions.
Mark England	Tampa	FL	33617	United States	10/27/12	It is just wrong.
Michele Pemberton	Cape Coral	FL	33909	United States	10/27/12	The Manatees are a part of fla that needs too be preserved.
Clay Steinmann	Homosassa	FL	34448	United States	10/27/12	We must save what little natural habitat thats left.
Mary Warren	Wheaton	IL	60187-5905	United States	10/27/12	Maintaining the delicate web of life means that we are responsible Earth citizens and are playing our part to foster God's creation.
Lorraine Panagos	Lake Harmony	PA	18624	United States	10/27/12	I love all animals and Manatees are wonderful, unique and peaceful!!
ROBERT BUNTING	HOMOSASSA	FL	34446	United States	10/27/12	I LIVE IN FLORIDA AND HAVE FELT THE IMPACT OF WATER FLOWS AND IT SCARES ME.
Sylvia Anglen	Gainesville	FL	32609	United States	10/27/12	These are beautiful and gentle creatures. Leave them alone!
JEWEL GRUTMAN	ST UGUSTINE	FL	32080	United States	10/27/12	uniquir , harmless life form should be saved not killed carelessly
Lisa Hoffman	St Petersburg	FL	33711	United States	10/27/12	As Floridians, we should be protecting our wildlife especially endangered.
diana drake	north miami	FL	33068	United States	10/27/12	Love to see them well and swimming along!
Monica Woll	Tavernier	FL	33070	United States	10/27/12	Florida has more springs than anywhere else in the world. Once we lose them, they may never come back!
Theresa Crater	Lafayette	CO	80026	United States	10/27/12	I have family in Florida and love to visit the manatees.
peter fernandez	daytona beach	FL	32118	United States	10/27/12	why isn't this important to everyone else
Christina Reed	Lexington	SC	29073	United States	10/27/12	Manatees have no way to speak up for themselves
Judith Cannon	Sarasota	FL	34241	United States	10/27/12	If you reduce the natural existence of life on Earth, you reduce your own existence. Like gravity, it's the simplest law of the universe - even kids in a ghetto understand 'what goes around, comes around.'
Peter Barnett	Seminole	FL	33772	United States	10/27/12	I love Manatees

Sheet1

James Yarwood	Ellenton	FL	34222	United States	10/27/12	Manatee's bring many out of state tourists to these areas. Manatee's hurt no one, and their needed enviroment should not be compremized.
George Harbin	Homosassa	FL	34446-4824	United States	10/27/12	I live nearby and use them frequently. I refuse to let our river flows be reduced for commercial and other than residential and local business uses
Lou Plessala	Berwick	LA	70342	United States	10/27/12	For GOD'S sake Governor and Board!!! What are ya'll trying to do to these ENDANGERED Manatees??? I guess NONE of you CARE about FUTURE generations because if you DO cut back the FLOW of these two fresh water rivers, you WILL WRECKEN with MOTHER NATURE!!! DON'T MESS WITH HER!!! Let these LIVE!!!
DANIELLE COLUC	margate	FL	33063	United States	10/27/12	RICK SCOTT IS AN ASS!!!! I hope he is out this election day!!!! Can't wait to see that
David Vance	Leesburg	FL	34748	United States	10/27/12	they are beautiful!
ALICIA ZICCHINO	LUTZ	FL	33559	United States	10/27/12	The manatees are already in danger. Lets not decrease the amount of habitat they have!
Mary Leonard	Havana	FL	32333	United States	10/27/12	Save the animals ,land or water
John Lord	Homosassa	FL	34448	United States	10/27/12	Our rivers are dying as things are know, why is the government advocating speeding up the process rather than looking for a solution? Are golf courses that important?
Carole L Esley	Camden	ME	4843	United States	10/27/12	I am firmly on the side of Manatees and any other species endangered by the callousness of humans who believe the earth is theirs to plunder. We need to have a world in ecological balance and protect every species in danger. These springs are essential to the survival of the Manatees ~ such beautiful creatures!
Virginia Svoboda	Homosassa	FL	34448	United States	10/27/12	We live on the head of the Halls River, which flows into the Homosassa River. In the twenty years that we have lived here, we have seen the steady decline in the fresh water springs that feed the Halls & Homosassa Rivers. There is more salt water intrusion, lack of fish and natural vegetation, which is essential to the survival of our manatees, Osprey and all wildlife. We feel that any reduction in flow of these rivers, should be stopped immediatly.
Richard McGarrell	Brandon	FL	33510	United States	10/27/12	I do not want to see any loss of natural habitat. Stop the strawberry farmers from emptying the aquifer!
william Ware II	Palm Coast	FL	32164-7979	United States	10/27/12	All life is precious to me.
Claudia Smith	Spring Hill	FL	34606	United States	10/27/12	We must preserve the species for the next generation.
Cassy Watson	Greenacres	FL	33463	United States	10/27/12	Preserving these Manatees for future generations should be important to everyone!

Sheet1

Sara Richarde	South Daytona	FL	32119	United States	10/27/12	I have grown up and lived here all my life and the manatees are a beautiful part of our springs, I don't want anything to disrupt their habitat any more than what already has.
Carlos Vega	Orlando	FL	32824	United States	10/27/12	Save nature.. Also please stop destroying entire forests. We need the oxygen and animals need their homes. Build up, not out.
Gloria Morotti	Bradenton	FL	34205	United States	10/27/12	Our manatees are so precious.
joan wolff	boca raton	FL	33498	United States	10/27/12	all wild life balances the environment.
carol braspennickx	HUDSON	FL	34667	United States	10/27/12	because the governor is so stupid and has no feelings for humans let alone animals.
Harriet Toretzky	Delray Beach	FL	33484-4786	United States	10/27/12	I feel that all animals that live in the ocean sea and rivers need to be protected
Jonathan Gentle	north fort myers	FL	33931	United States	10/27/12	I live in Fort Myers and do not want to see any loss of wildlife
Natasha Santo	Valparaiso	FL	32580	United States	10/27/12	I live in Florida.
George Mackison	Hallandale	FL	33009	United States	10/27/12	We must all strive to do everything we can to preserve all the diverse species that still remain on this earth.
Milli Gryca	Tallahassee	FL	32310	United States	10/27/12	How is this not important to the future of Florida???
Karen Taragowski	Delray Beach	FL	33445	United States	10/27/12	All wildlife should be protected.
connie boppre	land o lakes	FL	34639	United States	10/27/12	we MUST avoid reducing any manatee habitat !!!!
June Dawson	Port Orange	FL	32129	United States	10/27/12	Loss of flow will cause problems for the ecosystems of which the Manatee are a very important part!
jacki Gilson	crawfordville	FL	32327	United States	10/27/12	The manatees need all the help we can give them, NOT more challenges to overcome!
Ron McCracken	Titusville	FL	32780	United States	10/27/12	These mammals bring thousands of tourists to Florida annually. Their welfare impacts the welfare of the state. Please stop messings with water levels.
Brandy Cannon	Gulf Breeze	FL	32563	United States	10/27/12	I am. Florida resident, I love our natural resources and wildlife. Please do all that we can to preserve both.
Dawn Sedlock	Debary	FL	32713	United States	10/27/12	The manatee is my favorite gentle giant!
Tyler Deken	Ponte Vedra	FL	32082	United States	10/27/12	Whatever Sea cow!
Jane McKinney	Melbourne	FL	32940	United States	10/27/12	This is their home and many will die without it!!
Dorrie Kanofsky	Ormond Beach	FL	32176	United States	10/27/12	Our manatees are sacred..in Florida we should be doing everythign possible to help them thrive!
roy sagarin	Lake Panasoffkee	FL	33538	United States	10/27/12	To save what's left of natural ecosystems.
kathy nichols	inglis	FL	34449	United States	10/27/12	i have lived in Florida for two years and i have not seen very many of them yet
Ellen Bukstel	Fort Lauderdale	FL	33330	United States	10/27/12	Save Florida Wildlife
Jose Perez	Homestead	FL	33031	United States	10/27/12	Save these magnificent creatures, stop your insanity governor, we had enough.

Sheet1

Bill Yule	Fort Lauderdale	FL	33301	United States	10/27/12	These harmless beautiful creatures have had to struggle for years to stay alive and need understanding help from people who can change their lives; YOU. Say NO! NO! to reduction in water flow. It is your duty.
Barbara Sallee	Bradenton	FL	34203	United States	10/27/12	Manatees and other wetland inhabitants need a good flow of water to survive and be healthy.
Donna Carroll	Ocoee	FL	34761	United States	10/27/12	Manatees are such gentle and innocent mammals. They need our protection and assistance whenever possible! Shame on Gov Scott!!!!
Cynthia Alexander	Boca Raton	FL	33496	United States	10/27/12	They are our Mermaids and they are we love them here in FL and they are so gentle they swim with us all the time.
Mary Wood	Casselberry	FL	32707	United States	10/27/12	I was a science teacher for forty years in Central Florida and realize first hand how important it is to value and preserve the waterways of Florida and the animals that live in them.
Joaquin del Cueto	Miami	FL	33173	United States	10/27/12	Save Big Bird and the West Indian Manatees!
William George	Hudson	FL	34669	United States	10/27/12	Love the manatees and used to swim with them
Walter Collins	Hollywood	FL	33019	United States	10/27/12	Leave nature alone. God meant this earth for all living creatures, not just us.
Robert traister	tampa	FL	33634	United States	10/27/12	these creatures are important to all of us you should take action of this or explain to the people why you do not care?

The Bible and the Judaic-Christian tradition teach and command us to treat animals with kindness and respect. The massive abuse and suffering legally inflicted on billions of animals every year is a clear violation of the teachings of our religious faith and cannot be justified by any person of faith and decency. The people for whom the Bible was written thousands of years ago were intimately familiar with wildlife and domestic animals, especially the practice of raising cattle and other animals. The Bible contains strict rules governing the treatment of farmed animals, and indeed all of God's creatures, which were designed to prevent any unnecessary pain and suffering. Modern day animal agriculture violates core Christian values. It wipes out entire populations and species of wildlife, confines huge numbers of animals in miserable conditions on factory farms, damages the environment, squanders scarce resources, and harms the health of people.

The Ten Commandments:

Do Not Overwork

Animals

The Mosaic Law in the Hebrew Scriptures forbids overworking animals and requires that people help stray and lost creatures. Many injunctions are clearly written for the sake of the creatures and not the owners.

The Law requires that one help animals who belong to enemies to whom one owes no obligation, as well as those of friends. One may

Peter and Jacquelin	Saint Augustine	FL	32084	United States	10/27/12	We as human beings need to stop messing around with our wildlife! I do not agree with reductions in flow!!!!
joy zacharia	Safety Harbor	FL	34695	United States	10/27/12	Because they are precious members of our planet and deserve equal right to fresh, clean water. Besides, I see them every weekend at the Safety Harbor peer and feel a kinship to them.
Linda Terrell	Fort Pierce	FL	34949	United States	10/27/12	Struggling in an ever hostile environment these wonderful creatures deserve our support and attention. Boaters continue to cruise full throttle in manatee zones so often injuring them don't force them out of Chassahowitzka-Homosassa. These are important issues to myself an my family and do affect my voting patterns.
Lucia Ross	Lakeland	FL	33809	United States	10/27/12	If not for the intrinsic value of the animals themselves -- which in my mind is paramount -- Florida is a tourist economy. If you don't protect the very things that draw tourists to a particular area, you will lose money. Hopefully, I've put my argument in terms that politicians understand -- economic.
Erin Newbeck	Port Saint John	FL	32927	United States	10/27/12	I live near the indian river, and i see them all the time. Animals need places to live just like we do. Please don't destroy their homes.
Carole Moore	Zephyrhills	FL	33541	United States	10/27/12	Saving wildlife is urgent.
Amy Nelson	Plant City	FL	33566	United States	10/27/12	To Those in Power @ "SWFWMD", I emphatically request you "rethink" any change that would violate these spring-fed rivers... for they ARE designated as "home" ~ under the FEDERAL Endangered Species Act ie. "Florida Outstanding Waterways" specifically... Mr. Rick Scott, It is Your Duty to enforce Federally mandated statutes to protect our fragile Florida wildlife, as well as fresh water coastal ecosystems. P.S. I am Active Politically, I Vote, & I will be watching this issue closely. Thank You for your consideration.
Deborah Switzer	Ocala	FL	34474	United States	10/27/12	These animal have already had to met with challenges with our land developing, their instincts direct them and it's a fragile situation to preventing them to go through their cycle. We need to save these lovely creatures. i was fortunate to swim with these animals, it was a moving eperience. I would love to think that my grandchildren could also someday have the experience. When you make changes in the ecosystem, we change things that in the long run cost us more, not to mention destroy life that can't be replaced
Susan LANG	Palm Beach Garder	FL	33418	United States	10/27/12	We "adopted" a few manatees 40 or so years ago. Beautiful creatures!
Melissa Forberg	DeFuniak Springs	FL	32433	United States	10/27/12	As a native floridian, I have always loved to see the endangered manatees in central Florida. They are a source of eco-tourism and should be a source of pride for our state.

Ruthann Roka	Venice	FL	34293	United States	10/27/12	When you stop adding all of your other political bull shit maybe you will get more support.
Sue Norman	Homosassa	FL	34448	United States	10/27/12	These are odd looking crittters, but they enhance the world down here! @!!
Claudia Todd	Spring Hill	FL	34606	United States	10/27/12	why in the world would you want a reduction in flow to the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka
Patricia Blakely	Titusville	FL	32780	United States	10/27/12	Because I have been living here in Titusville, FL. for almost 4 years now. And the Manatees are ONE of the MOST BEAUTIFUL SITESHERE IN Titusville, FL. IF THEY BOTHER ANYONE, THEN THERE IS SOMETHING WRONG WITH THESE PEOPLE. PLEASE DO NOT DO AWAY WITH THE Manatees. I will support the Manatees until the day I die.They are better than peoplebecause they do not hurt you or anyone like people hurt other people. Patricia Ann Blakely
Jennifer Ellerman-G	Tampa	FL	33617	United States	10/27/12	Manatees are important to natural Florida!
alison van dusen	indialantic	FL	32903	United States	10/27/12	every animal counts
Andrea Tallini	St. Petersburg	FL	33707	United States	10/27/12	I live in florida and the manatees should be protected
JAMES N BRICAUL	BOWLING GREEN	FL	33834	United States	10/27/12	Life should come before fuel. All forms of life.
Laurie Venable	Tallahassee	FL	32308	United States	10/27/12	I believe the Manatee should be protected from the SWFWMD. The have no right to endanger the Manatee's habitat. We must protect our wildlife for future generations.
Cara L. Campbell	Fort Lauderdale	FL	33315	United States	10/27/12	Stop destroying Florida's natural resources !!
John Malaney	Miami Beach	FL	33141	United States	10/27/12	Our natural resources are not only vital to mammals such as the Manatee, but to human beings as well. By destroying these precious resources we are slowly destroying ourselves. They should be protected and conserved for future generations.
Donna Greene	Hollywood	FL	33021	United States	10/27/12	These animals need a safe habitat with room to thrive.
leslie a. barth	homosassa	FL	34448	United States	10/27/12	My husband & I purchased our first home on a canal in Riverhaven 28 years ago. The water in in the canals was clean & clear as it was in the River. We have witnessed first hand the destruction of our River and canals. We now spend hours cleaning barnacles of our boat which we never did at all for the first 25 years! The clean water act was passed 40 years ago and yet you have trashed the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka since this was passed. Shame on you!
Ruth Cassidy	W. Palm Beach	FL	33411	United States	10/27/12	Manatees are having enough nightmares to even Survive. Hands OFF their sanctuary!!!
Dot Riffel	Apopka	FL	32712	United States	10/27/12	For all the reasons stated in the letter. We need the companionship of God's creatures
Robert Lippert	Jacksonville	FL	32217	United States	10/27/12	Manatees are an important part or the Florida Everglades ecological system and should be protected.
Linda Culhane	Clearwater	FL	33764	United States	10/27/12	This is important because the natural resources of FL should be protected. Once we lose them they are gone, not to be recovered.

Sheet1

alan fricker	Kissimmee	FL	34744	United States	10/27/12	Manatees are the ultimate defenseless mamal on earth and should be given every chance to survive their number 1 predator---man and man's decisions
Sandy Cox	Miami	FL	33133-3435	United States	10/27/12	We must save these wonderful creatures. Please, let's have no more ignorant decisions coming from this Government office.
Richard Flynn	Aventura	FL	33160	United States	10/27/12	Saving wildlife is essential. Period.
Vivian Griffin	Lakeland	FL	33803	United States	10/27/12	These "gentle giants" are a Florida treasure and need our protection.
Diann Bimmerle	Holiday	FL	34691	United States	10/27/12	Because they don't hurt the enviornment only the boaters hurt them.
Patricia McDonald	Winter Park	FL	32792	United States	10/27/12	Please do not jeopardize manatees and other endangered species. I care very much about this.
Leilani Zidan	Tarpon Springs	FL	34689	United States	10/27/12	We love our gentle manatees in Florida!
Andrew Douglass	Jacksonville	FL	32245	United States	10/27/12	Springs
Victoria Frame	Bradenton	FL	34208	United States	10/27/12	Manatees don't deserve to die! Please help save the manatees and protect their habitat!
Robert Grant	Archer	FL	32618	United States	10/27/12	It is very important to keep these gentle giants thriving for future generations. It is also important because they exist in our world and we have on obligation to keep them safe from harm.
kirk miller	Dunedin	FL	34698	United States	10/27/12	we need to protect the manatees.

						<p>This response by Dee Atkins was too good not to borrow/repeat (Thank you, Dee!):</p> <p>Our rivers are already in critical condition and to allow any percentage at all in flow reduction is unconscionable. SWFWMD already allows water use permits to be issued for the cost to \$50 and no metering when someone 'says' they are only going to take 50,000 gallons per day. Of course, with no metering, how do they know how much water is being taken? Crystal River is going to be the next for MFL's to be set, and if permits without metering are already being issued, it scares me to death what they will do setting MFL's. The water permit issued recently is being transported to Ocala to be sold as bottled water. Water transfer!! And no metering on how much is really being taken. SWFWMD is allowing flow reduction in rivers that are already dying or dead. Data that is being used to justify this action can be manipulated to provide the desired results. Use common sense....look at the rivers....look at the lack of aquatic plants that are conducive to the rivers.....look at the salinity in areas that used to be fresh water....look at the decrease in wild life, fish, and flora and fauna, look at the degradation of our spings. It is obvious to the lay person what it happening...surely the scientists are smart enough to see what's going on without graphs and numbers and such. If we, the people who love are waterways can see what's happening, there's no data in the world that can change what is obvious to those of us who are aware and feel the pain of watching our rivers and our wildlife die.</p>
Amy Austin	Gainesville	FL	32608	United States	10/27/12	
Jay Allbritton	Gainesville	FL	32601	United States	10/27/12	Manatees rule! Save them now!
scott reader	miami	FL	33157	United States	10/27/12	Preserving wildlife is always important.
MARY CALVER	FT. MYERS	FL	33908	United States	10/27/12	I snorkel with the lovely sea creatures and they need our protection from humans ignorance
Bettina Moser	Gainesville	FL	32607	United States	10/27/12	THIS IS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT FOR ME AS PRESERVATION OF THE WATERWAYS FOR MANATEES ULTIMATELY BENEFITS NOT ONLY THE MANATEES BUT EVERYBODY IN A MYRIAD WAYS.
Lee Breyer	Ellenton	FL	34222-2231	United States	10/27/12	The Manatee is a national symbol of Florida, the name of my county, as well as the name of the river on whose bank we built Mercy-on-the-Manatee. Tourists, including family and friends from Chicago love to come to Florida to see the manatees. We don't need to endanager them any more than they already are by human actions.
William Ross	Delray Beach	FL	33445	United States	10/27/12	The manatees are our children's heritage.
Kim Carless	Port Charlotte	FL	33948	United States	10/27/12	Why is it so important to stem the flow?
Irene Pousette	Sunrise	FL	33326	United States	10/27/12	All animals are important to me. And manatees are beauriful cratures.

Sheet1

Tim Coleman	Miami Beach	FL	33139	United States	10/27/12	Stop the damage to our environment and the wildlife that depend on these critical resources. Endangered species...co
MICHAEL SHAFFE	JACKSONVILLE	FL	32257	United States	10/27/12	Endangered species...co humanoids.
Sharron Buck	Vero Beach	FL	32962	United States	10/27/12	The manatee needs all the help it can to survive...man has taken too much of its habitat already.
annmarie kerr	Davie	FL	33328	United States	10/27/12	Worked 4 vet and wildlife center. Saw 2 many animals,including manatees(I lived in FI Everglades) if only one is injured or killed that is too many.
debbie senta	kent	WA	98042	United States	10/27/12	I want to protect these creatures for future generations, we can live without them but who wants to?
Maria Gavidia	Keystone Heights	FL	32656	United States	10/27/12	These are endangered species and unique to Florida. There is no monetary value on the importance of these animals. They are living beings and that is all that should matter. Not how much money will I have because of them.
Ellen Koven	Deltona	FL	32738	United States	10/27/12	I have lived in Florida for 34 years and my family and I have enjoyed the beauty of springs like Blue Spring, Gemini Spring, DeLeon Springs, Rock Springs, etc. We love to watch the gentle sea cows each year as they make their way back to the Blue Spring run. They cannot protect themselves; please protect them and Florida's fragile ecosystem.
Allyson Speizer	Tampa	FL	33647	United States	10/27/12	Save our manatees and save our springs for future generations!
Karen Burroughs	Orlando	FL	32829	United States	10/27/12	Florida is no longer paradise for wildlife or residents. We MUST start protecting what abundance we were given or we will lose it all.
Linda Ritchie	Ft. Myers	FL	33916	United States	10/27/12	I love manatees!
Dennis Phelan	Jensen Beach	FL	34957	United States	10/27/12	Clear, fresh water habitats are hard to find in Florida and should be preserved to protect to habitat, manatees and other species, as well as for continued recreational use.
CJ King	Wesley Chapel	FL	33544	United States	10/27/12	Please, don't do this. You will be hurting a treasure of the Florida wildlife.
Marla Robb	PAFB	FL	32925	United States	10/27/12	Manatees are an important part of our life in Central Florida!
Anna Shaft	Summerfield	FL	34491	United States	10/27/12	We have a responsibility to SAVE wildlife!
Frank Reyes	Miami	FL	33155	United States	10/27/12	because i was born dade county fl
B Peet	Pensacola	FL	32503	United States	10/27/12	From Pensacola, my son's class went on a field trip there last year, and we took the Boy Scout troop there for a weekend as well. The economic impact is significant, and if the manatees are lost, so is the tourist industry.
creston tanner	saint petersburg	FL	33701	United States	10/27/12	No To Reductions in Flow, these animals need our help!
Teressa Gail Stark	Pensacola	FL	32507	United States	10/27/12	Teressa Gail stark
Pamela Monaghan	Delray Beach	FL	33444	United States	10/27/12	This is a no brainer . . .
Helen Mertz	Spring Hill	FL	34608	United States	10/27/12	The manatee is an interal part of Floridas Eco system. We should do all we can to protect them.
Brenda Breil	Gainesville	FL	32608	United States	10/27/12	It is part of the heart of Florida.

Sheet1

Robert R Rupe Jr	Cocoa	FL	32927	United States	10/27/12	We can't keep giving water out to everyone. We have to protect our Aquifers.
JON SODERLUND	INDIAN HARBOUR	FL	32937	United States	10/27/12	I went swimming with the Manatees and I had a baby and an adult Manatee come up to me and both kissed me and the adult hugged me!
Cara Read	Melbourne	FL	32935	United States	10/27/12	I've lived in Florida for over 30 years and I feel we should do everything in our power to protect the amazing creatures for we are the reason there are so few now, therefore it is our responsibility to help them as much as we can!
Carole Berk	Tampa	FL	33611	United States	10/27/12	We spend a lot of time in Homosassa and the manatees are an asset that needs protection!!!
amy smith	miami	FL	33138	United States	10/27/12	they are a treasure to the world
michael kenny	pensacola	FL	32507	United States	10/27/12	the manatees are important to floridas water eco system
Mary Pavitt	Altamonte Springs	FL	32714	United States	10/27/12	The manatees are a protected species and any changes can impact their survival!
Jessica M	Melbourne	FL	32904	United States	10/27/12	Quit screwing with the rivers!
Kathleen Wedzik	Boca Raton	FL	33428	United States	10/27/12	reduction in natural spring flow will cause loss of natural habitat in each of these fragile spring-fed fresh water coastal ecosystems.
Sylvia Garcia-Smith	Beeville	TX	78104	United States	10/27/12	I've never seen one in the wild and would like to someday....
Nancy W. Fellenz	St. Petersburg	FL	33711	United States	10/27/12	Man over nature, again. We must stop this.
wei liu	Girona	FL	17466	United States	10/27/12	I like wildlife.
Janet Rectenwald	Sun City Center	FL	33573	United States	10/27/12	I believe all of nature should be respected and cared for.
Laura McDonald	Melbourne	FL	32901-5815	United States	10/27/12	How many species must we lose forever before mankind realizes his time here on earth is up as a result?
Pat Manuel	Longwood	FL	32779	United States	10/27/12	love our beautiful precious gentle manatees
Daun Elias	Cooper City	FL	33326	United States	10/27/12	We need to protect these gentle mammals and prevent from unnecessary injuries and ensure they are in a safe environment for their future.
C G	Orlando	FL	32828	United States	10/27/12	Rick Scott, how dare you further endanger these magnificent creatures?
Gail Knight	Palm Coast	FL	32164	United States	10/27/12	The manatees are already in trouble please don't allow them to be endangered further. Do no reduce the water flow to their habitat.
Paul tarins	Geneva	FL	32732	United States	10/27/12	all wildlife is important to me
David Beahn	Oldsmar	FL	34677'	United States	10/27/12	I'm so tired of the GOP being so self absorbed in themselves and their cronies, It sure would be nice to see some compassion for others.
Lila Towle	Tjele		8830	Denmark	10/27/12	Have visited the manatees several times, the waterways must be preserved!
Mary Carrico	Plant City	FL	33563	United States	10/27/12	Anything to do with animals is important to me
Mathew Johnson	New Smyrna Beach	FL	32168	United States	10/27/12	Manatees are gentle giants who need us to speak for them
Frank Espinoza	Miami	FL	33144	United States	10/27/12	We need Manatees for the future generation to experience them.
Kyle Pazian	Summerland key	FL	33042	United States	10/27/12	Because I care about marine life.
Sher Briccol	Miami	FL	33173	United States	10/27/12	Animals have the Right to Life.

Anita Hartmann	Dunnellon	FL	34433	United States	10/27/12	Manatees are struggling to survive! They need our support. Do not impact their ecosystem by reduction in flow! I vote and as an activist influence the votes of others. We will be watching your action with this issue. Thank you, Anita Hartmann 352-489-0240 Dunnellon, FL
Rita Brinkley	Beverly Hills	FL	34465	United States	10/27/12	You should never endanger the lives of these beautiful "sea cows." They are an integral part of the ecosystem and to Florida tourism as well. Why would you hurt an animal that is so docile?
mary shepherd	Naples	FL	34114	United States	10/27/12	Manatee need every chance we humans can offer them. Survival of this animal is significant to people. It is critical to understand that we humans can ill afford the destruction of any protected animal. Please: do not reduce this water flow.
jacqueline berghorn	ormond beach	FL	32174	United States	10/27/12	WE ALL NEED FRESH WATER TO DRINK!
Maritza Villegas Col	Hollywood	FL	33019	United States	10/27/12	Respect the Manatees' Home
Raymond Gibson	Hollywood	FL	33020	United States	10/27/12	If you can't save our freshwater for sheer potability, maybe saving it for the manatees in it will keep our water drinkable.
GEORGE LEONI	AVENTURA	FL	33160	United States	10/27/12	all animals, as well as manatees should have the right to live
Michael Martinez	Pembroke Pines	FL	33025	United States	10/27/12	As a native Floridian I love manatees and hate to see how these gentle giants are constantly abused and neglected as a part of our natural Florida ecosystem.
Judi Weiss	Tamarac	FL	33321	United States	10/27/12	These magnificent, slow moving creatures must be saved. Manatees are Florida.
Carol Schleuning	Fern Park,	FL	32730	United States	10/27/12	Manatees are unique and wonderful to observe. They must be protected at all cost.
Valerie Gardiner	Jupiter	FL	33458	United States	10/27/12	We must be stewards for the creatures of our planet!
Kaylynn Niggle	Apollo Beach	FL	33572	United States	10/27/12	These are the nicest creatures-- nothing bad should happen to them.
Marisol Groshaeny	Miramar Beach	FL	32550	United States	10/27/12	We need to preserve and protect these wonderful creatures.
CYNTHIA BROWN	Sebring	FL	33872	United States	10/27/12	in this day and age, there are too many humans, and all the population does is, KEEP expanding. Time to put a stop to it and make all our efforts go towards preserving our natural resources. Duh.
Brucie Cummings	ft. lauderdale	FL	33315	United States	10/27/12	We all too often make "improvements" without considering the whole picture.
Charles Wiggins	Dunnellon	FL	34433	United States	10/27/12	It does not take a rocket scientist to understand the ramifications involved to the wildlife. They are much more important than someone making money off of this.
Doris Aquije	Orlando	FL	32824	United States	10/27/12	Amo a los animales, pobrecitos, estÃ¡n a merced del hombre.

Cailin Callahan	Jennings	FL	32053	United States	10/27/12	Mamatees are emblematic for Florida. We must save their overwintering springs and protect both the local habitat of these springs and watershed that affect water quality in these critical over-wintering waterways.
Carol Andrews	Homosassa	FL	34446	United States	10/27/12	I live in Homosassa; I came here because I love nature. Do not take that away!
melinda pampallona	Vero Beach	FL	32961	United States	10/27/12	Being good stewards.
Helen Ciampi	Floral City	FL	34436	United States	10/27/12	We need to keep our waterways the way they were meant to be.
Aaron Ellis	Tallahassee	FL	32301	United States	10/27/12	The world's water sustains life, provides shelter and is necessary for the flourishing of EVERY LIVING THING, manatees as much as humans.
J. L. Blinne	Sarasota	FL	34239	United States	10/27/12	Manatees are natural dwellers in our Florida waters and should be protected no matter what.
michele sanandajia	jensen beach	FL	34957	United States	10/27/12	i love the environment
John Felice	Hernando	FL	34442	United States	10/27/12	This is an irresponsible decision to reduce the flow level that has little upside benefit with a substainal amount of risk.
Nancy Haman	Ormond Beach	FL	32174	United States	10/27/12	You are threatening an endangered species habitat.
Barbara Wilbur	Dunedin	FL	34698	United States	10/27/12	Go swimming with these gentle giants and you would do everything you could to protect them.
MARK ELLIOTT	TAMPA	FL	33612	United States	10/27/12	Florida 's treasured springs and manatees must be protected. It is far easier to protect and restore them today. It may be too late if we surrender them to temporary desires of those only concerned with temporary priorities. Our legacy and responsibility for the future of our state's treasures is more important. Please protect Florida's unique treasures for all current and future Floridians.
james monroe	Hollywood	FL	33020	United States	10/27/12	Am tired of humans stealing and degrading the habitats of God's beautiful creatures, usually for greedy motives.
gabe miller	Lake Park	FL	33403	United States	10/27/12	Because it disgusts me that my governor wouldn't take the necessary steps to help protect an endangered species. If this goes through he will have forever lost my vote.
Ronald Eike	Merritt Island	FL	32953	United States	10/27/12	Because they can't sign for themselves!
Ronald Thuemler	Tampa	FL	33614	United States	10/27/12	Manatees and waterways require a minimum, healthy flow of clean water to exist period.
Karina Parmenter	Tarpon Springs	FL	34689	United States	10/27/12	Who in their right mind would consider reducing the flow of springs? Haven't we learned anything from the Everglades? We need to leave what animal habitats we have alone.
Judith Schnee	Lake Worth	FL	33467	United States	10/27/12	I want to preserve the manatees, and keep them from becoming an extinct species. Too many species of animal life have become extinct. Let's all save our manatees!
Julia Aires	Sarasota	FL	34239	United States	10/27/12	I have taken my grandchildren there to see the Manatees and would like to continue!!
PATRICIA KELDER	Orlando	FL	32826	United States	10/27/12	Man needs to leave these habitats alone

Sheet1

Sheila Kenny	Riverview	FL	33569	United States	10/27/12	We must protect our natural resources from over development and short-sighted politicians.
Mary-jo Rubin	West Palm Beach	FL	33412	United States	10/27/12	This is a issue which will affect the the tourist trade & income ciming into Florida..beyond the conservation issues!
Ioraine gomez	margate	FL	33063	United States	10/27/12	I care about animals. We need to stop playing with this creatures life.
thomas spencer	Lehigh Acres	FL	33972-7301	United States	10/27/12	Some things are obvious.
Keith Flotte	Melbourne	FL	32901	United States	10/27/12	One of the most docile creatures you'll ever see and/or meet sometime!
david parks	st augustine	FL	32084	United States	10/27/12	I KNOW your decision will be based on only two things. 1. Your "PERCEIVED " political gain. 2. The amount of financial gain.
Robert McFarland	Fort Lauderdale	FL	33315	United States	10/27/12	Because manatees are beautiful gifts to us all.
Lizzy Stein	Washington	IA	52353	United States	10/27/12	Everything
John H Shaver	Bradenton	FL	34209	United States	10/27/12	This is near my home; I see these gentle creatures quite often.
Brenda Reeves	Trenton	FL	32693	United States	10/27/12	Because Manatees are wonderful for Florida.
Jaren Vitale	Bradenton	FL	34208	United States	10/27/12	Manatees are a key connection and honored residents. We have no right to limit their quality of life or terminate their life.
Suzanne Schnitzer	Viera	FL	32955	United States	10/27/12	Please don't reduce the flow. It will endanger the manatees and they are a Florida treasure!
Virginia Baker	New Smyrna Beach	FL	32168	United States	10/27/12	We love our manatees on Turnbull Bay
Linda Sanford	miami	FL	33186	United States	10/27/12	i love manatees and our wild life, and want to keep them safe for our future.
Helen Powers	Sarasota	FL	34231	United States	10/27/12	As a Florida native, I am saddened by the lack of respect that Rick Scott, big business and big developers have for the wildlife and environment here in Florida. The environment here is what makes Florida Paradise!
sheryl willey	bradenton	FL	34205	United States	10/27/12	I care about the manatees. How is it the people making these uncaring,thoughtless eco destroying decisions have gotten into these positions? They certainly are not speaking for most Floridians rather their selfish,self serving agendas.
Julie Moss	Petersburg	IL	62675	United States	10/27/12	safe places for manatees is very important.
Marilyn Fuller	Lake Alfred	FL	33850	United States	10/27/12	I have visited the Manatees at the Springs in question. They need help and fresh water is the least we can assure them.
Sara Howland	Pensacola	FL	32591	United States	10/27/12	We continue to encroach on the natural environment. We need to preserve this one, for its own sake and for the sake of manatees and other wildlife that live there.

Sheet1

Gilbert Hall	Hollywood	FL	33026	United States	10/27/12	Manatees need a safe place with clean warm water to survive. Let us top helping the big corporaiotns who steal our water supply to provide their crops, cattle cheap water while helping to make the Manatees extinct. It is time to put a STOP to all of this. Big corporation governor Scott only has the interests of teh big money like himself in mind - not the environment or the people who live here.
jim whitehead	ormond beach	FL	32176	United States	10/27/12	Rick Scott is an idiot?
Geraldine Remington	Winter Garden	FL	34787	United States	10/27/12	Manatees are beautiful, gentle, and endangered living creatures - shame on you for even considering with reductions in flow! Please use your power to SAVE these creatures, not to make them extinct!
Valerie Mahoney	Homosassa	FL	34446	United States	10/27/12	I live in Florida and I love the Manatee
Faith Ralston	Sanford	FL	32773	United States	10/27/12	Our waterways is what makes US special, and to share the waters is esential to our own survival.
Marc Norris	Orlando	FL	32836	United States	10/27/12	We need to save the Manatees for future generations
Carmel Severson	Cooper City	FL	33330	United States	10/27/12	Manatees are endangered because of our bad choices, we need to make better choices that will ensure their future.
Michael Philipp	Amelia Island	FL	32034	United States	10/27/12	Living in Florida, I am keen to preserve all wildlife and important natural environments.
Candy Lambourn	Clearwater	FL	33764	United States	10/27/12	Because if we don't start saving our species we won't have anything left on this earth, including us. Stop screwing up nature and the way things are supposed to be!!
Lynn Reeser	Vernon	FL	32462	United States	10/27/12	The Planet is in peril! With the current rate of polution, environmental scientists say we only have until 2017! WHEN then, would be your idea of when to start paying attention? And Nestles must be stopped sucking the aquifers dry!
jamie beineke	Clearwater	FL	33755	United States	10/27/12	We need to save our wild life areas that are still natural for our future generations
ileana pieze	Homestead	FL	33033	United States	10/27/12	is our wildlife!we have to do as much as we can! lovely animal :)
Dennis Barron	Bradenton Beach	FL	34217	United States	10/27/12	Once these animals are gone, they're gone. Short term benefit for long term disaster. Good thinking. Shame on you.
Jacob Magnuson	Jupiter	FL	33458	United States	10/27/12	I like manatees.
ann stonesifer	St Augustine	FL	32086	United States	10/27/12	Do we have to kill everything?
Annette Steele	Orlando	FL	32828	United States	10/27/12	They are gentle creature hurting no one, man needs to leave there enviroment and space alone. They were here long before us, doing just fine.

						The vulnerable Florida Manatee remains at great risk and is threatened by urbanization: pollution, reduced spring access/flow, boat strikes, and being "loved to death" by well-meaning by ignorant Floridians and tourists. They are a Florida icon and remain a big tourist attraction. It is up to Florida to protect this special and unique animal and it's ecosystem from human encroachment, agricultural pressures and development. In other words, from us.
Robin Sekerak	DeLand	FL	32724	United States	10/27/12	
Donna Fisherl g	Green	KS	67447	United States	10/27/12	love the animals
Ellen Dalbo	Kenneth City	FL	33709	United States	10/27/12	I live in Florida. It would be nice if Gov. Scott actually did the right thing for once.
Carlos Quiroga-Las	Tampa	FL	33634	United States	10/27/12	On occasion it would be nice to do something that is not harmful to other creatures.
Shea Joy	Lynchburg	VA	24503	United States	10/27/12	Swimming with the manatees is one of the most precious memories of my life.
Kerri Hite	Jensen Beach	FL	34957	United States	10/27/12	they are part of the history and culture of the great areas that they live in.
Maria Fionda	Gainesville	FL	32603	United States	10/27/12	What would we be without nature. We need it.
Diana Wolak	Pembroke Pines	FL	33026-3220	United States	10/27/12	Save the manatees!
Judith Be	Fort Myers	FL	33967	United States	10/27/12	We love the manatees. They are wondrous beings in our world and their environment must be protected.
Marion Walker	Deland	FL	32720	United States	10/27/12	Manatees are important to me!!!
Katie Williams	Orlando	FL	32803	United States	10/27/12	I kind of wish the photo to the petition didn't show someone breaking manatee harassment laws, but photo aside, this petition should be important to every Floridian. It's our duty to protect these gentle giants, especially in a time when the current governing powers in Florida are thwarting environmental efforts left and right.
Jeannette Mammari	Delray Beach	FL	33446	United States	10/27/12	The manatees are more than Florida icons--they are examples for humans--they exhibit qualities that all humans should emulate
Teresa Murphy	West Palm Beach	FL	33417	United States	10/27/12	As a native Floridian, they are part of us. We must save them for future generations to enjoy on our waterways. They cannot speak for themselves, so I say please help save our manatees, we need them. Thank you!!
Denis Hanlon	St. Petersburg	FL	33712	United States	10/27/12	SAVE THE MANATEES AND OTHER SPECIES, NOT MENTION THE ECOSYSTEM ITSELF!!!
Stan Shaft	Sparks	NV	89431	United States	10/27/12	My recent visit to Florida included seeing the Manatees as a planned hi-point. I wrote about the trip and the experience on a travel blog. For the Manatees to lose their life-sustaining habitat, at the whim of an ever-growing power corporation, would be grievous sign that FL puts corporate profits before the well-being of the creatures who call that area home. Not a good message for a State which relies so heavily on happy and hopeful tourists.

Sheet1

Roberta Gerber	Bonita Shores	FL	34134-7422	United States	10/27/12	We are fortunate to have these marvelous creatures as our friends. Manatees are such cool & friendly animals. They need safe places to live.
Michael Maire	Port Orange	FL	32127	United States	10/27/12	
Karen Boudrie	Leesburg	FL	34788	United States	10/27/12	Our Springs in Florida are our life blood
Mike Flatland	Jacksonville	FL	32244	United States	10/27/12	We need to save are wildlife.
Kathryn D'Ambrosio	Old Hickory	TN	37138	United States	10/27/12	Grew up in Florida and the springs are the home to many amazing creatures and is one of Floridas natural beauties
pamela alm	myrtle beach	SC	29588	United States	10/27/12	the enviroment is important tp me as well as mammal life
Iris Meyer	Apopka	FL	32712	United States	10/27/12	We need to protect and respect our wildlife,once they are gone, we are next.
Matilde cristal	aventura	FL	33179	United States	10/27/12	Because I believe in the right of this beautiful animals to have their place in the world too. We have no human right to take everyting away from any animal or any specie than those not harm to us, on the contrary we are always trying to find ways of mistreating them or eliminating them
April Frizalone	new port richey	FL	34652	United States	10/27/12	I live in Florida! I love the Manatees!!!
Victor Pirie	Live Oak	FL	32060	United States	10/27/12	Florida Manatees are being destroyed by boaters every day. If your Child or Friend was being Cut to Bits by Boat Props, you would think different about making some way to Stop the Slaughter. How about Prop Cages or something like that, to protect them.
jerry weinstock	Key West	FL	33040	United States	10/27/12	I think they are a part of the eco-system we live in----and they come into my canal and I love them
DON RICHERT	CLEARWATER	FL	33759	United States	10/27/12	Love the manatees!
Rosanna Bell	Tallahassee	FL	32303	United States	10/27/12	Manatees are an important part of Florida. Let's do what we can to protect them.
Gary Henderson	Merritt Island	FL	32953	United States	10/27/12	The entire state of Florida is under siege from developers. These remaining wild places that provide food, water and shelter for Florida's indigenous wildlife need to preserved, or we are ALL diminished.
Lisa Jasay	Panama City Beach	FL	32408	United States	10/27/12	Please protect what makes Florida such a unique and beautiful place.
dennis dye	Flint	MI	48504	United States	10/27/12	Because it is life
Arthur Amolsch	Naples	FL	34102	United States	10/27/12	Manatees were here first.
Mary Conroy	Orlando	FL	32839	United States	10/27/12	Saving Manatees
Karla Garcia	Miami	FL	33176	United States	10/27/12	These animals are important to our ecosystems, without them it could have an impact on the habitat and also impact humans. But mainly because they deserve to be here just as much as humans.
Judy Albury	Miami	FL	33155	United States	10/27/12	Manatees are a Florida treasure. Please protect them.
lois kyes	Greenwood	FL	32443	United States	10/27/12	Leave the flow to the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka rivers alone.
cindy nichols	micco	FL	32976	United States	10/27/12	because I love manatees, they deserve to be treated humanly...they need a place to got where the water is warm, we brought them here, they did not ask to come...

Sheet1

Eric Dietrich	Sebastian	FL	32978-1786	United States	10/27/12	Manatees are important to eco system of Florida.
Alex Brice	Lakeland	FL	33805	United States	10/27/12	We own property on The Chaz. We have spent many thousands of dollars converting our septic tanks to help clean this Outstanding Florida Water. I say Zero percent reduction of flows and Zero percent loss of habitat!
Bernard Yokel	Mt. Dora	FL	32757	United States	10/27/12	Florida is long past the time when it can afford to depreciate functioning ecosystems, particularly those systems that harbor endangered species such as the West Indian Manatee. In a State that relays on growth and tourism it is vital to protect the quality and productivity of its waters.
Walt Stine	Gulf Breeze	FL	32563	United States	10/27/12	I love Fl. Wild Life!
Amber Daniels	Gainesville	FL	32608	United States	10/27/12	For the Manatees!!
Sonia (Sunny) Fad	St. Petersburg	FL	33710	United States	10/27/12	These areas and the Manatees are an important part of what makes Florida special. Preserving them is critical... and financially and morally the right thing to do.
Antonio Cardillo	Silver Springs	FL	34488	United States	10/27/12	The manatees deserve the same consideration as any other natural resource. Further they draw visitors from around the world to observe these beautiful and gentle creatures in their natural habitats.
Brenda James	Vero Beach	FL	32960	United States	10/27/12	This is important for Manatees. Rick Scott is destroying the Great State of Florida! by the time he leaves office Florida will be owned by his cronniees not the tax-payers!!!
Molly Yoder-William	New Port Richey	FL	34652	United States	10/27/12	Swimming with the manatees is one of my favorite things to do in this area. They are a National Treasure and their environment needs to be protected!
Allegonda van den	Palmetto Bay	FL	33157	United States	10/27/12	Becasuse mantatees rely on the springs
Rebecca Gravely	Gainesville	FL	32605	United States	10/27/12	This is important to me because manatees are important to Florida!
Shannon Davies	DeLand	FL	32720	United States	10/27/12	The springs and manatees in Florida are real treasures and need to be protected for future generations!
Judy Stimson	Sun City Ctr.	FL	33571-5772	United States	10/27/12	Manatees are part of our FL assets and support the tourist industry.
Cheryl Long	Port Charlotte	FL	33952	United States	10/27/12	These gentle animals need to be saved.
Jeff Abbott	Oviedo	FL	327675	United States	10/27/12	These reductions must stop. It is not just about manatees but the commercial fishing industry as well. Oysters, scallops, stone crams, are just examples of sea food that requires fresh water to thrive. Take a holistic approach, study the implications.
Maria Savin	Tampa	FL	33625	United States	10/27/12	This is important to me because manatees are awesome!
Janalee f garwood	ft myers	FL	33919	United States	10/27/12	I'm interested in the survival of the manatee and very tired of seeing Florida decisions made on behalf of big business and political "friends"
April browne	Longwood	FL	32750	United States	10/27/12	We have to stop this !!! And everything like it NOW!
vicki matheny	tallahassee	FL	32301	United States	10/27/12	The manatees are such gentle creatures and deserve our protection. Humans have done them such great harm already.

Sheet1

David Stewart	gainesville	FL	32653	United States	10/27/12	We have made great strides in saving the Manatees. Don't return to the mistakes of the past and endanger the ecosystem
Janice Smith	Sun City Center	FL	33573	United States	10/27/12	I want the manatees around for generations to come!
Leah Bailey	Dunedin	FL	34698	United States	10/27/12	All life is important! These manatees deserve their natural habitat without human interference!
Charlotte Wright	Spring Hill	FL	34606	United States	10/27/12	Manatees are a native Florida species. They are also endangered. I would like to think we as caretakers of these beautiful animals, will do what we can to help them. It is up to us to protect them so future generations can enjoy them.
Stephen Holmes	Tenby		SA70 8QS	United Kingdom	10/27/12	I once saw a Manatee in the wild, off the coast of one of the Bahamian outer islands. It was a magical moment
Hope Gormandy	Deerfield Beach	FL	33441	United States	10/27/12	It's important to our biodiversity and our ecological systems to keep Manatees safe and in their habitats.
Libby Glass	Boca Raton	FL	33433	United States	10/27/12	I've had the pleasure to swim with them in nature, unexpected, untainted... why should they be put at risk??
Christine Thomas	Ft. Pierce	FL	34951	United States	10/27/12	These gentle creatures need our help, we are the ones that have endangered them.
Nancy Morgan	Dunedin	FL	34698	United States	10/27/12	we must look out for our manatees and others who can't speak for themselves
Cindy Maxwell	Orlando	FL	32810	United States	10/27/12	They are part of FLorida's wild life and need to be kept there.
kelly dean	crystal river	FL	34428	United States	10/27/12	I Love going out on the river's and seeing the manate's and swimming with them.
Kathy Jameson	Webster	FL	33597	United States	10/27/12	Manatees need to be protected in anyway we can.
Cindy Johnson	Pinellas Park	FL	33781	United States	10/27/12	Man needs to leave nature alone.
Judy Raymond	DeLand	FL	32724	United States	10/27/12	I live 10 mins. away from Blue Spr. State Park, and the manatees are the park's "claim to fame." For a well used state park, I want manatees in the water! Judy
Lucia McTague	Tampa	FL	33629	United States	10/27/12	the homosasssa and the Chassahowitzka provide refuge for our population of manatees by thir presence they keep our eco systems clear. i have brought my children here many times and its a great lesson just watching how nurturing they are . You don't find many other places where this is so apparent. My children are grown and take their own kids to this wonderful place
David Carroll	Fernandina Beach	FL	32034	United States	10/27/12	Rick Scott hates manatees almost as much as poor people.
DAVID ROYALE	FT LAUDERDALE	FL	33334	United States	10/27/12	The springs must be saved.
allison juceam	sarasota	FL	34238	United States	10/27/12	We live with the Manatees around us and we often see what people do to harm them, inviting them with hoses on their docks, speeding through no wake zones. We are responsible for the harm that has fallen on these creatures. Their habits are not large enough as it is. They live on fresh water and the springs in question are the last source left on a scale large enough to support them.

Sheet1

Merrill Pazian	Homosassa	FL	34448	United States	10/27/12	This my home and will be destroyed if reductions continue.
constace mc donne	st, pete beach	FL	33706	United States	10/27/12	Please save what few creatures we have left in Florida....please
Phyllis Sapienza	Howell	MI	48843	United States	10/27/12	Because the various species require the spring fed fresh water for their very existence.
Mahlerie Dickson	Citrus Springs	FL	34433	United States	10/27/12	Because the manatees are so important and are in need of this water flow.
Dave Kirby	New Port Richey	FL	34653	United States	10/27/12	Everybody who comes to Florida wants to see the manatees. Please, don't chase them away.
herb shelton	Tallahassee	FL	32303	United States	10/27/12	Scott, leave it alone!
Carlos Sanchez	Miami	FL	33133	United States	10/27/12	Manatees are a part of FL and we must protect and preserve them.
Pat Weaver	Leesburg	FL	34748	United States	10/27/12	Please leave well enough alone.
JoAnn Deckant	Homosassa	FL	34446	United States	10/27/12	Please, don't do this, can we push all of our wildlife away. Water is vital for both human life and marine life.
Adam Petrycki	Cocoa Beach	FL	32931	United States	10/27/12	We need to stop creating unsustainable processes. If it's not possible to recreate what you take out, it's not sustainable.
Gilbert Curry	Tampa	FL	33612-5186	United States	10/27/12	As a lifelong citizen of the State of Florida I have enjoyed the beauty, flora, and wildlife of both the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers and their estuary system since I was a child. I consider the health of these ecosystems as part of my natural heritage and feel strongly that it is something that should be passed intact to future generations.
Katherine Booth	New York	NY	10023	United States	10/27/12	Manatees are my favorite of all aquatic mammals, and I have an adopted "daughter"/ manatee, named Ariel, in Homosassa Springs!
JEFF ADAMS	NAPLES	FL	34102	United States	10/27/12	ALL SEA CREATURES ARE IMPORTANT is this important to you?
Barry Ware	Margate	FL	33063-5558	United States	10/27/12	We need to STOP messing with Wildlife Habatats Period !!
Neil Armingeon	Jacksonville beach	FL	32250	United States	10/27/12	Why decrease MFLs at the springs? Profit? Greed? Vote NO! Save the manatee.
giselle fetigan	sarasota	FL	34241	United States	10/27/12	It is important to maintain a habitat for our florida manatees. These beautiful creatures need a place to live and breed to assure their existence for future generations
Angela Baich	Fort White	FL	32038	United States	10/27/12	As a Florida native, I lived to see too much destruction of the enviroment, especially fresh water rivers and springs. If not protected, Florida will end up sucked dry.
Sharon Rines	Havana	FL	32333	United States	10/27/12	The Manatees are precious and need protection from this...
Daniel Spink	Port Orange	FL	32128	United States	10/27/12	I love the natural wildlife of Florida and do not want to have it put into a postion of peril be decreasing the flow of water.
Anne Squires-Dors	Ravensbourne, Dunedin		9022	New Zealand	10/27/12	Manatees have a limited habitat range - what they have needs to be as optimal as possible for them to survive.
james vessell	hudson	FL	34667	United States	10/27/12	as the humans in this world continue to get reckless with out any regards. to our children .there is nothing left but meanness towards each other
Marianne Barto	Palm Harbor	FL	34683	United States	10/27/12	These gentle giants need these springs to survive.

Richard Petty	DeFuniak Springs	FL	32433	United States	10/27/12	The springs and the environment need to be protected for future generations.
vicki brzezinski	apollo beach	FL	33572	United States	10/27/12	We must save our manatees, this would be a horrible blow , this must not even be considered !!!
MERCEDES DIMAI	TAMPA	FL	33607	United States	10/27/12	We speak for those that cannot speak for themselves--We need to save our manatees--Please
Pamela Brachmann	Dunedin	FL	34698	United States	10/27/12	The rivers are not only a source of refuge and habitat for the manatee and many other creatures; it is a recreational place for kayakers like me. Just check out the nature around you on a paddle through these and other Florida rivers for an up close look at all the creatures that call the river home.
melanie kuffell	Tampa	FL	33618-2906	United States	10/27/12	There are so few of these creatures left, we need to protect he ones we have.
K. J.	Avon Park	FL	33825	United States	10/27/12	I have lived in FL my whole life and FL's unique wildlife is important to me and my family. We need to protect these beautiful treasures -now-
Wanda Secola	Miami	FL	33177	United States	10/27/12	They are pretty animals and help the enviroment, and just because they deserve to live they are protected animals and is our responsibility.
Garry W. Spencer	Tampa	FL	33629	United States	10/27/12	Less flow means greater concentration of pollution.
Donna Marcialis	Winter Park	FL	32792-4750	United States	10/27/12	Manatees are a natural part of Florida; how much of our State are we willing to sacrificer to highways and shopping malls?
Drew Martin	Lake Worth	FL	33460	United States	10/27/12	We need to protect these rivers.
Pat Ursomano	Ormond Beach	FL	32176	United States	10/27/12	I am sick and tired of watching the things that once made Florida special disappear. Been here since '59.
Marie Neller	Deland	FL	32720	United States	10/27/12	Marie Neller
Barbara Dorn	...	FL	...	United States	10/27/12	I love these friendly and lovely, peaceful manatees, pls. do not destroy their living space! They have a right to live on earth, and where should they live, if you destroy their living space? Pls. remind the consequences of your plan
Kimberly Jarvis	Merritt Island	FL	32952	United States	10/27/12	I am a resident of Florida & it is extremely important to me that we do everything in our power to protect the natural environment of our state and the wildlife that depends on it. Reducing the flow of water into the springs would further endanger the manatee, a federally protected species. We need to do more, not less, to protect our rivers, streams and springs as well as the wildlife that depends on them.
Margarita Ruiz	Jacksonville	FL	32244	United States	10/27/12	I love animals and I hope this cruelty stops
Linda Frease	Sarasota	FL	34232	United States	10/27/12	Perhaps we should limit water flow to superfluous golf courses and lawns so the natural habitats may be preserved
rosemary brandon	melbourne	FL	32934	United States	10/27/12	how many more must become endangered before something intellegent is done
Rob Martin	Boynton Beach	FL	33473	United States	10/27/12	WE need to take care of our wildlife
lisa tweedell	keywest	FL	33040	United States	10/27/12	Its very important NOT TO MESS with" mother nature"

Sheet1

Nancy Warlick	Orlando	FL	32803	United States	10/27/12	Manatees are such wonderful creatures which we in Florida are fortunate to have. PLEASE preserve them and their habitat!!
Virginia Beale	Saint Petersburg	FL	33714	United States	10/27/12	Manatees are a part of Florida.They hurt no one and they are gentle souls. Why hurt them?
Charlotte Fleming	Orlando	FL	32808-1716	United States	10/27/12	Manatees are a sacred symbol of Florida, and how we treat them matters both to them and to the people of Florida. Don't let a little girl say to her grandmother, "Nana, were there ever really manatees, and did they dance and swim in this spring?"
Marlene Gentile	Miami Beach	FL	34410	United States	10/27/12	As a former teacher, I can recall how my students admired manatees as one of the oldest and gentlest creatures on earth. Several times there was a public outcry to keep speed boats from mangling these creatures, and the students felt empowered by participating in initiatives to help our earth. It always seems to come down to a toss up between humans getting their way, no matter the reason, and the natural world takes a back seat. Once the planet is decimated, humans will be the one to take the back seat because we will not survive.
Kelly Fogarty	Chipley	FL	32428-3214	United States	10/27/12	These areas and endangered species need to be protected and maintained for our future generations.
Colleen Randolph	Ocala	FL	34480	United States	10/27/12	I love the mammals!!!!
Sharon Janet Johns	Port Saint Lucie	FL	34983	United States	10/27/12	Janet and Dan Johnson

here are only plus or minus about 5,000 West Indian Manatees.

The springs covered in this petition are the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs - are very important to the species survival.

Two reasons for example are:

One reason is because when water temperatures drop to unusually harsh for standard Florida winter months, manatees must seek warmer waterways to stay alive.

Manatees, though large, are not well protected by a blubber layer unlike many sea mammals. Manatees can't take waters colder than 68 degrees F. for more than a few hours. They are warm blooded animals and will freeze to death or become mortally ill from the cold just like a human being would. The Homosassa and Chassahowitzka springs are some of the few warm water areas instinctually used by the Manatees during these times.

The second issue is that these waterways are what are keeping the manatee populations at their current levels.

For animals to survive scientists and naturalists have discovered that any species needs a certain amount of their unique supporting habitats where they can live in to survive. This is called their "support level." Human beings are very adaptable and can mold areas to support them with electricity, heaters, and foods trucked in to them, etc. Manatees don't. Without spring systems the manatees will lose a drastic amount of sheltering and feeding places.

Please see this article specifically mentioning "the spring at Ellie Schiller Homosassa Springs Wildlife State Park" as being influential in attempts to stop Manatee deaths during unusually cold weather:
<http://bit.ly/OriSentManateesWarm>

How important is this to the manatee's population and survival?

The answer can be found in another quote from a well researched and well respected news source: "A record-topping 767 manatees died in 2010, with cold stress accounting for as many as 500 deaths, say

Sheet1

Alice Smith	Fort Lauderdale	FL	33304	United States	10/27/12	As a Floridian and life long resident I hate to see any more threats to this species habitat.
Sandra Leaper	Dunnellon	FL	34432	United States	10/27/12	Manatees are endangered, they rely on essential fresh water and warmth in winter. Gulf is too cold.
Eileen Kimsey	Tampa	FL	33616	United States	10/27/12	These springs are refuge for imperiled and endangered species of flora and fauna. They MUST NOT reduce the flow of fresh water. There will be loss of life of plants and animals. Please don't reduce the water flow.
Heidi King	Tallahassee	FL	32311	United States	10/27/12	I believe that sustainability is a balance between nature and people, and I believe the board can make savvy decisions that reflect concern for both.
D Wyatt	Brandon	FL	33511	United States	10/27/12	How could this not be important to a Floridian? The manatee is the absolute symbol of our state, and we must do everything we can to protect them and their habitat.
Sharon Rauch	Panama City	FL	32405	United States	10/27/12	All animals are important to me!
Eileen Lowe	Orlando	FL	32839	United States	10/27/12	Because they're manatees!
joann wells	palm springs	FL	33461	United States	10/27/12	i thought we were supposed to protect florida, not kill it...stop this stupid micromanagement.
Ellen Norborn	Naples	FL	34108	United States	10/27/12	Because the manatees are endangered and are a very special anima.
Daniel McNally	Inverness	FL	34450	United States	10/27/12	I grew up on the Homosassa River and the manatee where there before any of us and we should protect these innocent mammals.
Doris Cox	new port richey	FL	34652	United States	10/27/12	There is not much of the wild Florida left, what we have we must protect.
Thomas Williams	kissimmee	FL	34744	United States	10/27/12	Animals and nature should come before shareholder profits.
Ms.Michelle Buck	Mary Esther	FL	32569	United States	10/27/12	We need to hang on to our fresh water for the sea animals that need it.
Janet Baksh	Orlando	FL	32836	United States	10/27/12	Manatees are very sensative creatures, and they're having enough trouble surviving without people deliberately altering their habitat!!
Cherlynn Seroski	Stuart	FL	34997	United States	10/27/12	I love all of gods creatures and think there is room for all to live...
Lisa Mazzola	Tampa	FL	33612	United States	10/27/12	I love Manatee, wildlife, all animals and nature. We must protect and preserve their environment.
Carolyn Desmarais	Palm Harbor	FL	34683	United States	10/27/12	Time to stand up for the Manatees that have NO VOICE! Have visited when the Manatees where wintering in the spring, with out of state family. We were BLESSED to have our boat held up for 20 mins while the docile creatures swam around doing what we humans call making LOVE! Let's make sure we have Manatees for the future generations to see, not just to read about in a book, becuae they are extinct!
Roberta Obligen	Highland Beach	FL	33487	United States	10/27/12	These gentle giants need a safe heaven to swim and live out their lives.
patrick geraghty	vero beach	FL	32960	United States	10/27/12	I am a Floridian.
Phyllis Cole	Tarpon Springs	FL	34689	United States	10/27/12	It is our responsibility to save our lands and its inhabitants not to destroy it. What are we thinking?

Sheri Ruderman	Coconut Creek	FL	33066	United States	10/27/12	So much of our wildlife is being destroyed because of we, the humans needs. The Manatees are a favorite, gentle species who needs our understanding and protection. . .why must we destroy EVERYTHING to make way for our power?
joann fasulo-armstr	Spring Hill	FL	34607	United States	10/27/12	beautiful creatures need these homes.
Tamela Dees	Archer	FL	32618	United States	10/27/12	I grew up Swimming at Manatee State Park! I love the animals! Save the Manatee!
Mario Cres	Miami	FL	33172	United States	10/27/12	Animal have no voice. Who represents them? Someone should defend their right to live.
adam sikora	fort lauderdale	FL	33304	United States	10/27/12	I have seen the manatees myself going to the warm waters for shelter, it is a beautiful sight to be preserved
Isabella Fernandez	Miami	FL	33155	United States	10/27/12	Manatees are beautiful and peaceful creatures that have a right to their homes and well being. Humans do not have the right to rob them of this.
Bonnie Headley	Ormond Beach	FL	32174	United States	10/27/12	I have watched the wildlife habitats of Florida's wildlife shrink or disappear all together during my lifetime and I would like to know that they will still be around for my children and grandchildren. We have to put a stop to it or we will all lose.
Barbara Ouellette	Titusville	FL	32780-7019	United States	10/27/12	The Springs need to be protected for more damage occuring in our state's natural water habitats. Please protect these for our generation and the future generations to come.
Dave Abel	ORLANDO	FL	32804	United States	10/27/12	I VISIT THESE SPRINGS REGULARLY AND KAYAK DOWN THE RIVERS. LEAVE THEM ALONE
Janice Brooks	Hallandale Beach	FL	33009	United States	10/27/12	The manatees are worth a lot mor to the Florida tourism economy in the long term, so they need to have their habitat protected, not further degraded.
David Raines	Tampa	FL	33613	United States	10/27/12	If we don't love nature we need to get a change of Attitude! Loving nature is akin to loving ourselves and not is akin to planing our own murder.
John Simon	Pembroke Pines	FL	33028	United States	10/27/12	We have visited the area and wish to help save the manatees.
Linda Liptak	Islamorada	FL	33036	United States	10/27/12	They are amazing gentle creatures and deserve our help
Joyce Bowers	Orlando	FL	32836	United States	10/27/12	Manatees are harmless animals and I enjoy seeing their playful behavior in the canals we must protect them!
Kara Hammar	Brandon	FL	33510	United States	10/27/12	Manatees are Florida's unique "gentle giants", which need our natural Springs to thrive, even in a mild winter. Huge safety haven for these amazing creatures!
David Ogden	Merced	CA	95344	United States	10/27/12	Because manatees are part of the Florida wildlife system and should be preserved.
Susan Fullwood	La Belle	FL	33935	United States	10/27/12	Save the manatees, please.
Sarah Neilly	Melbourne	FL	32940	United States	10/27/12	These gentle creatures are defenseless and deserve our protection.
pam mccann	saint petersburg	FL	33713	United States	10/27/12	Why would Florida be important to me??
Kathryn Roan	Ocala	FL	34471	United States	10/27/12	they would Florida be important to me?? Please save the manatees! Please save them!

Sheet1

Annette Perdomo	miami	FL	33170	United States	10/27/12	53 years living in Florida I have seen their tragic decline
Elsie Miranda	Coral Gables	FL	33146	United States	10/27/12	Governer-- have a conscience. The world is so much bigger than ourselves, and manatees remind us of that by their very history.
Katelyn Baxter	tempe	AZ	85282	United States	10/27/12	These are endangered species ... our job is to protect these beautiful kind creatures. Please do not endanger them further by changing the environment in which they live.
Kathy Gutierrez	Miami	FL	33187	United States	10/27/12	Saving any living entity is crucial for this world. We need more compassion toward life of any kind. Please, let us all do our job and save the manatees and all animals. We are their voice.
meredith Bruder	Fort Lauderdale	FL	33316	United States	10/27/12	Because the manatees are gentle creatures who deserve our help!!
Phyllis Eagle	Clearwater Beach	FL	33767	United States	10/27/12	This gentle giant deserves the kind of environment that it needs to thrive
Shimon Gottschalk	Tasllahassee	FL	32311	United States	10/27/12	I love manatees
Don Hanover	Dania Beach	FL	33004	United States	10/27/12	Old Florida needs to be saved and it runs on water, too.
Mario Morales	Tampa	FL	33647	United States	10/27/12	This creatures are part of an ecosystem.
Linda Heck	Lakeland	FL	33809	United States	10/27/12	Shouldn't we be doing all we can to protect our wild life.
frank slate	brooksville	FL	34601	United States	10/27/12	you know PINK slip has destroyed enough in the state.. he needs to keep his grubby hands off or stop this operation completely
Sue Hoffman	de land	FL	32724	United States	10/27/12	I love manatees!!!!
Lynda Alfson	Orange Park	FL	32073	United States	10/27/12	This is what keeps happening in our state. The animals that depend on humans to care enough to protect them find themselves out of luck, as well as water. Stop letting politics dictate your every move, Governor, and try to find in your heart, if you even have one, the correct actions to be taken for our marine life which is what FL is all about. Do this to help this state, not something to destroy this state, as you have ever since you came into office.
Kathleen Eickwort	Ocala	FL	34471	United States	10/27/12	Enough degradation of wildlife habitat has happened already..
Emily Hoon	Gainesville	FL	32607	United States	10/27/12	Manatees are one of the first attractions to Florida for me. Aside from wanting to save the species, I want others to be attracted to our state to see them.
Grace McCullohs	Jacksonville	FL	32205	United States	10/27/12	manatees are already threatened by human actions and they have nowhere else to go
cynthia hoch	merritt island	FL	32952	United States	10/27/12	i love manatees
Gina Caracci	Cocoa	FL	32926	United States	10/27/12	The manatees are endangered as it is, reducing their habitat will NOT help the situation. Im guessing politics doesnt care much about anything other than their bottom line though. Floridas waterways are shrinking as it is so THEY must be preserved before the state is dry. STOP ALLOWING GREED TO DESTROY EVERYTHING!
Beverly Sstrickland	Lakeland	FL	33813	United States	10/27/12	We should not be losing water or habitat

Sheet1

b abernathy	jupiter	FL	33458	United States	10/27/12	Manatees are awesome gentle creatures who prey on no one and cause no environmental harm. We need to protect them!
Albert Navarro	Ocala	FL	34474	United States	10/27/12	Manatees are a symbol of Florida's natural resources.
Shruti Lakkani	Clearwater	FL	33761	United States	10/27/12	Manatees should be one of our top concerns as they are a humongous part of the Earth's ecosystem.
edward anderson	spring hill	FL	34606	United States	10/27/12	Manatees are cool, and endangered
Agnes Patrick	Jennings	FL	32053	United States	10/27/12	Men are at it again. We harm our beautiful manatees with our boats, etc. Now men have found another way to hurt our wonderful manatees. Aren't men smart? Look what all we can think of to do to our gentle creatures. Let's learn to care for them as God gave them to us to do. Keep the water in the rivers! Knowing humans, we will find a way to get more and more water out of our lakes and rivers. Leave it alone!!! Hug a manatee, not kill a manatee
Debbie LaFlam	Whittier	NC	28789	United States	10/27/12	Without the warm water the Manatees will die!
Jean Alford	Orlando	FL	32812	United States	10/27/12	We have a responsibility to protect Florida wildlife.
Linda Teeter	Sanford	FL	32771	United States	10/27/12	Our springs are a very important natural resource-no excessive withdrawals of more water or reduced flow. These can never recover if destroyed by humans.
Carol Clark	Miami	FL	33161	United States	10/27/12	How could this not be important?
Margaret Keeler	Platteville	CO	80651	United States	10/27/12	I love the Manatees!!!
dianna XXX	defuniak springs	FL	32435	United States	10/27/12	they are so important to save. this is only place we find manatees. protect protect protect
James Norman	Homosassa	FL	34448-3403	United States	10/27/12	We already have barnacle's on our dock. The saltwater is already intruding where it should only be fresh water.
Pat Sideravage	Sebring	FL	33872	United States	10/27/12	Because they are a gentle and beautiful species. The younger generation needs to see them. They are endangered and we should do everything to save them.
Linda Kyvik	Satellite Beach	FL	32937	United States	10/27/12	Enough is enough! This short term governor cares NOTHING about Florida or its residents, merely lining his pockets for his wealthy retirement.
Kathy Sheerin	Winter Garden	FL	34787	United States	10/27/12	I lived in Homosassa Springs and know its natural beauty and these magnificent mammals. It must be protected!
john barrieau	hawthorne	FL	32640	United States	10/27/12	YA JUST GOTTA LOVE MANATEES,OTHERWISE.LIKE GOVERNOR SCOTT, YOU SUCK!
Rebecca Walker	Lakeland	FL	33801-5435	United States	10/27/12	Manatees need us to protect them. They are gentle creatures and do no harm to anyone. Why should we hurt them?
Ana Haget	BatonRouge	LA	70816	United States	10/27/12	Where are the poor manatees going to live. Save their homes! They should be able to live there all year.
Julie Pisani	Bradenton	FL	34209	United States	10/27/12	People owe respect to nature, to manatees and all non people animals. We take so much, time to give back. Time to say thankyou to all the beauty & innocence people destroy everyday for selfish needs...

						Being a Florida resident, myself, I value our habitat, and the lives within our ecosystem. Follow an Ego-System, and everyone and everything suffers at the expense of making oneself look good to the rest of the gang. We have enough problems as they are (on the political front, especially), and sanctuaries are few enough, as is. To eliminate our habitats, for the sake of looking good for your peers is a dick move, especially towards nature in this case.
Damian Beu	New Smyrna Beach	FL	32169	United States	10/27/12	Be wise about this. I can guarantee your kids/grandkids would want to see manatees and dolphins. If you want to stay good with them, I suggest you listen to us, and don't go through with the reduction.
Ken Howell	Baltimore	MD	21230	United States	10/27/12	Florida manatee populations need all the help they can get
Cynthia Mayes	Merritt Island	FL	32952	United States	10/27/12	I am a true native Floridian who has never lived outside of Florida at all. Native Floridians are as rare as the manatees themselves. The manatees deserve as much protection as possible.
Max Christy	fairfax	VA	22030	United States	10/27/12	Save the manatees
Amy Knowles	Islamorada	FL	33036	United States	10/27/12	It is important to preserve and protect every facet of Florida's threatened and essential coastal, wetland and upland ecosystems, each dependant upon the health of the others.
Michael Sagona	Tavares	FL	32778	United States	10/27/12	Preserve wildlife from governments !
Rita Chambers	Indian Rocks Beach	FL	33785	United States	10/27/12	I live on the Gulf Coast of Florida, and I love seeing the manatees! I want them to be safe!
Leata Rich	Sarasota	FL	34231	United States	10/27/12	They were here first.
Bruce Gaba	Largo	FL	33771	United States	10/27/12	these animals are our Florida heritage; Rick Scott has gotten to big for his britches, He's already gotten rid of our bullet train, What else Will he get rid of that we need ??
karl pidhajny	holiday	FL	34691	United States	10/27/12	Save the Manatees, at ALL costs!!
Emily Nice	Winter Park	FL	32789	United States	10/27/12	Florida's wildlife should be protected because it preserves our economy of tourism and mostly, it's the right thing to do.
SHERYL ERICKSON	JAX	FL	32223	United States	10/27/12	Our poor sea cows have a hard enough time with reckless boaters and pollution. Let's give them some help here.
Gail Hickman	crawfordville	FL	32327	United States	10/27/12	I love our wildlife. Manatees are special to the State of Florida. I'm not happy with the idea the governor of the state, would Not protect these special animals. Please avoid the reduction of flow to these rivers.
Deborah Anderson	Davie	FL	33324	United States	10/27/12	Manatees are a Florida treasure and should always be protected!
Elisabeth Perras	DeLand	FL	32720	United States	10/27/12	For the late ann Thomas , my mentor.For our song Let the rivers run Free and for the Manatees, the real mermaids our grandchildren and their children need to see.....
Silvia Sardinias	Merritt Island	FL	32953	United States	10/27/12	I LOVE MANATEES!...GENTLE CREATURES!...I SAY NO TO REDUCTIONS IN FLOW!...HAVE A HEART!

Sheet1

Dan Howard	The Villages	FL	32159	United States	10/27/12	We must protect the endangered Manatees.
april cooper	ocala	FL	34470	United States	10/27/12	i love the river and manatees don't have a voice
Chris Redding	Orlando	FL	32803	United States	10/27/12	Manatees seem to think I'm one of the. They used to gravitate towards me at Port Canaveral. They let me pet them and swim with them. They love being scratched on their backs. They were beautiful!!! and very gentle.
Joy Priem	Winter Park	FL	32792	United States	10/27/12	When the manatees and the elephants goâ€”Weâ€™re done for!!!!
Kelly Meyer	Tarpon Springs	FL	34689	United States	10/28/12	Because I love going there to canoe and get back to nature, so to speak. This is just crazy! Why mess with mother nature and the flow of anything. Government sucks if you guys do this!
Joanna Caputa	Gainesville	FL	32606	United States	10/28/12	How could the SWFWMD and Rick Scott jeopardize the things that make our state worth living here? And, if you have to look at the "bottom line", what tourist would want to come and visit, knowing we are purposely destroying our own precious rivers and wildlife?
Jon Reynolds	Saint Petersburg	FL	33713	United States	10/28/12	Because Manatees kick ass!
Denise Ragsdale	Tampa	FL	33609	United States	10/28/12	The destruction of wildlife habitat in Florida must end. All creatures on this planet deserve the right to exist - not just humans! Some control of the water use by humans needs to be exerted as soon as possible. Haven't we pumped enough water to St. Petersburg and surrounding areas from outside their borders? When will the development end. Stop killing the wildlife that makes this planet worth living on.
Sherri Louise	Stuart	FL	34997	United States	10/28/12	Are we trying to wipe out even more WildLife? Does anyone get it that when we lose our WildLife, we too will perish!?! Wake up SWFWMD's Governing Board and the Governor of Florida - be part of the "solution" NOT the problem!!!
Kris Lee	Titusville	FL	32780	United States	10/28/12	Manatees need refuge
Alexia Rodrigo	Long Prairie	MN	56347	United States	10/28/12	I lived in Florida for some time and I've seen these beautiful creatures. As a strong environmentalist I believe it's extremely important for people to preserve the worlds wildlife. We share the Earth my countless other creatures and it is our duty to respect that.
Linda Putzel	Saint Petersburg	FL	33710	United States	10/28/12	I am a Floridian and these beautiful, gentle creatures are endangered as it is from boating, loss of habitat, fishing, and other human hazards. We need not further compromise these animals by challenging and perhaps destroying the ecosystem that sustains them.
David Mark	Miami	FL	33173	United States	10/28/12	Care for creation is a faith commitment.
Leo Souto	Orlando	FL	32869	United States	10/28/12	We must care for our manatees !
John Fletcher	Homosassa	FL	34448	United States	10/28/12	Aid the fresh water environment and stop salt water intrusion and destruction
Linda Doss	Hamilton	OH	45013	United States	10/28/12	the manatees need to be protected
Laura Schneider	Gainesville	FL	32601	United States	10/28/12	I love all wildlife and this species deserves to be saved.

John J. Lynagh	Melbourne	FL	32940-6676	United States	10/28/12	We have lost enough of our wildlife and animals.
janet gardner	St Cloud	FL	34771	United States	10/28/12	I love the Manatees!!
Larry Goodman	Pensacola	FL	32503	United States	10/28/12	The endangered manatee has enough stressors already. Please do not allow reduction of flow in these rivers that are home to the manatees during a critical part of the year. Thanks, Larry
Jan Davison	Tampa	FL	33647	United States	10/28/12	I love the manatees and they need to be protected.
margaret nelson	port charlotte	FL	33952	United States	10/28/12	The wildlife are in constant peril trying to survive in their habitats. Floridas residents need to stand up as their voice to protect and preserve this natural species.
Marcy Bernstein	Margate	FL	33063	United States	10/28/12	Just leave the water levels alone. Everytime you all screw with the water levels it messes it up.
Elaine Burr	Homosassa	FL	34446	United States	10/28/12	Fishing
Susan Dietrich	South Pasadena	FL	33707	United States	10/28/12	This will not only interfere with only the manatees habitat, it effect hundreds of other living things in the water as well as along the coast of these rivers.
amy hyslop	ocala	FL	34477	United States	10/28/12	manatees are florida
Marie Trone	New Port Richey	FL	34654	United States	10/28/12	I canoe on Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs regularly. My dogs enjoy swimming there as well. One of my all-time photographs is of a manatee in Chassahowitzka. We cannot afford to reduce the flow of this spring, as it is already incredibly low. We need to conserve this water for the future of not only the wildlife, by our children and grandchildren. Please do not let corporations, large scale ranchers, etc pressure you into giving them a larger allotment of water for the sake of "jobs". That is pure lip-service. Orlando has been listed in the top 10 cities for having demand exceed supply for fresh water by Wall Street. What businesses are going to come to Orlando knowing that the business and its workers have a water shortage???? Please think this through. I have facts, and I can give them to you. I teach Environmental Science at Valencia College in Kissimmee.
bob fulford	tallahassee	FL	32304	United States	10/28/12	do you know prime facie?
Cheri Bickley	Palm Bay	FL	32907	United States	10/28/12	I don't think any of God's creature's should be hurt
Betty Klein	Chassahowitzka-Hc	FL	34448	United States	10/28/12	It is just as important to me, Gov Scott should be ashamed of himself
donna otero	gotha	FL	34734	United States	10/28/12	himself
MARY ANN LAFAR	DELTONA	FL	32738	United States	10/28/12	IT WILL HELP SAVE MANATEES AND FISH.
Bruce Florek	Homosassa	FL	34446-5110	United States	10/28/12	This is MY back yard. Don't mess around in my back yard.
S.A. Thompson	Tampa	FL	33626	United States	10/28/12	i love animals
Claire Cowart	Jacksonville	FL	32205	United States	10/28/12	We need to stop messing with nature and accept our role as protector instead of usurper.

Sheet1

Candy Strafford	Naples	FL	34119	United States	10/28/12	Once gone, we can never recover destroyed habitats or extinct species. We need to live simply, so others can simply live.
Bonnie Baird	Sarasota	FL	34243	United States	10/28/12	These gentle creatures were here first. These endangered creatures are at our mercy and NEED to be saved. If it wasn't for us, they would not be endangered.
David Jeffreys	Wilmington	NC	28403-5542	United States	10/28/12	Manatees are gentle aquatic mammals who should not be endangered.
Callie Riley	Palm Bay	FL	32907	United States	10/28/12	Manatees are an endangered species, that must be protected.
Kay Frysinger	lake City	FL	32025	United States	10/28/12	This is important to me because it is not up to the water management board to make life and death sentences for manatees, the manatees are very affected by temperature differences and they need the protection of the warmer waters in the winter.
Mary Roy	Miami	FL	33189	United States	10/28/12	Preservation of our native animal species and the environment is highly important to us and for our future.
shadow hill	Cocoa	FL	32927	United States	10/28/12	As a Florida resident I see these amazig creature often and it is imperative we protect wildlife here.
Carol Warren	Birmingham	AL	35209	United States	10/28/12	I grew up in FL with the Manatees and until my Mom got sick with cancer we went to Melbourne to see them frequently. They are loving and trusting and often clowns, especially the babies. We got so much joy just watching them.
Amelia Barnard	Gainesville	FL	32608	United States	10/28/12	water is our most important resource.
Nancy Wilson	Kenneth City	FL	33709	United States	10/28/12	I remember when the Homosassa was just a "hole in the ground", a spring with no buildings, just a place to swim and enjoy and and I used to go fishing with my parents on the Chassaowitzka. I would like them to stay for us AND the manatees !
peter wagner	Bunnell	FL	32110	United States	10/28/12	When the welfare of noble creatures such as the manatees, bears, cranes, and others are threatened by our proposals, the decisions should be made in their favor, because their survival is at stake!
Gale Lee	Brandon	FL	33510	United States	10/28/12	Manatees are a Florida treasure. Let's do our best to protect them!
Luis Otero	Plantation	FL	33324	United States	10/28/12	Wildlife conservation and natural resources preservation go hand in hand in the total scheme of things. We, as human are the most important link, and I feel responsible to do my part in this collective effort.
Richard Ruman	Clearwater	FL	33764	United States	10/28/12	Because Manatee are crucial for Florida eco-system.
Paula Baxter	Miami	FL	33157	United States	10/28/12	I had the opportunity to swim with these gentle creatures and want to see them protected.
Ora Jean Henry	Sarasota	FL	34237	United States	10/28/12	As a native Floridian, I have long loved these big natives. Once I went swimming with the manatees on my birthday, following the required rules for THEIR safety. (We are proud supporters & members of Mote Marine in Sarasota also.

Jeani Johnson	SW Ranches	FL	33331	United States	10/28/12	People must STOP KILLING our beloved animals & fowl & sea life - LIVE and LET LIVE! STOP KILLING! What has happened to the people in this killing world! All they want to do is to over populate the world with PEOPLE and kill off all of our wild life! STOP PBEING HOGS - SHARE THIS WORLD WITH ANIMALS, WE NEED THEM!!
Patrick Thurmond	HIGHLAND CITY	FL	33846	United States	10/28/12	the reduction in our waterflow in our streams and rivers hurt Florida's natural habitat. Stop the reduction of fresh water!
Rachael McCrosky	Orlando	FL	32806	United States	10/28/12	I live in Florida and have gone swimming with the manatees. These are a state resource and the lifeline of many tourist organizations. Also, they are cute.
Mary Anne Combs	Marion	NC	28752	United States	10/28/12	Humans have no right to harm the manatees who have been in their natural habitat forever.
Janice McSween	Venice	FL	34293	United States	10/28/12	Haven't we destroyed enough of Florida's wilds and wildlife?
Gwen Dunlop	Orlando	FL	32818	United States	10/28/12	We need to protect our environment AND our manatees!
Mary Powell	Cantonment	FL	32533	United States	10/28/12	Florida depends on tourism. The beaches, the sea life and the avians are what brings people here. One of the most majestic is the Manatee. To allow it's destruction is not only economically stupid it is truly disgusting for anyone who loves the beautiful creatures of Florida.
Tammy Richardson	Ormond beach	FL	32176	United States	10/28/12	Because PPI always have to mess with nature and mess everything up. Leave thing alone and there won't be NO problem in the future with are water flow
Joseph Duncan	Orange City	FL	32763	United States	10/28/12	I am sick of Rick Scott's inept rule in my state of Florida!
Lynn LaMar	Sarasota	FL	34235	United States	10/28/12	All natural resources MUST be protected for our future...and our children's future...
Calvin Hayes	Miami Gardens	FL	33056	United States	10/28/12	It is important to the manatees.
Holly Farish-Hunt	Gainesville	FL	32608	United States	10/28/12	These beautiful creatures are an integral part of my FL environment and contribute to the beauty and balance of nature. Please do all you can to protect them as they are gentle creatures.
James Doud	Gainesville	FL	32608	United States	10/28/12	We need to do all we can to save the manatees!
Donna Herriman	Miami	FL	33138	United States	10/28/12	Because manatees are such gentle creatures that they don't deserve this!!!
Alex Jensen	Canyon Country	CA	91351	United States	10/28/12	Natural wildlife needs to be saved. Especially if they are going extinct.
Pat Bayers	New Port Richey	FL	34654	United States	10/28/12	Manatees are a treasure and must be protected. Flow reductions will threaten them.

						Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters. Florida's Gulf waters get too cold for Manatees during winter months, and manatees unable to find thermal refuge in coastal springs like Chassahowitzka and Homosassa would certainly perish.
Eddie Stamborski	Aurora	CO	80010	United States	10/28/12	
Paul Yingst	St Petersburg	FL	33707.1	United States	10/28/12	It is the right thing to do!!!
Betsy Bozzolo	Forestville	CA	95436	United States	10/28/12	Manatees are having a tough time. Please don't make it harder for them to survive.
Sandra Ilardi	Leesburg	FL	34748	United States	10/28/12	We need to protect our wildlife. They are the reason some tourists come to Florida and it's the right thing to do.
patti holmes	largo	FL	33777	United States	10/28/12	because it is, and to nature!
Cecelia Conley	ft lauderdale	FL	33305	United States	10/28/12	I Love Manatees they are so sweet and spiritual
Ethian Hugo Carvajal	Miami Beach	FL	33139	United States	10/28/12	etiennehugo@yahoo.com
Dominique vendetta	Homestead	FL	33030	United States	10/28/12	Save the animals!!!
Jon Boliek	sarasota	FL	34236	United States	10/28/12	We need Manatees!
melynda rydbom	springhill	FL	34606	United States	10/28/12	Florida's environment is important to me
Denise Rivera	norcross	GA	30093	United States	10/28/12	Weve already destroyed SO many animals habitats we need to stop!
Michael Flinn	Delray Beach	FL	33484	United States	10/28/12	You're going to reduce habitat. I don't see the compelling reason, and I don't think you have one other than some people want that.
Ian Jarrett	Miami	FL	33156	United States	10/28/12	We need to reduce our use of water, not increase supply. manatees are just one species that suffer as we mess with the delicate balance of South Florida water systems.
Daniel Campos	Miami	FL	33162	United States	10/28/12	Manatees are important species in our Florida waters!
sharon holding	new port richy	FL	34653	United States	10/28/12	protect florida's waterways & springs from further degradation
Alfred Van Guilder	Lake Worth	FL	33461	United States	10/28/12	I already asked dick scott to retire.He is useless! I'm tired of him DESTROYING this great State. Let's get together, and VOTE him out of office!
Vicki Cowen	West Bloomfield	MI	48323	United States	10/28/12	Manatees are sweet, peaceful animals. They have enough to deal with as it is with the propellers from boats, etc. Please don't endanger their habitat.
Tara Wells	Winter Park	FL	32789	United States	10/28/12	These beautiful gentle giants contribute so much to Florida's bounty.
Crystal Schroeder	Winter Springs	FL	32708	United States	10/28/12	Manatees need to be safe. They are beautiful harmless creatures.
Sarah Robinson	Fort Pierce	FL	34947	United States	10/28/12	Manatees are beautiful innocent creatures man invaded their territory. Reducing the flow in water makes no sense because it rains all the time so the flow should stay exactly like it is.

Sheet1

Barbara Burt	DeLand	FL	32720	United States	10/28/12	Springs are vital for tourism, healthy ecosystems that support humans, plants and animals. we cannot continue to degrade these precious natural resources.
trish oconnell	st pete	FL	33707	United States	10/28/12	please save the manatees. !!!
Michael Edgerley	Tampa	FL	33626	United States	10/28/12	I have kayaked those rivers, please save them!
Larry Hartman	Floral City	FL	34436	United States	10/28/12	I live in Citrus County the manatees are an important part of our water ways.
juan rodriguez	Miami	FL	33138	United States	10/28/12	protect fauna
CLYDE P ADAMS	Orange City	FL	32763	United States	10/28/12	they were here before He was.
Neal Wall	Crestview	FL	32539	United States	10/28/12	Loss of habitat for the manatee
David Dehner	high springs	FL	32643	United States	10/28/12	It's important to save the area's where the Mantee live.
Rufus Shepherd	Baker	LA	70714	United States	10/28/12	Life is important on all levels
Charles Pfeifer	Metairie	LA	70001	United States	10/28/12	I like to visit Florida to see the wildlife and nature of this unique state. I will stop going and spending my money there if Florida will not take care of this important natural asset
ida mackey	St Cloud	FL	34769-4368	United States	10/28/12	Because manatees are God's most beautiful creatures
Matthew Klein	Vero Beach	FL	32967	United States	10/28/12	Animals are on The Endangered species act.
Grant Campbell	Fort Lauderdale	FL	33312	United States	10/28/12	Florida's manatee population iis already stressed. We should be cleaning our waters and giving them more.
David Durant	Longwood	FL	32750	United States	10/28/12	Our Florida natural environment and our Gentle giant Manatees need all the aid and assistance we can conjure Up before we lose them both to ignorance and greed!
Carol Macik	Tierra Verde	FL	33715	United States	10/28/12	Manatees are just big old softies and should be protected from harm.
Dona Gould	Bradenton	FL	34205	United States	10/28/12	Why do they want to reduce the flow? For business? For farming? It really seems more important than either of those to protect our waterways natural flow and stop destroying our habitat. All the little things are already adding up and showing how quickly we are destroying the beautiful world we are supposed to be protecting. Quality of life is more important than money.
Linda Bailey	Spring Hill	FL	34609	United States	10/28/12	To save the manatees
Marsha Rubin	Naples	FL	34114	United States	10/28/12	Manatees are gentle giants and a Florida treasure. Enough of them are killed by inconsiderate boaters and a reduction in flow will add to their eventual demise. We should be protecting voiceless, defenseless animals - not killing them!!

Sheet1

Peter Mercauto	Tampa	FL	33634	United States	10/28/12	As a lifelong Florida resident, I treasure both the Chassahowitzka and Homossassa Rivers. Some of my earliest memories are of my family making the 60 mile trip to enjoy the (then) pristine Chassahowitzka. Since then, development has abused and degraded both rivers to the point that the last time I visited both rivers, a few years ago, it brought tears to my eyes. The abuse needs to STOP and stop NOW!!
Shari Yudenfreund-	Winter Park	FL	32789	United States	10/28/12	A finite amount of water will only go so far so continuing to draw more water from a finite source is a recipe for disaster for everyone.
Dillon Mooney	winter garden	FL	32928	United States	10/28/12	life
Wilson Patrick	Jax	FL	32241	United States	10/28/12	Common Sense, Peace for the Sea Cows!!!!
Helene Donovan	Pensacola	FL	32503	United States	10/28/12	I cannot even believe that there would be a need for a petition to save Florida's Gentle Giants. These mamals bring millions of tourism dollars to the state, are an endangered species and we have to petition our elected governor to protect their habitat? Is he crazy, dumb, or simply in the pockets of those who benefit? If someone can provide me with any other rational explanation, I will listen. However, this should not even be up for discussion. NO REDUCTIONS IN FLOW!!!!
Deanna Trier	Sarasota	FL	34233	United States	10/28/12	I've swam with the manatees in Homosassa springs Florida and they need to be protected from any invironmental changes to help increase their numbers. There are very few manatees left in this area and we need to help them not hurt them!
Rafael E Cumplido	Hialeah	FL	33013	United States	10/28/12	Protection of the environment and the animal species should be a top priority.
Sandra McConnell	DeLand	FL	32724	United States	10/28/12	These gentle animals are essential to the Florida eco-structure and they deserve a habitat that is protected.
George Ruman	Seffner	FL	33584	United States	10/28/12	Important native mamal - a resource that must be preserved
Phyllis J Smith	Albuquerque	NM	87111	United States	10/28/12	I lived in central Florida for 25 years and still love the manatee's
Catherine Kaylor-Sc	Plant City	FL	33565	United States	10/28/12	I Love the Manatees I want them to be around for my Grandchildren and my Great grandchildren .
Pat Bucko	Bradenton	FL	34210	United States	10/28/12	Do we need to harm or kill everything to save money? Can't a politician cancel one unnecessary trip each and save money there?
Cori Register	Pensacola	FL	32507	United States	10/28/12	I love the manatees!
Talya Schultz	Washington	DC	20008	United States	10/28/12	I'd like to see the manatees one day.
Heather Hintz	Westminster	CO	80021	United States	10/28/12	Manatees are special and need help
Cyndi Winton	Tullahoma	TN	37388	United States	10/28/12	ALL wildlife should be important to ALL people!!
Joan Davis	Bradenton	FL	34209	United States	10/28/12	It would be a travesty to not protect the integrity of Florida's springs. Shame on the SWFWMD for not doing its job responsibly. We must demand that this does not happen.
Alan Hehe	Ft. Pierce	FL	34982	United States	10/28/12	I believe ALL life is precious & that all creatures deserve life.

Sheet1

Dick Costello	Mount Dora	FL	32757	United States	10/28/12	The manatee is more important than any other animal in Florida. It is a symbol of what is Florida's unique place in the world.
Mary Mullins	Tallahassee	FL	32301	United States	10/28/12	As at least a 4th-generation Floridian, I cannot stand the abuse the current administration is wreaking on our state's environment. We must put a stop to it, now! This is only one of the ways the state's resources are being decimated.
Laura Barbot	Daytona Beach	FL	32127	United States	10/28/12	I'm unsure as to why this stance is necessary in the first place. Then, when one considers the estimated 15% loss of indigenous species, I then find this to be an unacceptable situation. Are we simply going to annihilate anything and everything, one by one, until there is nothing left?
Jasmine Grandcourt	Ravine des Cabris	FL	97432	United States	10/28/12	protection animal and heart
Francis Butera	Pensacola	FL	32514	United States	10/28/12	Minimum Flow levels were set to protect the biological health for entire ecosystems. Disregarding these levels will cause a permanent and acute negative reduction in the biological health and balance of these systems.
Karin Mari	Ft. Myers	FL	33919	United States	10/28/12	THEY HAVE ALREADY TAKEN PATHS FOR PANTHERS FOR THE FT. MYERS AIRPORT AND NOW THIS. TIRED OF DESTRUCTION FOR THE ANIMALS TO SURVIVE.
THERESA FLEMING	LIVE OAK	FL	32060	United States	10/28/12	I love the Manatees, they are beautiful, majestic creatures. They are warm and fun loving and deserve our protection. They have had to fight off people and boats and now this. We need to preserve them for the future
Matt Delaney	Ft. Pierce	FL	34954	United States	10/28/12	I really don't think that it is at all fair that the Manatee's should be harmed in any way as they are living souls just like the Human Being & deserve the right to have a life as they see fit. I love to be able to see them when I go out on a boat or even when I go to the ocean as they are a beautiful creation!
Sharon Higgins	Panama City Beach	FL	32413	United States	10/28/12	Honor for all forms of life. We cannot continue to savage our gentler co-inhabitants on this planet,
Peggy-Ann Bissell	Wauchula	FL	33873	United States	10/28/12	I love animals and we all need to preserve what God gave us.
Kim Simmonds	Davie	FL	33324	United States	10/28/12	Manatees are MAJESTIC, AWESOME creatures!
John T Channell	Inverness	FL	34450	United States	10/28/12	nature can take care of it's self
monica chapa	ft lauderdale	FL	33304	United States	10/28/12	Why are you kidding this is total insanity. Shame on who would make this kind of decision.
Nancy Blythe	St Petersburg	FL	33711	United States	10/28/12	No reductions in flow!!!!!!!!!!
Tim Brennan	homosassa	FL	34448	United States	10/28/12	The waters of Citrus County are for the use of its residents (consumption, recreation, fish and other marine life) not for some outside entity to use consume, despoil or degrade.

Sheet1

Emily DeLattre	St Petersburg	FL	33708	United States	10/28/12	Because I grew up in Florida and love the manatees and natural rivers there. Always!
northa sanchez	Homestead	FL	33035	United States	10/28/12	Save animals
						Lived in Orlando for several years and love the natural springs that bless the state. Worldwide the loss of wetlands has now translated into massive losses of wildlife and everyone including commercial fisheries that depend on the breeding grounds these delicate ecosystems provide end up losing. The Manatees are a thermostat for what may be a much larger impact on the environment as suggested by the authors of this petition. It is clear that a very transparent public disclosure of the science behind such proposals with clear pro and con summaries of all environmental impacts be provided for comment and form the basis for any proposed regulatory change. Individuals Like Dee Atkins from Crystal River, FL should be included in the process. Evidence of what he is suggesting is available from satellite photos. Independent unbiased scientists and well informed lay persons like Dee, should be allowed to provide evidence and recommendations including public disclosure of water use (via a website) and mandatory metering of water removed from any part of the ecosystem including the aquifer that supplies these sensitive areas. At the end of the day countries that choose to protect their environment are protecting their future, the future of their children and are respecting the rights of the generations that will follow us. I would like to thank the friends of Chassahowitzka-Homossassa for taking the time to work on this important topic and wish them success in their efforts.
Joseph Franke	Longwood	FL	32779	United States	10/28/12	
Teresa Densmore	Rotonda West	FL	33947	United States	10/28/12	Our manatees depend on the springs. They are their refuge.
Kandi Davis	Davenport	FL	33836-1675	United States	10/28/12	these animals are beautiful animals.They depend on those warmer waters in the winter.Our goverment has no right to change the way water flows.Leave well enough alone.
ROBIN WITHERIN	Orlando	FL	32806	United States	10/28/12	they need the springs to survive the winter
Susan Curtis	Steinhatchee	FL	32359	United States	10/28/12	water
Eileen Hilliard	Gulfport	FL	33707	United States	10/28/12	Because every life has a value.
Lizbeth Besok	Port St. Lucie	FL	34983	United States	10/28/12	Would like to help preserve the manatees for future generations to also enjoy.
Julie Shepherd	Orlando	FL	32835	United States	10/28/12	These beautiful creatures are a Florida treasure and indigenous to this area, we have a responsibility to care for them.
Judith Warren	Pinellas Park	FL	33782-2025	United States	10/28/12	We Floridians need to work together to protect the wild life that share this land, this environment with us.
Gayle Sheets	Fort Myers	FL	33919	United States	10/28/12	The Homosassa and Chassowitzka are a natural treasure and must be saved.
Heather Bell	Gainesville	FL	32605	United States	10/28/12	Because we are mismanaging our water and manatees shouldn't suffer.

Irma Quiroz	Fort Lauderdale	FL	33334	United States	10/28/12	when I came to USA, back in the 72's..I was so delighted for the view of such a wonderful animals. and like this I want my grand children be able to see the wonders of Florida...
Daniel Haber	Melbourne	FL	32934	United States	10/28/12	When I was growing up, these animals were so plentiful, it was common to have a herd of them grazing on the banks while we were fishing. Now to see the population decimated to this point is just wrong. We need to make sure they have every chance possible to survive and rebound.
Patrick Cardwell	Pensacola	FL	32501	United States	10/28/12	These gentle giants need our help to survive.
Iuana Miller	cape coral	FL	33904	United States	10/28/12	we can't keep destroying natural habitats..
Joe Snavely	Tampa	FL	33647-3048	United States	10/28/12	We need to do all that we can to protect these wonderful and majestic creatures. We need to respect our wonderful natural resources and these magnificent animals are unique in all the world.
Andrea Lamoureux	Ip	FL	33852	United States	10/28/12	All lives seem to be cast aside today no matter if you are human or animal.be the voices and support for all the unfortunate !!
kevin hurley	miami	FL	33138	United States	10/28/12	I live in their habitat. They love in mine.
Peter Hayton	Naples	FL	34117	United States	10/28/12	We live surrounded by the beauty of nature.; what will we be surrounded by if we don't cherish and protect that beauty?
Vivian Barrera	DELTONA	FL	32725	United States	10/28/12	I love animals and if God created them it is for a reason
Michelle Pacheco	Bradenton	FL	34209	United States	10/28/12	I love the manatees.
Cassandra Curtis	Gilsum	NH	3448	United States	10/28/12	I have visited theses places and they are some of the most special spots I have visited in the world. We need to preserve the diversity or special places
adriano lambe	Homestead	FL	33030-2508	United States	10/28/12	This is most important to the manatees, far beyond that represented for those of us who sign the petition. I can only hope that the SWFWMD and our Governor shows more concern, heart and conscience for the environment than the two leading candidates presently dukeing it out for the presidency.
Bill Wukitz	sarasota	FL	34232	United States	10/28/12	I live in Florida I love manatees let us save this gentle species.
Michael Enns	Coral Gables	FL	33134	United States	10/28/12	The preservation of natural Florida is at a all time low. Despite a governor's misunderstanding and apathy toward the wildness of the state. He is a zealot buffoon.
Jeffrey Haarsma	Saint Petersburg	FL	33703	United States	10/28/12	Manatees are almost endangered. We must protect them.
ANDRES GARCIA	Port St Lucie	FL	34986	United States	10/28/12	Save the Manatee!

						<p>PREVENTION of further degradation NOW, is BETTER than CURE at some future date.</p> <p>There are already too many examples of rivers where the cure is verging on the impossible. Those situations could have been avoided with some thoughts of prevention.</p> <p>Our neighbors, some who have lived in the area all their lives, tell of the longer term deterioration. The models are questionable as they are based on many assumptions, often made by people at a computer without even having seen the rivers. Look at the real facts not those generated from a myriad of assumptions in a computer model and you will realize how little is known by those computers about these complex spring systems that are so vital to both the ecology and economy of the area.</p> <p>Please vote to stop Destruction by Suction (destroying the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka by sanctioning more groundwater withdrawals, and let us not forget Crystal River).</p>
Martyn Johnson	Homosassa	FL	34448	United States	10/28/12	
Linda Firestone	Coral Springs	FL	33076	United States	10/28/12	The manatees and the Everglades are part of the natural beauty and wonder of Florida. They both need to be nurtured.
Patricia Silbert	Parrish	FL	34219	United States	10/28/12	I'm 72-yrs. old and had never seen a Manatee in my life until I moved to Florida. I was awe-struck by the gentleness and intelligence of those awesome creatures. It would be, in my opinion, criminal to disrupt their habitat.
LISA HILL	MELBOURNE	FL	32934	United States	10/28/12	Without our unique wildlife Florida would be just any other urban sprawl anywhere in the world! Please keep this place special.
Donna Wholihan	Naples	FL	34119	United States	10/28/12	Wildlife is just as important as mankind and if the two are not supported together, neither one thrives.
BARBARA PIETRA	SUMMERFIELD	FL	34491	United States	10/28/12	For many years we have visited Homosassa Springs with our grandchildren - they have learned so much from these trips - please save the Springs for them and their children!
Linda Golden	Jacksonville	FL	32207	United States	10/28/12	We are losing too much of our natural habitats.
Audrey Lima	Port Charlotte	FL	33952	United States	10/28/12	Do the right thing you douchebag.
mark sauter	ft lauderdale	FL	33304	United States	10/28/12	Nature got already enough destroyed since humans rules the planet
James Downey	Orlando	FL	32819	United States	10/28/12	All life, not just human life, has value on Earth. We are custodians of something unique and precious in this universe.
Gail Currie	Brooksville	FL	34613	United States	10/28/12	These waterways are the habitat to numerous wildlife, waterlife, trees, flowers, etc. To decrease the flow will certainly kill off a lot of these Federally Endangered Species and ruin Florida's Outstanding Waterways.

Sheet1

Jacki Wilmot	saint petersburg	FL	33710	United States	10/28/12	love manatees and all wildlife
Jimmy Liu	Orlando	FL	32837	United States	10/28/12	its not right to reduce the water when endangered manatees need it to live in the winter
shirley keller	Homosassa	FL	34446	United States	10/28/12	I want to keep optimal environmnetal conditions for our marine animals.
M. Gregory	BOCA RATON	FL	33433	United States	10/28/12	FL must do everything in its power to preserve manatees!
Lourdes Bulnes	Miami	FL	33196	United States	10/28/12	Because we are responsible for those gentle creatures and they have their homes there. Why take away their livelihood if they do not harm anyone.
PATRICIA NELSON	Milton	FL	32570	United States	10/28/12	As a lifelong resident of Florida, I am concerned with preserving the natural waters of this lovely state.
Colette Wilt	Jupiter	FL	33478	United States	10/28/12	Because I love the manatee.
Clarence Sweet	Green Bay	WI	54303	United States	10/28/12	Because people keep F ing with nature and need to stop!!!!
Chris Erwin	Orlando	FL	32822	United States	10/28/12	We should take care of the world we live in and those who live in it even though it might not be "cost-effective" to the greedy politicians who just seek to stuff their own pockets with cash they don't need.
Jada Vanpelt	Belleair Beach	FL	33786	United States	10/28/12	Because I live there
Kenneth Jaquith	La Conner	WA	98257	United States	10/28/12	Swflwmd has shown that its "studies" and "best available data and assumptions" have not stood the test of time. Just look at the sad state of the Everglades flow, St. Lucie and Caloosahatchee rivers with the blooms and salt water intrusion. Yes, we have a water flow problem due to the population explosion of our great state. I fear that it is only a matter of time before the state is tapped of the things that make it Florida. What will be left? Beaches and Condominiums? Start by getting rid of the sugarcane fields!
Dr. Corey and Mrs.	Pensacola	FL	32503	United States	10/28/12	Because Florida's manatees are a vitally important part of our State's unique heritage as well as a beautiful, gentle mammal that deserves protection.
Virginia Wirt	The Villages	FL	32162	United States	10/28/12	The Manatees are amazing mammals and are one of Florida's ancient species. They are intelligent, gentle herbivores. Why would anyone even consider putting them at further risk then we already have. Wake up Governor - some things deserve special care. Do not reduce the flow!
Sarah Dennard	Atlanta	GA	30324	United States	10/28/12	They can't be replaced and man would be responsible for hurting them. That is unacceptable!
Deborah Hardy	Dunedin	FL	34698	United States	10/28/12	life

Sheet1

Richard Eckler	Jacksonville	FL	32205	United States	10/28/12	These springs have a limited number of gallons they can provide. Bleeding them off for use that can only increase is a short term solution to a long term problem- like an addict and his drugs. By the nature of the problem,, this solution can't succeed.
Tom Conroy	Naples	FL	34106	United States	10/28/12	Because we are destroying the environment and our health
Linda Robinson	Gainesville	FL	32605	United States	10/28/12	I love these animals. They are so awesome.
Pamela Bennett	Tampa	FL	33603	United States	10/28/12	Our precious wildlife is being obliterated by "progress"
Sherri Davis	Vero Beach	FL	32966	United States	10/28/12	Because our eco-systems are critically important to the health of the planet, animals, and humans!
Joern Hebestreit			9456	Germany	10/28/12	I've got a house on the Halls River, and I want to be able to keep on going boating from there!
BobbyAnn Loper	Tampa	FL	33609	United States	10/28/12	Every creature matters.
Audrey Smith	Key Largo	FL	33037	United States	10/28/12	Please show some compassion for the native wildlife of Florida. They were here first!!
Bryan Ott	Riverview	FL	33579	United States	10/28/12	Wildlife can't help themselves we must do it for them.
DALE CRAVEN	Merritt Island	FL	32953	United States	10/28/12	It is every bodys responsibility to protect and preserve the wildlife in Florida.
Jacqueline Jeffries	Homosassa	FL	34448	United States	10/28/12	It's my river.
Robert Allen	Davenport	FL	33837	United States	10/28/12	Our state is running out of fresh water. South Florida have had to shut down wells for salt water intrusion and the Lake Wales Ridge water resources are showing signs of salt water intrusion. The EPA website shows that our states water has some very serious contaminants in the Florida aquifer. Mother nature had a great plan but "man is mans worst enemy". We the people have to step up and protect one of the most important natural resources. We can not sustain life without Clean Breathable AIR & Clean Drinkable WATER. We are all connected. Every action has a reaction.
Sandra Defrates	Gainesville	FL	32605	United States	10/28/12	I lived in Crystal River, where Manatee moms and their pups literally swam in the canal in our back yard, I got to see first hand how peaceful and gentle these creatures are. We need to protect them from man made dangers. They have no way of recognizing these hazards as life threatening...until it's too late. You are entrusted by the citizens of Florida with protecting these docile creatures. We are counting on you.
Nancy Griffiths	Inverness	FL	34450	United States	10/28/12	They are so ugly that they are beautiful, and its a shame to let our younger generation not enjoy these unusual species. The gentle giants deserve more than what man has given them, after all they were here first. Please help these creatures to survive. Its so very important.
jeanne hopwood	bloomington	IN	47403	United States	10/28/12	We need to save these animals
Jeff McGriff	Tallahassee	FL	32308	United States	10/28/12	Preservation.

Sheet1

Lorna Hopwood	Unionville	IN	47468	United States	10/28/12	We frequently visit FL and appreciate the natural areas and diverse wildlife.
Janice Montalto	Crawfordville	FL	32327	United States	10/28/12	Leave these gentle giants homes alone. They need protection.
Doris Osburn	Homosassa	FL	34446	United States	10/28/12	One of the primary reasons we moved to this area was because of the wonderful rivers here. We fish, paddle and enjoy these waters tremendously and feel that every effort should be made towards restoration, and that water flow reduction is not consistent with that goal.
Kim A	Clermont	FL	34711	United States	10/28/12	Have we not made enough species extinct by hunting and taking away their enviornment. The human race and the bodies that govern are the ones to blame. YOU can make a difference. NO REDUCTION IN FLOW TO THE HOMOSASSA AND CHASSAHOWITZKA RIVERS.....
Gerri DiBartolo	Orlando	FL	32825	United States	10/28/12	As a nature lover, I am asking that veyou do whatever it takes to save the manatees' habitat.
Jhan Snyder	Tallahassee	FL	32303	United States	10/28/12	Diversity of life should be a priority to all americans. Not only that but the Manatee has become an ambassador for the tourist industry in Florida just like the Dolphin and as such should be protected and their habitat cared for accordingly.
Cynthia Spiller	Milton	FL	32583	United States	10/28/12	Manatees ARE quintessential Florida Let's save what is left of this resource. Ecotourism will bring in billions of dollars but only if there is an ecosystem left to visit.
Stanley Clewett	Homosassa	FL	34446	United States	10/28/12	save our rivers. They are already seriously degraded
Kim Schulz	Pensacola	FL	32505	United States	10/28/12	We have polluted the Gulf of Mexico beyond belief. There has to be a push to allow her to heal. I say, "NO to reductions in flow!"
Nisa Birnbaum	Boca Raton	FL	33498	United States	10/28/12	Our wildlife is important to me. Please tell woman in picture that it is illegal to touch wildlife.
Melissa Smith	Tequesta	FL	33469	United States	10/28/12	My father worked with The Nature Conservancy all his life. I want to make sure all the he worked so hard for, remains for future generations!
Rhonda Taylor	Pensacola	FL	32583	United States	10/28/12	Stop changing the course of the waterways. God had it all figured out, but man thought they could make things better, and the only thing you over educated idiots have done are cause more problems with our habitat. Bunch of idiots, STOP IT.
Melborn Kermit Hur	Sanford	FL	32771	United States	10/28/12	Every Fla Spring is an Oasis for several special species. They are one of the geological features that makes Florida special and unique. We must VALUE AND PROTECT them because they are like the canary in the coal mine - they alert us to the conditions of our aquifer from which we get our potable water. They are also a place to go and escape the hectic lifestyle of today!

barbara keene	tampa	FL	33611	United States	10/28/12	Because HOW IMPORTANT ARE MANATEES TO FLORIDIANS?? ANSWER THAT! RICK SCOTT, THEY WERE HERE BEFORE US AND HOPEFULLY THEY WILL BE HERE LONG AFTER.
Burgess Newcomb	Homosassa	FL	34448	United States	10/28/12	It's my backyard, ,life style and my choice to not agree with the direction SWFWMD is heading in.
grant peeples	crawfordville	FL	32327	United States	10/28/12	Because I care.
Sandra Mondro	Weirsdale	FL	32195	United States	10/28/12	Animals and People
Cary Christenson	St Petersburg	FL	33709	United States	10/28/12	I think we TAKE, TAKE, TAKE! We must slow down!
Barry McWeeney	St. Petersburg	FL	33709	United States	10/28/12	I'm a Florida native and believe these creatures deserve to continue living in "Their" natural surroundings uninhibited by man!!!
Evelyn Seiler	Rockledge	FL	32955	United States	10/28/12	Moving down here to Fl when I was 5, a Manatee was the first animal that I saw and I've been in awe of them ever sense. They are a great importance to the state of Florida.
Lassie Lee	Jacksonville	FL	32225	United States	10/28/12	Florida requires water - pure, clean water - for life. Too many people and too many "business" demands are killing this state. We have to stop the downward trend now to have a liveable future.
Jennifer Robson	Virginia Beach	VA	23454	United States	10/28/12	Love the manatees & would hate to see their numbers diminish because of more intrusion on their homes by humans!
Ben Oswald	Avon Park	FL	33825	United States	10/28/12	Because Manatees are already stressed enough.
Ronda Lynch	Jacksonville	FL	32224	United States	10/28/12	These poor creatures are a gentle and glorious addition to the state of Florida. It is our DUTY to treat our assets in a manner that will preserve them for our future generations and theirs as well. Step up and get a backbone. Save our springs and save our manatees!!
dee sweet	floral city	FL	34436	United States	10/28/12	manatees are endangered and we need to protect their springs and waterways for their survival.
Jacqueline Day	Kissimmee	FL	34759	United States	10/28/12	gentle giants.
Astara Edmonds	Inglis	FL	34449	United States	10/28/12	We must preserve the water in our springs and rivers. It is vital.
James Iglar	Ruskin	FL	33570	United States	10/28/12	The health of the environment...this place we call home... is far more important then anything else.... with out it...what do we have... a concrete jungle.... NO THANK YOU!!!! Please do NOT allow this reduction to happen
Miguel Pacheco Jr	Miami Springs	FL	33166	United States	10/28/12	Yes safe our water..Plus we need to be aware and feel the pain of watching our rivers and our wildlife die.
leslie white	beverly hills	FL	34465	United States	10/28/12	the gov't needs to allow nature to balance the water!
Rocco Mollica	Palm Coast	FL	32164	United States	10/28/12	With the changes in climate swinging from above afeage heat to below average cold, Manatees need a place where they can go to avoid hypothermia during winter.

Sheet1

Kristen Cavallini-So	Fort Lauderdale	FL	33315	United States	10/28/12	Balance of Nature is teetering, and these beautiful animals need somewhere to live. And...We are ALL God's creatures which certain profiteering individuals seem to forget some of whom also PREACH a good line! Greed must GO.
pomeroy susan	st. petersburg	FL	33703	United States	10/28/12	Home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species including the West Indian Manatee, the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are now at risk of further degradation and loss of essential fresh water habitat if the Southwest Water Management District's ("SWFWMD") Governing Board approves reductions in flow proposed in the Minimum Flows and Levels on October 30, 2012.
Kathryn Onorata	Largo	FL	33771	United States	10/28/12	We need to protect what we have - before it's all gone.
Carol Allegretti	Fort Myers	FL	33905	United States	10/28/12	We need to do whatever we can to save these very delicate creatures that are so much a part of our Florida waterways.
Beryl Lipoff	sarasota	FL	34238	United States	10/28/12	When our wild life disappears, what does that say for our existence? I am a Florida resident I have had the privilege of seeing these wondrous creatures. I implore that there should be NO flow reductions.
Mary Aker	Deltona	FL	32725	United States	10/28/12	The people of Florida love the manatees. We love to see them and touch them and preserve them so our children can get to know these wonderful creatures.
Ingrid Hinkelmann	Miami	FL	33179	United States	10/28/12	keep all wildlife safe, ban hunting altogether of any species
Maria I. Arisso	Miami	FL	33137	United States	10/28/12	We need to maintain our eco system.
Colleen Veard	Palm Bay	FL	32908	United States	10/28/12	Because preserving wildlife matters!
frank allegro	miami	FL	33127	United States	10/28/12	Hi- The reason I sign this petition is because I'm a Manatee too. love, frank allegro
A. G. Connor	Tallahassee	FL	32303	United States	10/28/12	All creatures on this planet are important and we are to be good stewards here.
Joyce Swaim	Spring Hill	FL	34607	United States	10/28/12	Our manatees are such gentle giants...a gift from God to our waters. Why do some humans always hold such disregard for simple & kind forms of life? SWFTMUD has too much political power & influence. Let the manatees live in their habitat.
Mike Loscalzo	Spring Hill	FL	34608	United States	10/28/12	I dislike gov't controls
Terry Beckwith	Dunedin	FL	34698	United States	10/28/12	The fragile ecosystem of Florida is continually being disturbed by the human population, which includes building, business "wants," governmental restrictions / grants, and I feel that this behavior will lead to devastating implications for future wildlife and natural flow.
Robert McDonnold	Port St. Lucie	FL	34953	United States	10/28/12	If you choose to ignore the manatee, who or what is next? What's so wrong with caring?

christine hayes	Homosassa	FL	34446	United States	10/28/12	the manatees are suppose to be protected and especially here in citrus county. we can not do anything like reduce their water ways that can jepordize their existence.
Barbara Gooding	Hudson	FL	34667	United States	10/28/12	Manatees are Floridas treasure! We must do everything to protect them!!!
Patricia Junior	New Orleans	LA	70124	United States	10/28/12	I live on a canal off the Homosasa River, and I would like to see the quality and quantity of the river not be compromised
Mil Zimmer	Chesapeake	MD	21066	United States	10/28/12	Sufficient clean water is essential for all life, human, animal, plant.
Ruth Bullard	Hobe Sound	FL	33455	United States	10/28/12	Our environment and nature are critical
marsha holbert	deerfield beach	FL	33442	United States	10/28/12	i have lived in south fla since 1981. the manatees have been here forever. this is their home. need i say more??
Donna Mavity	Thomasville	GA	31792	United States	10/28/12	I don't believe in human progress destroying wildlife. Why are humans more important than animals? We are supposed to be the caretakers of the earth and its inhabitants. Not destroyers
diane beechner	safety harbor	FL	34695	United States	10/28/12	I believe strongly in preserving and providing the habitats of our native Florida species.
Jack Schofield	Yankeetown	FL	34498	United States	10/28/12	Maintaing existings flows is important to the economy of Florida. While populations will increase in the state the reduction of our flow levels of our rivers and springs to provide water resources is not aneffective way to provide for future growth. In fact it will affect the areas in the state that provide an opportunity to view Florida in its natural state. Living on the Withlacoochee River in Yankeetown for the first time since I moved here we had salt water intrusion at our property. Maintaining current flow levels is a must. Jack Schofield
Keith Hayden	Cooper City	FL	33328	United States	10/28/12	We need to protect our endangered species anyway we can, for future generations to enjoy.
Keith Larson	brooksville	FL	34601	United States	10/28/12	I live and fish here and enjoy the wildlife. Instead of pumping more water out, start restricting subdivisions and require new residents to aquire more land, like all 10 acre parcels and that would start helping our water situation. Also quit pumping to other counties. If a county can not provide enough water for a new resident, than they can't sell another building permit until they figure another way, like desal plants.
Lisa Williams	Punta Gorda	FL	33950	United States	10/28/12	i live in fl and love the gentle manatees.
Katherine mayers	seminole	FL	33777	United States	10/28/12	Absolutely No Leave the Manatee Alone its bad enough when MORONS try to ride them Don't go after their habitat
Teresa Ordonez	Miami	FL	33187	United States	10/28/12	why change what is natural?

						I was born and raised in Florida. I grew up swimming and scuba diving in the springs. In many ways they have defined who I am both personally and professionally. I've gone on to explore springs all over the world and know 1st hand that Florida's springs are unique to the world both in terms of magnitude and beauty. I'm now a hydrogeologist that specializes in karst aquifers and springs and my experience tells me that the models that have been used to assess spring impacts in Florida are wrong and that they underpredict those impacts.
Todd Kincaid	Reno	NV	89503	United States	10/28/12	
Blythe Broecker	tampa	FL	33613	United States	10/28/12	I made a bill about this! So happy to see it is a bigger deal now! :D
ROBERT SIEVERT	BOYNTON BEACH	FL	33437	United States	10/28/12	All life is important to me.
Mary McBride	Winter Springs	FL	32708-2383	United States	10/28/12	SAVE MANATEES NOW!!!!!!!!!!
Lawrence Feldhuse	Yankeetown	FL	34498	United States	10/28/12	Our Outstanding Florida Waters are already degraded. No additional reduction in flow or habitat is acceptable. The goal should be to INCREASE flow to these waters.
michelle bozeman	fort walton beach	FL	32548	United States	10/28/12	Manatees depend on humans to protect them. they are also a great tourist attraction. why would you endanger them by reducing the water?
Jacqueline Mathis	Jacksonville	FL	32207	United States	10/28/12	I have been going to the springs since I was a little girl, always say "you can't experience Florida until you've been to the springs." Our manatees are a Florida asset and should be protected at any cost.
Sharon Stiner	Tampa	FL	33606	United States	10/28/12	Because it is the right thing to do
Missy Patrick	Beverly hills	FL	34465	United States	10/28/12	Because I live here and kayak those springs
Jaime Morales	Sunrise	FL	33351	United States	10/28/12	Everything about nature is very important to me.
Linda Sue Fowler L	Cutler Bay	FL	33189	United States	10/28/12	Will Someone please tell me why mankind has to go in and change things that God created ? And why we will not be happy until we wipe out every living creature on the face of the earth? Leave the flow alone and help protect what is left of a already fading population!
Kathleen Galgano	San Jose	CA	95126	United States	10/28/12	The old growth cypress and many species that reside therein is a treasure not only to Florida, but to our nation. Please do not degrade this important ecosystem. This is important. Thank you.
christine ellis	pensacola	FL	32514	United States	10/28/12	This is a beautiful part of our world it is our duty to protect them
william thomas	gainesville	FL	32601	United States	10/28/12	i grew up in chassahowitzka. the river is dear to me. we need to protect this piece of florida.
Josh Houston	Inverness	FL	34450	United States	10/28/12	I live in Citrus County.
Scott Hackenberg	Brandon	FL	33511	United States	10/28/12	Because Rick Scott is an idiot!
Karleah Sidky	Fort Lauderdale	FL	33309	United States	10/28/12	To save the manatees!!!!
Sandy Cross	Floral City	FL	34436	United States	10/28/12	Manatees are endangered and we need to protect this beautiful animal.

Anne Molinas	Coral Springs	FL	33065	United States	10/28/12	Protecting the environment and wildlife is very important. Florida is way over developed and there is too much disregard for nature, which is also an important resource for a healthy life and economy, not just construction and development.
Rachel Barnes	Jupiter	FL	33458	United States	10/28/12	love manatees
Charles Levy	Gainesville	FL	32607	United States	10/28/12	Protection of this amazing species is good for our souls and our economy.
Carole Smith	FL	FL	34604	United States	10/28/12	What is Beauty ?, God makes these Animals !!!
Maureen Kearns	Jupiter	FL	33458	United States	10/28/12	The Manatees must be protected!
Robert Knight	Gainesville	FL	32609	United States	10/28/12	All springs deserve to be protected and preserved for future generations and for us.
Sharon freshour	orange park	FL	32073	United States	10/28/12	Water is going to become a huge issue! We need to teach people how to use it responsibly! So that every living thing has what they need. Can we say human population control?
Phyllis Bernard	Homosassa	FL	34446	United States	10/28/12	I am a Homosassa resident. The Homosassa River and Chassahowitzka River and the springs they support are essential for the wonderful Florida wildlife species living here. Help us save the real Florida!
Dorothy Segel	Carbondale	CO	81623	United States	10/28/12	I always loved those sea cows.
Terri Nelson-Bunge	Port Orange	FL	32129	United States	10/28/12	The manatees deserve to retain their already limited habitats.
Audra Brookins	Bronson	FL	32621	United States	10/28/12	I grew up swimming with these wonderful, peaceful creatures! They are not only completely harmless they do a service by eating the water plants that end up blocking our water ways.
Kathleen Bacheller	Tampa	FL	33612	United States	10/28/12	This iconic mammal has no one but us to speak for it. It needs these springs for its winter refuge. I love to walk the trails at Homosassa and see them, I've grown up with that and future generations deserve that too!
Maryellen Catherine	Homosassa	FL	34446	United States	10/28/12	I use the waterways all the time and have seen the deterioration and decrease in wildlife. Please leave the waterways alone
Nancy Tobergte	Yankeetown	FL	34498	United States	10/28/12	Our springs and rivers are vital to the existance of all forms of life, including human forms, and they are already in danger from lack of rainfall replenishment...why on earth would we want to allow further damage!!!
Linda Bystrak	Leesburg	FL	34788	United States	10/28/12	I frequently paddle in this area and enjoy the wildlife, which is already stressed by too much water pollution. Less water means less likely to meet TMDL goals.
Beverley Wiskow	Inverness	FL	34450	United States	10/28/12	With so much of what we knew as old Florida gone, it would be tragic if yet another of our very special resources were destroyed. PLEASE protect the manatees.
karen meeks	cape coral	FL	33904	United States	10/28/12	I live in Fla. on the bimini basin and watch manatees here.

Sheet1

Geraldine Carboni	Bronx	NY	10465	United States	10/28/12	I am both a resident of NYC and Florida. Until about 20 years ago, I didn't even know manatees existed. We need to preserve these "gentle giants" for our grandchildren's grandchildren.
Janice Le Blanc	Englewood	FL	34223	United States	10/28/12	The cruelty to animals has got to stop.
phillip slimak	loxahatchee	FL	33470	United States	10/28/12	I believe in protecting old Florida
Cory Mead	Jacksonville	FL	32216	United States	10/28/12	I love all the wild life in the Florida creeks and rivers while im out fishing. I cant tell you how many times I have wanted to give jerks in power boat and jet skis that whip up and down the back creeks with no regard for other boaters or wildlife. Do not endanger our water system wild life with your actions. They have enough to battle with out there with stupid inconsiderate humans as it is.
Frank Staff	Boca Raton	FL	33432	United States	10/28/12	Frank Staff
Teresa Powers	Edgewater	FL	32141	United States	10/28/12	These are the oldest of creatures that we have, we need to do EVERYTHING in our power to help them. They are just "GENTLE CHILDREN". WE MUST HELP ALWAYS, it's our DUTY!
Nancy Beebe	Mount Dora	FL	32756	United States	10/28/12	I live in Florida and love it's wild places, especially it's rivers. All life here depends upon our now imperiled waters.
paula xellar	boynton beach fl	FL	33426	United States	10/28/12	simply, this is the only planet we hve to live on. we can do better for our childre and future generations.
Anna Berardi	Longwood	FL	32779	United States	10/28/12	Water is important for manatees AND people. Let's do what's right.
Letitia Wszolek	Cape Coral	FL	33991	United States	10/28/12	I live in the areas where manatees swim in our canals leading to the sea and can see indifference by some of boaters. Frustrating....
Patricia Goytre	Miami	FL	33155	United States	10/28/12	Because every animal life is important for me!!!
Sharon Bramlet	Apopka	FL	32712	United States	10/28/12	Our natural habitat and beauty is why people want to travel to Florida and want to live here !! Critical thinking for all Floridians !
maria uranga	coral gables	FL	33158	United States	10/28/12	Part of the beauty of Florida is its natural beauty.... Manatees are part of that beauty... They are gentle FLORIDA SPOKE ANIMALS!
April Rexroad	Winston Salem	NC	27105	United States	10/28/12	I used to be a resident of Florida and I have seen the scars on many of the manatees already from boats and other man-made dangers and I believe we need to do more to protect these animals. Reducing their habitats would be a step in the wrong direction.
Loretta E. Beacon	New Port Richey	FL	34655-1634	United States	10/28/12	To cherish what remains of the Earth & to foster its renewal is our only legitimate hope of survival. NO REDUCTIONS IN FLOW!
Ron Browall	Dunnellon	FL	34432	United States	10/28/12	I kayak all the rivers in Florida and have seen how low some of them got in the drought.
Christy Fayard	Spring Hill	FL	34606	United States	10/28/12	Leave Mother Nature alone!!! Let HER decide!! NOT the stupid humans! Please!!
Katherine Vale	Key Biscayne	FL	33149	United States	10/28/12	To avoid further environmental degradation and reduction of species I feel we all have a moral and aesthetic imperative to preserve nature's gifts.
S Cruz	miami	FL	33032	United States	10/28/12	if they reduce this, they will be willing to reduce other animal species.
Ronda Chewning	Orlando	FL	32839	United States	10/28/12	I love Manatee's. Protect these animals.

Sam Gellerstedt	Sanford	FL	32771	United States	10/28/12	We need the springs for the manatees and for the people who enjoy the springs.
Bonnee Jones	Crystal River	FL	34423	United States	10/28/12	We Must save our fresh water from salt water adn degradation
Kathryn Konigsberg	Apopka	FL	32703	United States	10/28/12	History! Wild Life! Preservation of the original Florida is more important than some developers getting even richer. Oops I forgot my audience...
Nancy Fecso	Homosassa	FL	34448	United States	10/28/12	I live on a canal leading to the Homosassa River. The river is a unique part of this area we call home. We continue to watch the river being damaged. Finally, we can start to reverse some of this and I will urge everyone I know to say no to reductions in flow.
Kathryn Berendes	Fountain	FL	32438	United States	10/28/12	Manatees are very special to our state. They have been endangered for some time. Now they will essentially be deprived of their habitat.
Robin Hudpseth	Coconut Creek	FL	33063	United States	10/28/12	Life
charles scott	Orlando	FL	32803	United States	10/28/12	What happens to our non-human friends will soon happen to us!
cammie burke	marietta	GA	30066	United States	10/28/12	Because manatees are AWESOME and they need protection!
Carole Kirkpatrick	Homosassa	FL	34446	United States	10/28/12	We canoe a lot on the Chassahowitzka, and cannot fathom how badly this is going to impact the environment. You are going to completely spoil a wonderful place.
Louis Clayton	Beverly hills	FL	34465	United States	10/28/12	The Manatees been here before us and lets not screw up the spring waters because of stupidity.I would like my grandchildren enjoy what we have.
CAROL BECHT	Wesley Chapel	FL	33544	United States	10/28/12	The manatees need to keep that habitat.
Lynn Glorieux	Pittsburgh	PA	15212	United States	10/28/12	My favorite vacation activity is paddling on Florida's beautiful rivers, and I don't want them to suffer from reduced flow from the springs that feed them.
Elwyn Green	Ft. Lauderdale	FL	33304	United States	10/28/12	As a native of South Florida I have grown up with the mantees and watched as careless boaters and other enemies have hurt their population severley. Every effort to help these slow docile creatures is a blessing within itself.
Eileen Cormack	Winnipeg		R3G 1C2	Canada	10/28/12	They are without a doubt truly magnificent.
Debra Weiss	Yankeetown		34498	United States M	10/28/12	Any reduction in the flow of our waterways will negatively affect the marine life and the lives of all the other birds and animals in our surrounding areas.
Dorelle Ackermann	Mokena	IL	60448	United States	10/28/12	I just returned from kayaking these beautiful rivers. They are a treasure that need to be preserved and a treasure that will bring tourism dollars to the area.
Kenneth Penrose	Homosassa	FL	48653	United States	10/28/12	The waters are already low enough to cause problems for boating and recreation. Salt water already comes up the Chassahowitzka River almost to the springs at high tide. Don't tamper with the natural flow.

Laverne Garrett	St.Petersburg	FL	33713	United States	10/28/12	We own property on the Chassahowitzka River our future home. We are concern about the damage to the river.
Janet Penrose	Homosassa	FL	34446	United States	10/28/12	The Chassahowitzka River is down significantly from just a few years ago. It needs to be restored and protected before it is too late.
Don Love	Reddick	FL	32686	United States	10/28/12	Enough is enough.
Marcia Burch	Orlando	FL	32807	United States	10/28/12	The manatees are protected and so should the springs they winter in.
Amado Martinez	hollywood	FL	33024	United States	10/28/12	As a scuba diving instructor I'm a conservationist. So we must conserve the natural habitat of the Manti in order for some day remove it from the endangered list.
robet jones	summerfield	FL	34491	United States	10/28/12	because i care
Mary Remer	Leesburg	FL	34748	United States	10/28/12	Too much of our precious water is being given away.
Kelly Greene	Miami	FL	33168	United States	10/28/12	Manatees are nearly extinct. I don't want to see this beautiful mammal disappear from the face of the earth. They should be protected for future generations.
Judy Foster	Palm Bay	FL	32909	United States	10/28/12	It Really seems like we need to protect our waterways and animals so we can preserve this way of life before it is all taken away..
Valerie Harwood	Tampa	FL	33617	United States	10/28/12	Florida's waters should not be for sale to developers, industry, or otherwise. The should be protected, not exploited. The environment has received little attention in these times of economic uncertainty, but once we degrade water quality, it will be extraordinarily difficult to improve it.
ROBERT WEXLER	grand island	FL	32735	United States	10/28/12	CLEAN WATER AND PUBLIC LAND
gregory smith	monticello	IN	47960	United States	10/28/12	all life is precious but the slower ones need a better break.
luisa ramirez	jacksonville	FL	32258	United States	10/28/12	nature
John Carter	Seminole	FL	33772	United States	10/28/12	To much development has already damaged both the lands and water resources of this state.It is time to realize that these things belong to the future. Regreates do not repair damages that could have been avoided if we only halted and considered the negative results of our decesions
Jeff Glitzenstein	Tallahassee	FL	32305	United States	10/28/12	I'm a plant conservation biologist. Preservation of rare species and habitats is what I do.
Sally Belton	Longwood	FL	32779	United States	10/28/12	The Springs throughout Florida are all suffering and water flow is down at most of them. This is a serious problem not only for our wildlife but a scary problem for our drinking water in the state.
Steve Miller	The Villages	FL	32162	United States	10/28/12	I fish,kayak and drink the water
Edward Temple	Brooklyn	NY	11215	United States	10/28/12	These gentle mammals are a joy to behold
Nadira Ali	Orlando	FL	32825	United States	10/28/12	all creatures are precious.
Vern Garnett	St Petersburg	FL	33713	United States	10/28/12	It's important that we conserve our resourses.

Ann Sayward	Yankeetown	FL	34498	United States	10/28/12	The fresh water in our rivers and springs is of major importance for people and the environment. If you don't care about the Manatees who also bring tourists to the area, then think of the Money. Low flow in the rivers increases the possibility of salt water intrusion which devalues property and kills needed vegetation. Please remember what happened to New Orleans because the outlying vegetation was destroyed.
Tabitha Messer	Miami Beach	FL	33139	United States	10/28/12	because I live in Florida and I care about the environment
Marilyn McGriff	Homosassa	FL	34448	United States	10/28/12	I live on a river where I see manatees often. They have no enemies but man. Ruining our rivers by decreasing is flow from the springs does no one any good except put a few dollars in some companies pocket. It's not worth it.
mary sperandeo	crystal river	FL	34429	United States	10/28/12	We work on manatee tour boats. It is how we make our living as well as educate people about manatees.
MARGARET ANDE	JACKSONVILLE	FL	32257	United States	10/28/12	There are some things money can't buy!
Robert Carey	Homosassa	FL	34448	United States	10/28/12	I spend much of my spare time on the river and have seen the damage already done.NO MORE reduction in flow.
Rolaine Smoot	Riverview	FL	33578-3719	United States	10/28/12	I have have dived with wild Manatees. They are such gentle beings!
Terri Ackerman	New Port Richey	FL	34653	United States	10/28/12	This magical place on the west central coast of Florida is a wonderful family friendly area that needs to be preserved!
Nancy Noloboff	St Augustine	FL	32084	United States	10/28/12	Protecting our waterways is crucial to the survival of the manatees as well as the health of our entire Florida ecosystem.
Carol Walton	St Petersburg	FL	33713	United States	10/28/12	We have to be the voices for the wildlife.
Frances Larson	brooksville	FL	34601	United States	10/28/12	Natures beauty and water clarity
Paul Semene	Sarasota	FL	34231	United States	10/28/12	If there is a chance to make manatee life better, let's do it!
jorge j tamargo	Miami	FL	33165	United States	10/28/12	ONCE ALLOWED TO RESTRICT IT CAN EASLY BE MADE WORSE.
charles murray	waianae		96792	United States M	10/28/12	LOVE
James Sasser	Citrus Springs	FL	34433	United States	10/28/12	Helps environment and wildlife.
Alejandra Gutierrez	san jose		345	Costa Rica	10/28/12	I love wildlife, and the humane perception that we are superior and can do whatever to them is wrong
jacquelyn hubbard	Williston	FL	32696	United States	10/28/12	I am a kayaker and love the outdoors. 15% reduction is unacceptable.
Dolores Hesselbrock	Phoenix	AZ	85085	United States	10/28/12	I care about all living things on this planet and I believe they have a right to live out their lives as nature intends. We have options and can change our habits to accomodate them whereas they can live only as their species and bodies allow.
Brian Belton	Panama City Beach	FL	32407	United States	10/28/12	Protect natural condition of Florida resources

cindy klein	homosassa	FL	34448	United States	10/28/12	chassahowitzka is my home, i have seen first hand, over many years the flow of our springs decline, not just here, but statewide. coastal springs will die first, then our interior springs will cease. ground water pumping will continue, then, when we suck it all dry, we will begin what we should have already started years ago. desalinization, it will come to that eventually anyway, why not start now. lets lead the way to the future and restore our springs, i say no to increased pumping of our most precious recourse, stop ground water pumping now. given the chance, nature will heal itself, it would be a great loss if we continue on the current path.
k v	jacksonville	FL	32223	United States	10/29/12	As a kayaker, I cherish FL waterways and am dismayed at their decline over the last decade. Please work to preserve these ecosystems for all!!!
Catherine Newbill	Pensacola	FL	32503	United States	10/29/12	Manatees are amazing and deserve to survive in the native habitat. There are many ways to conserve water so less is needed. Having a green lawn not only pollutes the waterways by fertilizer run-off, a green lawn also depletes the water table. Conservation is key.
Berdina Joseph	tampa	FL	33647	United States	10/29/12	love wild life
Margaret Woodruff	ocala	FL	34470	United States	10/29/12	I am tired of the government ruining my beautiful state
Jackie Williams	Pensacola	FL	32506	United States	10/29/12	NO, NO, NO. PLEASE SIGN!
Elizabeth Steib	loxahatchee	FL	33470	United States	10/29/12	I support preserving the habitats that wildlife, especially those which are endangered depend. We cannot allow the Florida manatee to become another tragic statistic in this state.
Katherine Leech	Floral City	FL	34436	United States	10/29/12	I conserve water and think if we all did more conservation water would not need to be taken from one area to another which is expensive and masks the real need to focus on living with the water we have in our own area.
Robin Peterson	Dunnellon	FL	34431	United States	10/29/12	WILDLIFE
Rebecca Lambert	Citrus Springs	FL	34433	United States	10/29/12	This may have been a good year for rain but what happens next year and we receive no rain. This is just plan crazy.
Gerald Stanley	Lutz,	FL	33548	United States	10/29/12	I own property on Crawford Creek that empties into the Chassahowitzka River. The degradation of the trees along Crawford Creek is terrible and anymore reduction in the flow of fresh water form the springs will only increase the degradation of our coastal rivers and creeks.
Donna J Watson	Beverly Hills	FL	34465	United States	10/29/12	I spend a lot of time on the river and want to preserve it
Ivan Mago	Wellington	FL	33414	United States	10/29/12	Wild life is part of our planet's ecosystem. They all deserve our respect and protection
Robert Hylan	Lecanto	FL	34461	United States	10/29/12	I am proud of what we have and don't want to lose it.

Sheet1

Kim Berryhill	Winter Springs	FL	32708	United States	10/29/12	They play in our marina everyday , they are beautiful!
Joaquin Sanchez	Miami	FL	33012	United States	10/29/12	I am opposed to giving away millions of gallons of spring water to foreign bottlers and foreign billionaires that want to take our water to over develop my state.
Jo-Ellen Cox	Boca Raton	FL	33498	United States	10/29/12	for the simplest reasons, we need to protect our wildlife from extinction and deminishing habitats whether on land or in the water. This spring is vital to the manatees survival. Please spare these creatures.
Jim Carrell	Ocala	FL	34481	United States	10/29/12	I go to Homosassa Springs State Park often, and there are always tourists there. Why would anyone go If the ecology changes due to reduced flows?
Mercedes Potter	Key largo	FL	33037	United States	10/29/12	They are so gracious ,kinf and such a treat to watch them swim right up to you. In the Florida Keys we love them and they are never harmed
Carol Dewing	Palm Beach	FL	33480	United States	10/29/12	Manatees are beautiful creatures that need protecting!!
Bennett Hoffman	tallahassee	FL	32301	United States	10/29/12	I like manatees
Brian Dearwater	Lakeland	FL	33810	United States	10/29/12	Spring fed rivers are treasures to be preserved for future generations.
Jacqueline Casey	Jacksonville	FL	32223	United States	10/29/12	This is important to me because sea creatures are an irreplaceable part of the state's beauty. Lacking these wondrous creatures is simply unacceptable!
jeanette mayer	pinellas park	FL	33781-2509	United States	10/29/12	if we don't save in the wild, they may go the way of the passenger pigeod EXTINCT !!!!
claudia howat	Tallahassee	FL	32303	United States	10/29/12	Why mess with nature, when it's going to make things worse?
aaron wolford	bellevue	FL	34420	United States	10/29/12	the world
Kathy Sutton	Lake Mary	FL	32746	United States	10/29/12	All wild animals are precious and we must preserve their habitats. We must also preserve our natural springs for ourselves and our offspring. We must save the beauty of nature and the wild places left in Florida as they are treasures for recreation and tourism.
Walker Banning	Tallahassee	FL	32301	United States	10/29/12	Springs are attractive not only to manatees, but also to residents and tourists. They are an economic development engine if we don't kill them.
Amy Stowe	Riverview	FL	33569	United States	10/29/12	We need to protect the more pristine areas of Florida that we can, especially if it could endanger and threaten our precious wildlife. At least, we need to know the environmental impact ahead of time if there is a real human need to move an established ecosystem.
Melissa Bried	Hudson	FL	34669	United States	10/29/12	I have lived in this state for almost 40 yrs, alot longer than our govenor I believe. I love our manatees & want them protected. DO NOT REDUCE THE FLOW in our rivers. PROTECT OUR MANATEES.
Sheila mandell	Fort Lauderdale	FL	33301	United States	10/29/12	I live in FL and love them.
laura abrisch	crestview	FL	32539	United States	10/29/12	I love all animals and i am sick of hearing all the abuse, neglect and killings so i will so what it takes to save what animals we do have left in this now pathetic world.
Anthony DiValentin	High Springs	FL	32643	United States	10/29/12	For my kids.

Susan Sonsini	Newberry	FL	32669	United States	10/29/12	The natural beauty of Florida's rivers and springs is the main reason my family and I came to North Florida. It is important to preserve this natural resource for future generations. Please do not reduce the flow of any of the rivers!
Steve Lodle	Brooker	FL	32622	United States	10/29/12	We need to text our rivers and water supplies.
SANDRA JOHNSON	SAINT CLOUD	FL	34769	United States	10/29/12	water must be a protected resource and along with the species dependent on it not just humans
w.james Brazel	fort walton beach	FL	32547	United States	10/29/12	Hope my future family to have some healthy environment to live in
lizabeth johnson	Graceville	FL	32440	United States	10/29/12	I love animals and they need us to help protect them!!
Deborah Butler	Clearwater	FL	33765	United States	10/29/12	Manatees are an endangered species. If they don't have an appropriate environment to live in they cannot survive. SAVE THEIR ENVIRONMENT!
Gabe Freund	Oakland Park	FL	33309	United States	10/29/12	I am a Floridian that cares for the environment.
Jeanette Nicotra	Deltona	FL	32725	United States	10/29/12	We should do whatever possible to ensure the safety and preservation of our wildlife.
LINDA STAPLETON	LECANTO	FL	34461	United States	10/29/12	I live here, and am tired of seeing the natural beauty of our state's flora and fauna being destroyed for no good reason. Usually it's from big business and to preserve wealthy residents lakefront property, but this degradation serves no purpose at all (unless it's one we haven't learned yet).
Vonnie Rogers	Pensacola	FL	32526	United States	10/29/12	Water supply is important to the life that is in the Springs.
Mary Kemp	Bandon	OR	97411	United States	10/29/12	Manatees need help.
Rosanne Adkins	Casselberry	FL	32707	United States	10/29/12	I love the manatees!
Pam Bucci	sarasota	FL	34233	United States	10/29/12	Because animals are beautiful and should be protected. They can't defend themselves.
Diane Dequevedo	Boca Raton	FL	33496	United States	10/29/12	They are gentle; they are endangered. I don't know if they are unique to Florida, but they are certainly a tourist draw.
Jocelyn Slater	Falmouth	MA	2540	United States	10/29/12	West Indian Manatees are a Federally recognised endangered species. That should, by the same federal laws that protect the manatees, automatically protect all elements of their habitat which fall under United States control. They already have enough trouble with boat strikes. They don't need us to add cold stress and habitat degradation onto that.
Paul Kitwood	Seminole	FL	33772	United States	10/29/12	We humans are set on this planet to look after and protect it, not destroy it. The manatees can't protect them selves we need to do it.
Karen Johnson	Sarasota	FL	34231	United States	10/29/12	I'm so sick of the conservative, anti environmental Florida government destroying everything in the name of greed.
Lesia Schulha-Bobr	Bradenton	FL	34209	United States	10/29/12	Any further reduction of such a necessary habitat is short sighted.
Lois Gillette	Tucson	AZ	85742	United States	10/29/12	Manatees are docile and defenseless. They can't protect themselves, we must protect these wonderful beings.

Sheet1

Jeffrey Nelson	Margate	FL	33063-6857	United States	10/29/12	Because we have already damaged our environment too much already. And because I have compassion and concerns about other living things on this planet.
Mystina Swaim	Dover	AR	72837	United States	10/29/12	Manatees have been a great passion of mine from a very young age. When first learning about these amazing gentle giants, I studied about them and dreamed about getting to meet one up close. My dream came true when I swam with wild manatees in Crystal River, FL in 2004. I was able to experience this great opportunity and further extend my dream to working with them during my college internship. Manatees have and always will be an important part of my life and we need to do all we can to protect them for future generations. Manatees are not only an important part of the environment, but an important part of Florida's culture as well as a symbol of gentleness and tranquility we can all learn from.
Mary Anderson	Minnetonka	MN	55345	United States	10/29/12	Water use for humans is not a priority if it robs this precious resource from the animals that cannot live without it!
Shelley Linden	Brooksville	FL	34613	United States	10/29/12	Manatees are a protected species and we need to preserve as many animals as possible and not add to the extinction list.
Denise Key	Tamarac	FL	33321	United States	10/29/12	Anything that endangers our beautiful wildlife should be a NO. There is a way for all of us to be sustainable.
Don Jackson	Holiday	FL	34691	United States	10/29/12	This is a Florida animal and should be saved at all costs!
Debora Taylor	Bloomington	IN	47404	United States	10/29/12	Once these gentle giants are gone.....they are gone forever.
Ralph Mergen	Sioux Falls	SD	57106	United States	10/29/12	Manatees are endangered, so you just cannot put them at further risk.
Sally Ann Collins	Morrison	FL	32668=2265	United States	10/29/12	I have lived many years in Broward county and saw what happened to waters and habitat in south Florida when construction destroyed the natural life there.
Cassandra Godfrey	Lutz	FL	33558	United States	10/29/12	Manatees are unable to help themselves so we need to stand up for these beautiful creatures before it is too late.
Tiffany Hale	Fort Walton	FL	32548	United States	10/29/12	We must protect nature and all of it's inhabitants. Man continues to destroy the planet without acknowledging the fact that this will eventually lead to our own destruction. Protect animals. Protect people. Do what is right! These animals lives are depending on us all.
Barbara White	Jacksonville	FL	32258	United States	10/29/12	Manatees are so sweet...help them!!
Kimberly Bigler	Webster	FL	33597	United States	10/29/12	Spend alot of time on these rivers...the Manatees have had enough!
Diana David	Nederland	CO	80466	United States	10/29/12	I LOVE manatees. They are the epitomy of all that is good in a creature. I have been very proud my parents lived in Manatee County.
Cathy Baker	Homosassa	FL	34446	United States	10/29/12	Save Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for Florida's Manatees and for future generations

Janice Stralow	Tallahassee	FL	32311	United States	10/29/12	We have to preserve our wildlife not only so future generations can enjoy sharing what nature has to offer in our very unique Florida, but also to preserve our planet. We cannot continue to degrade the balance of nature thru man made efforts and expect the planet to be here for future generations.
Hawk Pat	Reddick	FL	32686	United States	10/29/12	Why should we be the last generation to see Florida Manatees of clear flowing springs?
Marie Norcross	Sorrento	FL	32776	United States	10/29/12	The water in the springs stays warm enough in the winter to give the manatees a place to go where there is fresh water and vegation
Lysebeth Herry	North Miami Beach	FL	33160	United States	10/29/12	Yes for animal's to planÃ"te
Pamela Arn	Saint Johns	FL	32259	United States	10/29/12	I live in florida
stevenson jim	Tallahassee	FL	32303	United States	10/29/12	To protect public lands that were acquired to protect Florida's waters especially springs.
Richard Bryant	St. Augustine	FL	32092	United States	10/29/12	As a landowner on the Chassahowitzka River and a biologist, I believe that any reduction of flow will result in Significant Harm to the system.
Randall Patsches	New Port Richey	FL	34654	United States	10/29/12	Every project the corp of engineers or swfwm have done resulted in disaster. It is appalling that we constantly feel the need to change or control nature, leave it alone.
Dietmar Fuchs	Lady Lake	FL	32159	United States	10/29/12	As a resident of Florida, as a friend of this earth and of the environment I strongly condemn your efforts to further damage Florida's unique gifts from God, namely its springs. May God who made mankind stewards over His creation be your judge.
Jennifer Bordner	Debary	FL	32713	United States	10/29/12	I'm tired of people disregarding homes of the wildlife as if it doesn't matter. It's like the government doesn't even care about that being a home for manatees. They are already at huge risk with the boaters. They don't need a man made risk that doesn't have to be.
Antonio A Fernandez	Miami	FL	33155	United States	10/29/12	The survival of the species is crucial to the Florida ecosystem
Timothy Outlaw	Lakeland	FL	33809	United States	10/29/12	Our natural wonders and resources are more important that we realize.
John Humphrey	Crestview	FL	32539	United States	10/29/12	Beautiful, peaceful animals. Their native territory.
Michael Tracy	Hernando	FL	34442-7416	United States	10/29/12	Our springs are one of most important natural resources in Florida. If we do not do something to save them now they will be gone. Water is life giving.
L Polke	Archer	FL	32618	United States	10/29/12	Nature nurtures and supports us all.
Michael Appino	Homosassa	FL	34448	United States	10/29/12	Kayaking, Fishing, protection of the ecosystem. Chass has been going downhill for years, now SWIFTMD wants to further damage it? Get with it people!!!
Anna Stacholy	Boynton beach	FL	33483	United States	10/29/12	These genlte creatures deserve our care
Jim McElveen	Archer	FL	32618	United States	10/29/12	Save the manatees, not kill them!

Sheet1

Kathleen Spinks	Gainesville	FL	32608	United States	10/29/12	We need to stop messing with nature and leave it alone. These are beautiful rivers which house the gentle, peaceful manatees other animals and of course fish.
Andrew Paliuca	Homosassa	FL	34448	United States	10/29/12	the rivers are stressed enough as is...fresh water flow is critical to these rivers. SWFMD....please do what is right for nature and our unique regional area of FLorida
Joan Wertheimer	Nokomis	FL	34275	United States	10/29/12	We need to save all of our wildlife before it is too late which sometimes happens
Beth Hammer	Tampa	FL	33612	United States	10/29/12	As a full-time Florida resident, we know the importance of protecting these special creatures. Please understand & save their environment.
Michele Cooper-Tay	Tampa	FL	33619	United States	10/29/12	I have swam with the majestic mammals. They are so sweet and beautiful. They need protection and care. They mind their own business and don't bother anyone. If you reduce the flow; where will they end up? There will be a reduction in vegetation and it's hard enough for them to find food.
Evelyn Ruiz	New Port Richey	FL	34654	United States	10/29/12	Love to save the manatees.
Becky Reep	Quincy	FL	32352	United States	10/29/12	Sorta a "no-brainer" on the value of our Florida springs....they are ESSENTIAL! They have been a part of nature's design for eons....mankind needs to take a lesson from the Master and leave them alone unless it's doing something to preserve and protect them - like signing this petition!!
Robin Potter	Port St. Lucie	FL	34952	United States	10/29/12	The springs have been around for decades and are a great source of water for the manatees, please leave it alone.
Leslie Halstedt	Tampa	FL	33609	United States	10/29/12	I love all animals and the Springs
Alice Gridley	Gainesville	FL	32608	United States	10/29/12	We are so fortunate in Florida to have manatees. Please, do not screw it up!
Charles Botts III	Inglis	FL	34449	United States	10/29/12	I and my family live on the Withalacoochee River and I work for the Town of Yankeetown, also on the Withalacoochee River, and I am concerned that SWFWMD is more concerned for the short-term commercial use of our resources than the long-term impact for all of the citizens and the environment we live in.
Regina Medeiros	Boca Raton	FL	33433	United States	10/29/12	I love Manatees!
Mary Elizabeth Dun	Jacksonville	FL	32210	United States	10/29/12	We are blessed to have these gentle creatures in our waterways. We need to make sure we do all that we can to ensure their well being for future generations. Karen Nuland
Michael Balanoff	Tallahassee	FL	32303	United States	10/29/12	I like the manatees, it's the black bears I like even more
Mike Anderson	Tampa	FL	33625	United States	10/29/12	Humans suck!
Chad Herman	Clearwater	FL	33773	United States	10/29/12	It's sad we have to work to save creatures that ask only to live and simply be.

Sheet1

Marlen Elias	Miami Beach	FL	33140	United States	10/29/12	because they are in my back yard and they are harmless and loving animals that are needed for our ecosystem -we aer just being to stupid or ignorant to understdsand that we are all connected!
JaQuanda Perry	Saint Petersburg	FL	33711	United States	10/29/12	I Want My Kids Too Be Able Too See These Animals That People Are Trying Too Kill Off
Andrew Sutherland	Gainesville	FL	32653	United States	10/29/12	The natural springs of FL are our greatest resource.
Peter Arroyo	Port Staint John	FL	32927	United States	10/29/12	LIFE is important
Anne Bowman	Tampa	FL	33625	United States	10/29/12	THE MANATEES ARE NOT THE ONLY ANIMALS THAT NEED THE SPRINGS PROTECTED, THERE ARE LOTS OF FISHERIES AND OTHER ANIMALS -LIKE HUMANS THAT DEPEND ON KEEPING THE SPRINGS FLOWING. NO REDUCTIONS ON FLOW!
Christopher Reiss	Hollywood	FL	FL 33019	United States	10/29/12	It is essential to have a healthy natural environment that supports a diversity of flora and fauna ~ for far too long human water greed has been allowed to dominate Florida's water management agencies. There are now compelling reasons to preserve/restore natural habitats, especially surface and subterranean aquatic systems The Manatees deserve our protection.
Carolyn Biddle	Ocala	FL	34476	United States	10/29/12	This effects everything we do. If we don't protect our recourses, there will be nothing.
Michael Love	Lehigh Acres	FL	33972	United States	10/29/12	These are wonderful animals and we need to do everything we can to protect them. This includes not jeperdizing thier habitat.
Kathleen Martin	orlando	FL	32818- 3353	United States	10/29/12	because wild life and nature are important to the balance, humans aren't
Mary D Wells	Pompano beach	FL	33069	United States	10/29/12	Love them!
arnold m. duhrkopp	Dunnellon	FL	34432	United States	10/29/12	because i paddle many rivers, streams and lakes in central florida and see constantly the failing waters
PAULA CABRERA	OWINGS MILLS	MD	21117	United States	10/29/12	Although I am not a resident of Florida, I believe in protecting and preserving the environment for "all" wildlife. Please stop any form of reductions to the springs for the Manatee's, and the beauty of the rivers!
Kathy Manning	Palm Beach Garder	FL	33410	United States	10/29/12	Endangered Manatees need our protection!
Lynn Cantrell	Hollywood	FL	33019	United States	10/29/12	They are endangered already!
Brigitte Steinmann	Naples	FL	34102	United States	10/29/12	Manatees are a major Florida natural resource and tourism magnet
Anna Diliberto	Panama City Beach	FL	32413	United States	10/29/12	save the Manatees - no flow reduction!!!!
diana iturralde	miami	FL	33155	United States	10/29/12	Manatees have always been a big part of my life and are of huge importance to the balance of the Florida ecosystem. I think they deserve for us to help maintain their environment.

Robert Berkley	Yankeetown	FL	34498	United States	10/29/12	I live on the Withlacoochee and hate what has happened to it as water flow has been reduced.
Linda Caruso	Miami	FL	33161	United States	10/29/12	I have loved animals since I was a little girl and I will do all I can to help them
Marc Urban	Spring Hill	FL	34609	United States	10/29/12	Governor Scott is a corporate puppet. Ask him about sinkhole coverage and being in the back pocket of insurers. He's should be ashamed of himself.
Michael Masters	Detroit	MI	5E+008	United States	10/29/12	I grew up in Florida and have seen it degraded primarily by poor management to favor commercial interests.
Del Mucci	Milton	FL	32583	United States	10/29/12	It's time to stop encroaching on our environment because government can't manage the population growth and have it conform to being sustained by the environment. We need to take responsibility for balancing our intake and refuse with what the land will support instead of allowing big businesses to rape and plunder the land for profit at the expense of tax payers who continue to support these projects without having a vote.
Laurie Humphrey	Miami	FL	33186	United States	10/29/12	Because they are an incredible critter and have a right to live as any living creature. They need that water during the winter months to survive. Its not all about humans even though many people think it is.
Joyce Soutar	Palm Coast	FL	32164	United States	10/29/12	I don't want to see the Manatees become extinct.
RENEE BARRIER	NEULAND	NC	28657	United States	10/29/12	WE NEED TO PROTECT THE MANATEES, THEY ARE HELPLESS CREATURES.
Maria Oliveira	South Miami	FL	33143	United States	10/29/12	Manatees are gentle and beautiful creatures and we are pushing them to extinction.
richard castillo	fort lauderdale	FL	33301	United States	10/29/12	I love manatees, gentle giants...
Jenny Bast	Sharpes	FL	32959	United States	10/29/12	Because it is the right thing to do. Besides God put us in charge of all the animals, not to let them die, to keep them alive.
Joseph Tarach	Longwood	FL	32779	United States	10/29/12	we've harmed, endangered , and killed to many of God's creatures... it needs to stop
Alex Rojo	Pembroke Pines	FL	33028	United States	10/29/12	Manatees are very gentle creatures, and I am getting sick and tire of politicians messing up with nature. Manatees do not have the right to vote but they have the right to live
Kelly Smith	port saint lucie	FL	34952	United States	10/29/12	I grew up playing in those springs as well as enjoying the wildlife along the runs and rivers associated with them.
Mary Sue Baker	Sarasota	FL	34241	United States	10/29/12	If we don't take steps to stop the destruction of the habitats and the animals themselves, they will not die and become extinct. I think that people just don't understand or care about what extinct means.
Dana Shreve	Boynton Beach	FL	33436	United States	10/29/12	I have been protecting manatees since I was a little girl.
Julie Scheurich	DeLand	FL	32720	United States	10/29/12	It's their Florida too!
Susan Steinhorst	Inglis	FL	34449	United States	10/29/12	Fresh water from the rivers are vital to sea life reproduction

Sheet1

vicky eubanks	pensacola	FL	32514	United States	10/29/12	Because there is not many manatees left.
Mary Firminger	Spring Hill	FL	34610	United States	10/29/12	Wildlife constitutes "natural resources" as well and we need to stop abusing all creatures.
Ken Coviello	boca raton	FL	33487	United States	10/29/12	we need to protect these beautiful gentle creatures and keep their rivers clear and safe. Dont reduce the flow.
Leisha Eastergard	Columbia	SC	29212	United States	10/29/12	Manatees are wonderful creatures that are deserving of our respect and protection.
Wendy Blanton	Brooksville	FL	34613	United States	10/29/12	I have grown up enjoying these beautiful creatures, and I would love for my Grandchildren and theirs to as well. Besides that, manatees are amazing, beautiful, gentle and helpless. Is it a must that we destroy every beautiful thing around us to benefit ourselves?!! This is ridiculous. NO to reductions flow- SAVE THE MANATEES! SWFWMD's Governing Board and the Governor of Florida should be ashamed of themselves.
Teresa Cope	St Petersburg	FL	33701	United States	10/29/12	I love the manatees!!
Yessenia Navarro	Miami	FL	33177	United States	10/29/12	Manatees are amazing and gentle creatures. We must preserve them.
Lynanne Lawhead	Tampa	FL	33611	United States	10/29/12	SWFWM and our state government over the years has already proven mismangement of our wetland habitats as well as our fishing grounds through over-development or re-routing change of water flow which has caused major damage to the indigenious land/resources. Seems they would have recognized they are part of the problem however, when profit is higher to protection and true management of the land and its resources - money has won so far and our state becomes mired in toxicity/waste/loss of habitat-resources for all levels.
Amy Campbell	Port Saint Lucie	FL	34984	United States	10/29/12	I LOVE ANIMALS!
Carol DiSibio	Aiken	SC	29803	United States	10/29/12	It's their world too; and we need to help preserve it for them.
Ted Dylewski	Orlando	FL	32819	United States	10/29/12	This is the place for manatees - take care of the creatures - br human
Claire Ford	Lafayette	CO	80026	United States	10/29/12	These gentle and wonderful creatures have no one else to help them but us.
Paul Wolters	Lecanto	FL	34461	United States	10/29/12	protect the manatees
JOAN BRYANT	EUSTIS	FL	32726	United States	10/29/12	FLORIDA'S ENTIRE FUTURE IS DEPENDENT ON OUR SPRINGS, RIVERS AND AQUAFER BEING HEALTHY. THE ANIMALS EFFECTED ARE INDICATIVE OF THE HEALTH OF THE WATER SYSTEMS.
Robert Dallas	Tampa	FL	33634	United States	10/29/12	These are considered 'Florida Outstanding Waterways' and ome to many endangered species. Nothing shoud be done to degrade these two waterways. NOTHING!

Pam Cohen	Lake Worth	FL	33462	United States	10/29/12	I am extremely concerned that Florida officials do not care about Florida's or any state's natural wildlife and ecosystem. Marco Rubio just wrote that he's for The Sportsmen's Act of 2012, a very dangerous act that's geared for self-absorbed recreational hunters that will lead to the destruction of animal protection agencies and conservation on public land. Please google this. Marco Rubio also voted against stronger anti-dog fighting laws. The people up north say this state is so backwards and I've always defended it, but now, some of the people representing us are embarrassing and I agree it's true. Do the right thing for our unique and important manatees. At all costs do not reduce the flow to these rivers.
Ward Cox	Tampa	FL	33604	United States	10/29/12	Because manatees are gentle creatures that already are victims of our selfishly predatory ways.
wilson bagwell	earleton	FL	32631	United States	10/29/12	Science shows salt-water intrusion and lower fresh water flows, already significantly harming flora and wildlife....WHEN DOES THIS STOP !!!
Nancy O'Keefe	Weeki Wachee	FL	34614	United States	10/29/12	They are beautiful animals!!
Janet Durgen	Hudson	FL	34667	United States	10/29/12	I want to protect the Florida wildlife we now have and MAY have in the future by leaving the natural ecosystem ALONE!!! We must find other intelligent means to provide for our needs. Our earth is exhausted and cannot withstand much more of our lack of foresight and respect!
Teddie Aggeles	St. Petersburg	FL	33713	United States	10/29/12	I am a Florida native and understand the importance of being good stewards of our resources in this state and country. Manatees cannot speak for themselves, so we must speak up to protect the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs. I have spent time enjoying the natural beauty of both since I was a little girl.
Sara Freeborn	Newberry	FL	32669	United States	10/29/12	I went swimming with the manatees last year and it was an incredible experience that I don't want future generations to lose.
Victoria Tillman	Tampa	FL	33612	United States	10/29/12	It is so important to protect these sea creatures.
Leila Kayser	Riverview	FL	33578	United States	10/29/12	they need our protection and can't protect themselves!
Kathy Taggi	Hollywood	FL	33026	United States	10/29/12	Numerous rare and endangered species of animals and plants require adequate levels of water; reduction in fresh water could eliminate these species/plants/animals.
Suzanne Fejes	Pompano Beach	FL	33062	United States	10/29/12	It is extremely important to retain these springs and the habitat they provide--much moreso than diverting the water.
Elena Santiago	miami	FL	33173	United States	10/29/12	Manatees (and many others) rely on the spring runs and fresh water
erica nord	portland	OR	97213	United States	10/29/12	Manatees are beautiful endangered species

Sheet1

Lashanda Grady	Tavares	FL	32778	United States	10/29/12	Maintaining a healthy natural resource is vital to all of our future. And it is important that we protect the wildlife that helps to maintain the proper balance in nature.
Karolina Quearry	Largo	FL	33773	United States	10/29/12	preservation should be important to everyone
AMOSS FERTIL	MIAMI	FL	33169	United States	10/29/12	I love nature and wildlife.
Amy Hibberd	Englewood	FL	34224	United States	10/29/12	love this place....please leave it alone.
richard bryant	homosassa	FL	34446	United States	10/29/12	we spend alot of time at both chassahowitzka and homosassa rivers and springs, in the six years we,ve been here we have noticed a change in the wildlife and marine life due to the changing flows of the rivers. please do not allow the purposed flow limits to be enacted.
Carlotta Marshall	New york	NY	10128	United States	10/29/12	I grew up in florida and this was all part of my childhood and I'd hate to think it wasn't part of the life of children to come
Paula Forteza	Miami Lakes	FL	33014	United States	10/29/12	The Florida manatees are gentle creatures and a huge part of Floridian culture.
Sid Kemp	Boca Raton	FL	33431	United States	10/29/12	Our natural habitats have already been degraded too many times. Let us be good stewards to the remaining wilderness and life therein.
kathie vogel	va bch	VA	23456	United States	10/29/12	Protect these gentle giants!
Ramona White	Largo	FL	33771	United States	10/29/12	Manatees are awesome and they deserve to stay in their habitat!
Diana Lineback	Largo	FL	33779	United States	10/29/12	In Area we have taken to much land and water away from aniamals. We need to clean up areas that are abandon and buld there and not go for wetlands to build.
Terra N	Bedford	IN	47421	United States	10/29/12	I love the area, lots of wildlife. We bought a second home in the area, hoping to retire there in 8 yrs. We need to protect our environment.
Linda Cohan	Yankeetown	FL	34498	United States	10/29/12	The springs and waters and the wildlife they support are an important part of Florida. The beauty of our Outstanding Waterways attract visitors and add to the reasons for living in Florida.
Deborah London	Fort lauderdale	FL	33306	United States	10/29/12	These prehistoric animals face great challenges due to human beings boating activity - because humans want to live a boating lifestyle these animals are suffering.
Sara Vinas	Davie	FL	33328	United States	10/29/12	Our future is important to me! This is short sighted and wrong
James Stewart	dunedin	FL	34698	United States	10/29/12	I am both a kayaker and a drinker of this water. It needs protected!
Carl Veaux	Cape Coral	FL	33904	United States	10/29/12	We need adequate flows so the Manatees have enough water to live in during their visits to these springs . Especially when its cold for they will die from overlong exposures chilly water . And you will be killing the tourist trade to these areas with no Manatees to see .
Pal Mac Neill	Crescent City	FL	32112	United States	10/29/12	Manatees are a Fla. signature species and must be protected and nurtured at all costs.
Adriyel Manzoratte	Miami	FL	33161	United States	10/29/12	Because manatees deserve to live. Life has been given to them, us huans have no right to murder these peaceful animals.
Mike and Karen Sto	Tampa	FL	33618	United States	10/29/12	Endangered species protection is a priority!

Judy Wallace	Palm City	FL	34990	United States	10/29/12	I was born here in 1940 and remain vigilant on our natural habitat and environment.
Arline Winfield	Cape Coral	FL	33914	United States	10/29/12	I saw 2 manatees in my canal yesterday. They are wonderful parts of nature and deserve protection.
Linda Whalen	Raceland	LA	70394	United States	10/29/12	Born and raised in MANATEE county Florida. The Manatee is dear to my heart.
Ginger Thompson	Largo	FL	33770	United States	10/29/12	The manatees need a place to stay warm in the winter. It's not our right to take their home!
Brian Klein	Homosassa	FL	34448	United States	10/29/12	We need to keep natural flow of the river for the balance of nature
Mary Farr	St Johns	FL	32259	United States	10/29/12	Water is the source of life. To maintain a healthy vibrant Florida we need to have our water in Florida providing for Floridians Human, Flora and Fauna.
Susan Young	Gainesville	FL	32606	United States	10/29/12	We need to get rid of all the bottling plants, encourage agriculture to employ water-wise irrigation, get golf courses to use reclaimed water, and do all we can to protect our Aquifer - for humans and all of life, not just manatees.
rebecca rabinowitz	Venice	FL	34292	United States	10/29/12	This a no brainer! They were here first AND are part of our world!
Kathleen Johnson	Wimauma	FL	33598	United States	10/29/12	We came from PA in 2001 and never saw a manatee. Now we just love watching them and hope they'll be here forever.
Trina Collins	Winter Springs	FL	32708	United States	10/29/12	protect our springs, manatees and wildlife that depends upon the springs for survival
Angeline Pino	MIAMI	FL	33125	United States	10/29/12	Because Miami needs to conserve its wild life. Since as long as I can remember I have seen the Everglades go through abuse and have seen our waterways fall victim to not only pollution but overuse.
						NO TO FLOW REDUCTION!!!!!!!!!!!! We have to add to the endangered species list: spring fed rivers!!!!!!!!!!!! t only is the Manatee endangered, but the Rivers are indangered
leif dereng	Gainsville	FL	32609	United States	10/29/12	
Tino Fuhrmann			9456	Germany	10/29/12	es ist wichtig
James Clark	Tampa	FL	33602	United States	10/29/12	Why would anyone not support maintaining natural habitat for an endangered species when there is no negative impact for humans by doing so....
Pamela Geddis	San Diego	CA	92122	United States	10/29/12	This is an essential habitat for the wildlife in the area, including endangered species, and cannot risk further degradation due to human causes.

Sheet1

Peggy Balliett	St Petersburg	FL	33703	United States	10/29/12	The manatee relies on these springs for survival during the winter months. It would be a shame to take the springs away from them and perhaps cause more deaths among these magnificent mammals. Their numbers have been shrinking in size due to Man over the years. Can the world afford to lose more?
Mark Retting	Homosassa	FL	34448	United States	10/29/12	My house on a canal near Chaz and there is barely enough water to get my boat out. Any less water and I will be high and dry.
Don GREIWE	Tampa	FL	33629	United States	10/29/12	Great part of Florida's natural history. Preservation a must
Zia Faculjak	Rio Rancho	NM	87144	United States	10/29/12	save these animals, all animals deserve to live just like we do..
Christopher Wilson	St. Pete Beach	FL	33706	United States	10/29/12	I grew up on the Chassahowitzka and have already seen the flow greatly reduced. Enough is enough.
Michelle Anthony	Daytona Beach	FL	32127	United States	10/29/12	I have been a wildlife rehabilitator for 20 years and have seen the devastating effects of humans on wildlife.
Russell Watrous	Land O Lakes	FL	34639	United States	10/29/12	I am a 60 year user of Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers I've seen the impact over the years and I don't want to loose another 10% of this Florida resource.
Bonnie Readinger	Bradenton	FL	34207	United States	10/29/12	When we don't protect natural habitat it is not only the plants and wildlife that are injured. Ulitimately we will suffer the consequence. We are killing our planet and killing ourselves.
Rosanne Marcello	Inverness	FL	34452	United States	10/29/12	decreasing flows will disturb natural balances that exist, disrupting the natural flora and fauna that now prevail. We have already destroyed so much of our environments, to continue this, knowingly, would be borderline criminal
Robert Kubistek	Yankeetown	FL	34498	United States	10/29/12	It will effect my and my family's future.
Bradley Powers	Tampa	FL	33606	United States	10/29/12	Natural ecosystem and habitat survival.
cindy stoppa	las vegas	NV	89183	United States	10/29/12	Manatees are an endangered species,,,and one of Florida icons. Do not reduce the the flow to the HOMOSASSA and CHASSAHOWITZKA RIVERS....
Melissa Carroll	Tampa	FL	33607	United States	10/29/12	Harming these essential habitats is thoughtless and cruel. To reduce the flow would further infringe upon these endangered species' vital places of refuge, and this carelessness for biodiversity and the natural world will have deeper, more widespread repercussions for the place we all call home.
Sylvia Green	Cookeville	TN	38501	United States	10/29/12	When they are extinct, it will be too late. Save these magnificent animals!
Susan Trafford	Homosassa	FL	34448	United States	10/29/12	I own property on the canal system and my boat will be sitting in the mud during the winter months. My property value will decrease if you do this. This river is to low already. Do not do this or you will have a lawsuit on you hands.
David Blatt	Homosassa	FL	34448	United States	10/29/12	I spend time on this river daily. We can not accept reduction to it's flow.

Sheet1

ronnie mcgriff	homosassa	FL	34448	United States	10/29/12	have seen deterioration of the river for many years, plant life gone. jobs will be lost if manatees leave the area. there is no good reason to reduce the flows none. it is a matter of greed.
Anna Pylant	Miramar	FL	33207	United States	10/29/12	This flow reduction is not needed by humans and will harm innocent manatees forever,so give me a break and stop this cruel action b4 it's too late,ASAP!!
Allison Mills	Brooklyn	NY	11213	United States	10/29/12	It's very important for the south FL
Paula McKenzie	Olathe	KS	66062	United States	10/29/12	I lived in Georgia for many years and can remember some of the horror stories that occurred on the GA coast with the manattes....They need a safe home or we won't have them anymore...
carol rose	mt dora	FL	34356	United States	10/29/12	We all need sufficient water to survive. SWFWMD job is to safeguard our water forever, not continue reducing its level for short term gains by development.
Gloria McCormick	Melbourne	FL	32934	United States	10/29/12	Manatees are important!
Margaret Niblett	Hernando	FL	34442	United States	10/29/12	I kayak on these rivers and I've seen the degradation to the rivers especially the Chazzahowiska. Please leave it alone. You are removing the wildlife from it and the trees are dying. I see a difference in just one year.
randy cribbs	Homosassa	FL	34448	United States	10/29/12	To decrease water flow would be very harmful to the entire refuge
Lisa Whitted	Tarpon Springs	FL	34688	United States	10/29/12	We use the Chassahowitzka River to get to our property.
Teresa Tuetken	Saint Petersburg	FL	33711	United States	10/29/12	Saving manatees is important.
David Light	Miami	FL	33132	United States	10/29/12	Do not mess up something we can never get back. Respect nature!
Richard Hiers	Gainesville	FL	32607	United States	10/29/12	Florida's Manatees (once known as "sea cows") are unique, and a major draw for tourists. They are a State treasure and we should do everything we can to protect them.
RONALEE THATCHER	ROCKLEDGE	FL	32955	United States	10/29/12	manatees are slow moving and need our protection.
Kevin Thompson	Chiefland	FL	32626	United States	10/29/12	I kayak these rivers and the flow is low as it is
Ann Forbes	Windermere	FL	34786	United States	10/29/12	Each time I watch manatees in the wild it hurts me to see the scars we are leaving on them. We need to do everything we can to save them. In addition, taking water OUT OF FLORIDA hurts us all, not just the manatees. Bottling up our spring water and shipping it out of Florida is creating more sinkholes. Study Venice. I just got back and got to see what happened there! Please stop!!!
Douglas & Linda H	Dunnellon	FL	34432	United States	10/29/12	We moved here for recreational purposes, including water and wildlife observation.
joe waterwoman	ozollo	FL	34443	United States	10/29/12	My well is filled with water, but unfit for drinking due to low level aquifer and springs which normally supply my well. The water in my well is salt water now. Thank you SWFWMD!
Philip Vozza	Tarpon Springs	FL	34689	United States	10/29/12	We must protect the natural beauty of this area.
Dan Staples	Panama city	FL	32404	United States	10/29/12	Florida only cares about their RICH people wish I wasn't stuck here
Dashama Gordon	Boca Raton	FL	33432	United States	10/30/12	I love the manatees!

Rocket Johnson	Silver Springs	FL	34488	United States	10/30/12	We must protect what is still left of our natural wonders and especially the manatees.
Steven Kennedy	Homosassa	FL	34448	United States	10/30/12	I live in Chassahowitka and enjoy boating and the nature watching along this river. swift mud this year has tried to open areas around this river to hunting and now this. by its time for a amendment to take away some of its power to control our lands.
Deborah Santoro	Lake Worth	FL	33467	United States	10/30/12	ALL LIVING CREATURES ARE GOD'S CREATURES & IMPACT OUR WELL BEING & SURVIVAL.
Kristyn Sage	Tampa	FL	33624	United States	10/30/12	Manatees are an important part of Florida's waters. They need to be protected at all costs. SWFMD needs to understand that it is not up to them to decide where water flows from and to in these springs or anywhere else for that matter. It is up to the State of Florida gov't to understand that humans and animals need to live in harmony and it is not up to the humans to ruin habitats for the animals just b/c they think they are entitled to.
Lynn Landis	boca raton	FL	33432	United States	10/30/12	If we believe Florida to be top tourist spot, we must preserve our natural resources.
Wallace Miller	Homosassa	FL	34446	United States	10/30/12	I own a lot with a cabin on the Chassahowitzka river. Its been in the family for more than 50 years. I have noticed a change in the grass around the cabin disappearing as well as some of the Sabal palms (Florida State tree) dying. I believe this to be from salt water intrusion. These are my observations over the years. I have seen manatees at the main spring at the head of the river and dolphins past the spring into the canal. My concern would be whether these large animals will be able to navigate these waters at lower tides if water levels are reduced.
Pete Kolozsy	Lecanto, FI	FL	34460	United States	10/30/12	As a resident and wildlife enthusiast I see the rivers already too low even at the best of times. Reducing them further will harm the environment.
Cyril Sharples	Merrillville	IN	46410	United States	10/30/12	we have killed enough creatures on this planet to extinction.
nick antia	Largo	FL	33773	United States	10/30/12	it is my understanding that any more reduction in flow will cause a unnatural flow of sea water to come father in stream changing the ecosystem , im tired of our environment being destroyed for one's profit
Judith Accardo	Paisley	FL	32767	United States	10/30/12	The republican leadership (?) in Florida has been, and is still devastating to our environment, our waters and the protected species in our state. They care about nothing but how much money they can make for themselves and their friends.
Brooke Winfrey	Austin	TX	78750	United States	10/30/12	Love the beach and ocean! It is so important that we take care of it and all the life in it!
Bill McCluen	Homosassa	FL	34448	United States	10/30/12	I'm a Chaz Resident, please do not allow a reduction in flow to this wonderful resource. We must protect this valuable resource and the wildlife that relies on it.

						As a tax paying full-time resident of Chassahowitzka, I can emphatically say my neighbors and I would rather promote the Chass River as a natural attraction for kayaks and canoes, campers, fishermen and hunters, and continue to attract visitors for scallops (also dependent on fresh water) than to have people who DON'T live here decide some corporate entity should profit from pumping water that is the life blood of our community. Don't sell out! Would you rather tell your grandchildren you preserved magnificent natural wildlife refuges, outstanding waterways, and your grandchildren's future parks OR a corporation who is not going to give anything to the locals but the ecological mess they leave behind? The locals are 100% sure why we paid money to live here, and are still paying money to make our waterways safe and healthy. It wasn't so a water company could sell the natural resources!
Laura Nessola	Homosassa	FL	34448	United States	10/30/12	
j smith	npr	FL	34653	United States	10/30/12	I visit Homosassa often and I love to watch manatees with my daughter. We should do whatever we need to to preserve our nature.
Patricia Brady	Inverness	FL	34450	United States	10/30/12	Florida's springs are protected natural resources that can not afford to lose any more water to greedy developers! Please protect this vital resources so necessary for our main industry, tourism and to protect our endangered species the manatees. How anyone could even possibly think of reducing the river flows more stuns me.
frances foster	Jacksonville	FL	32205	United States	10/30/12	They are beautiful animals and we should not be messing with their environment.
Caitlin Gillaspie	newport richy	FL	34655	United States	10/30/12	This is the nature I grew up around.
Sarah Cleaver	Port Charlotte	FL	33952	United States	10/30/12	I have gone swimming with the manatees in the Homosassa River, and it was an amazing experience. I hope to do it again one day with my children, but that won't happen if we start messing even more with the habitat of these gentle endangered animals.
SUZI SCHIFFRIN	Pompano Beach	FL	33067	United States	10/30/12	Save the Manatees!!!
Tammy Langley	St. Petersburg	FL	33705	United States	10/30/12	I live on the water in St. Petersburg. There's a ton of trash in the mangrove where I live and snowbirds fish off the sea wall to catch harmless sea mammals and fish. These sea mammals need a refuge. Don't take this refuge away.
Linda Alcorne	ozona	FL	34660	United States	10/30/12	I love this river
Douglas Brown	Lake City	FL	32024	United States	10/30/12	We need to do everything we can to protect manatees and Florida's springs.
Heather Crauswell	Lakeland	FL	33810	United States	10/30/12	because all living creatures need saving they all have the right to live life and grow old and not to be killed.
Allison Falconer	Boston	MA	2115	United States	10/30/12	I love manatees!

						Degradation of habitat has already occurred on both of these spring-fed rivers since the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters, and NO further degradation should be allowed to occur..... loss or significant reduction in essential habitat to Florida's Manatees is harmful not only to the species but harmful to the state and its people.
Shane Shah	apopka	FL	32712	United States	10/30/12	
Bryan/Amy Mackora	Melbourne Beach	FL	32951	United States	10/30/12	Please protect this wonderful creature that lives in our state!
susan primeau	Homosassa	FL	34448	United States	10/30/12	I live w/ manatees in my area and manatees are marveled by people from all over the world.
Robin Gibson	Sorrento	FL	32776	United States	10/30/12	Save our Spring Water From Big Businesses that want to move in and deplete Florida aquifers for self profit. Such as the cattle Barron who wants thousands of gallons per day!

From: [Dianna Brass](#)
To: [Gwen Brown](#); [Jet Houser](#); [Doug Leeper](#)
Cc: [EXE LeadershipTeam](#); [Mike Heyl](#); [Ron Basso](#); [Virginia Singer](#); [Debby Weeks](#)
Subject: FW: Log Entry # 1.11.147687 10-30-2012 Dale McClellan Agricultural Alliance of Citrus County
Date: Tuesday, October 30, 2012 8:52:13 AM

FYI...

Dianna Brass
SWFWMD Board & Exec. Svcs.
352-796-7211, Ext.4604

-----Original Message-----

From: CollabAdmin [<mailto:collabadmin@swfwmd.state.fl.us>]
Sent: Tuesday, October 30, 2012 8:47 AM
To: Dianna Brass; Kenneth R. Herd
Subject: Log Entry # 1.11.147687 10-30-2012 Dale McClellan Agricultural Alliance of Citrus County

Please click on the following link to open the document(s) (from a computer connected to District Network only)

<http://ecmvmprod01.ad.swfwmd.net/gm/folder-1.11.147687>

Subject: Supports District staff's recommendation regarding minimum flows and levels (MFLs) for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Following is the tracking information for the above information:

Log#: 1.11.147687
Assigned To: Kenneth Herd
Assigned By: Dianna Brass
Date Assigned: 10-30-2012
Date Completed: 10-30-2012
Date Required:

Source: Dale McClellan Agricultural Alliance of Citrus County
Instructions: For your information and appropriate disposition.
Copy to EXE Leadership Team, Doug Leeper, Mike Heyl, Ron Basso, Virginia Singer; Debby Weeks
Action Taken: Hard copies provided to Governing Board members

Information Routed To: lou.kavouras@swfwmd.state.fl.us

Agricultural Alliance



of
Citrus County

*A Voice for Agriculture
in Citrus County*

October 29, 2012

PO Box 235
Lecanto, FL 34460

Paul Senft
Chairman District Governing Board
2379 Broad St.
Brooksville, FL 34604

Re: Support of SWFWMD staff MFL recommendations

Dear Chairman Senft,

The Agricultural Alliance of Citrus County supports SWFWMD staff recommendations regarding minimum flow recommendation for Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers. We endorse the staff's science-based decision making process based on the habitat or biological resource most sensitive to reduced flow. A broad spectrum of habitat and biological responses were evaluated for both the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa River system and incorporated into the final analyses supporting development of the minimum flow recommendations.

The determination of Minimum Flows and Levels (MFL) for these water bodies has the potential to greatly affect future growth of agricultural which ultimately impacts the local economy. If MFL's are set too high, expansion of agricultural crops, public utilities and/or growth within the community can be jeopardized. This being the case, we strongly support the research-based MFL recommendations brought forth by SWFWMD scientists and staff.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Dale McClellan

Dale McClellan, Chairman
Agricultural Alliance of Citrus County
(813) 309-2193

Chassahowitzka, Homosassa Flow Rates Debate Continues

By Keith Morelli

A proposal to set minimum flow levels on two spring-fed rivers that are popular haunts for manatees has raised the hackles of some activists.

They complain that the plan will lead to lower river levels and saltwater intrusion and leave the manatees without a source of temperate water in the winter.

But officials with the agency that sets the minimum flows say the effect will be just the opposite. By gauging the flow of the rivers, greater protections can be imposed, they say, particularly on nearby groundwater withdrawals that might reduce the amount of springwater flowing into the rivers' headwaters.

The governing board of the Southwest Florida Water Management District will meet in Brooksville today to discuss the plan to set minimum flow levels for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa rivers. The rivers are along the coast near the Hernando-Citrus county line, 50-some miles north of Tampa.

Both rivers are ecological marvels year-round and manatee havens in the winter when scores of sea cows swim into the warm springs. Both rivers are designated Outstanding Florida Waters, and the move to set minimum standards is being seen by some as a way to allow more groundwater withdrawals, which in turn, they say, would further degrade the rivers.

The minimum flow should be 100 percent of what comes out of the ground, they say, and no less.

Hope Corona, of Homosassa, is leading the charge. She has obtained 9,500 online signatures on a petition she plans to present to the board today.

"For generations, Florida's endangered manatees have come to these springs to survive the winter," she said in an announcement released Monday by Change.org, which publicizes petition efforts on its website. If any reduction in flow is allowed, she said, "manatees will suffer and so will local businesses that depend on eco-tourism."

The petition states:

"Any reduction in freshwater flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the salty water of the Gulf of Mexico or, in the worse case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of freshwater to the springs entirely, making them too brackish to support any of the freshwater species presently living there and too cold to provide live-saving thermal refuge to endangered manatees during winter months."

The plans to set minimum flows for the two rivers by the district, which oversees water resources in a 16-county region of West Central Florida, is required by state law.

Public workshops and meetings have been going on for more than two years. In all, district officials say, 30 meetings with the public have been held to get everyone's concerns documented.

In the past two years, the staff has tweaked its numbers, increasing the initial minimum flows to 91 percent in the Chassahowitzka and 97 percent in the Homosassa.

District officials say there is no plan to reduce the flow of the rivers to those numbers. Rather, they say, it's to set a minimum limit, established through scientific research, at which significant ecological damage would occur.

Hydrologists and biologists study all sorts of data to determine the lowest flow point at which substantial harm to the environment would result, including effects on flora and fauna and water quality.

"We look at each river, the variety of different things there, the impacts of creatures in the soil, creatures that float through the water column, the impact on vegetation, saltwater levels and dissolved oxygen levels," said district spokesman Michael Mulligan.

Setting the levels means it will be more difficult to obtain water-use permits around the river and establishes a framework where flows will be monitored on a regular basis. The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa flows already are reduced by less than 1 percent because of nearby wells that draw springwater for human use.

The Chassahowitzka River is about five miles south of the Homosassa River and includes more than a dozen freshwater springs. The Homosassa River includes more than 20 springs.



Compromise on minimum flows

Board to allow withdrawals of 3 percent from Homosassa, Chassahowitzka rivers

By Abdon Sidibe

Tuesday, October 30, 2012 at 9:00 pm (Updated: October 30, 9:51 pm)

BROOKSVILLE — The effort to set Minimum Flows and Levels (MFLs) for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa rivers sailed through, but not without a few changes and a chorus of opponents.



Matthew Beck

More than 125 people packed into the Southwest Florida Water Management District board room Tuesday to offer thoughts and opinions on proposed minimum flow levels on the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

The Governing Board of the Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD) voted 8-1 to OK a pared-down recommendation from the district staff for MFLs at the two river systems. Board member Jeff Adams of Pinellas County voted against the measure.

From the beginning of the nearly six hours of deliberations and impassioned speeches, SWFWMD officials held to a premise — that the environmental degradation happening in those river systems is, in the main, not caused by water withdrawal and they have science to back up their claims.

However, locals and environmental advocates insisted withdrawals or flow levels have everything to do with the health of the rivers and springs.

The board voted to set the MFLs for each river at 3 percent. The SWFWMD staff recommendation was initially for 3 and 9 percent respectively for the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka rivers.

Mark Hammond, head of SWFWMD's Resource Management Division, told an overflow crowd and the board that efforts to set MFLs for the two river systems began in 2005 and that they "extended the process in April 2011" because of concerns some people had with the proposal.

Hammond said the agency came up with the most protective regime for these rivers — stronger than for all other rivers except one.

He said SWFWMD believes the environmental degradation issues brought up by opponents of the proposals may be caused by poor rainfall amounts — a 20 to 30 percent drop — rising sea levels and nutrient levels.

The water withdrawal levels, which are currently at 1 percent, are not a significant contributing factor, Hammon insisted.

But a series of speakers, including former lawmakers Nancy Argenziano and Helen Spivey, former Citrus County Commission candidate Theodora Rusnak and other residents of Citrus County made impassioned pleas to board members to either keep the withdrawal levels at the present rate or make efforts to restore the river systems. Argenziano is currently running as an Independent against incumbent Republican State Rep. Jimmie T. Smith.

Boyd Blihovde, of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, said while he supports MFLs, he thought the percentages in these proposals were too high and would imperil the manatees and other aquatic life in the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka rivers.

Board member Jennifer Closshey of Hillsborough County broke down as she made her case against the proposal.

Closshey argued for looking at the big-picture impact of the proposals, including economic impact and the possible introduction of a water-use caution area.

"There is not going to be any manatee left if we don't say it's a caution area," Closshey said in response to suggestions of going along with the proposals as they were and revisiting them at a later date.

She initially proposed setting the MFLs at 1 percent, but SWFWMD staff said setting it at that level would require a study and consultation with stakeholders to determine alternative sources of potable water and to come up with plans for restoration of the river systems. All those efforts will require money and time, some on the board noted, and they are bound by state law to come up with the MFLs.

After agreeing to come to a resolution, board attorney Laura Donaldson came back with an 8-point compromise.

The compromise reduced Chassahowitzka's withdrawal percentage by 6 points, while leaving Homosassa's unchanged.

District staff, Donaldson said, will be instructed to develop the framework for a "water use cautionary area" for Hernando and Citrus counties and present it to the board in June 2013. Cautionary areas require more stringent water withdrawal permit rules.

The compromise also requires MFLs be reviewed every six years.

Closshey said she hoped opponents of the proposals were happy with the compromise. "It is protective as we can be at this time," she said.

Hope Corona, who has been leading a petition drive against the proposal, said after the meeting she was pleased with the result. "I am relieved it's not 9 percent. I am pleased."

Chronicle reporter A.B. Sidibe can be reached at 352-564-2925 or asidibe@chronicleonline.com.

Hundreds Turn Out To Argue Limits on Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

By Craig Pittman, Times Staff Writer

BROOKSVILLE — About 200 people turned out Tuesday to tell a state water agency to reject a proposal that would allow up to 15 percent of the natural habitat along the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa rivers to be destroyed.

"It's a question of values," Jan Howie of the Florida Native Plant Society told the board. "Do we really want to reduce the habitat in these rivers by 15 percent? Why would we not want to maintain 100 percent of the habitat in these rivers?"

Ultimately the Southwest Florida Water Management District's governing board, after listening to about three hours of testimony, decided to back off what its staff was recommending — but not as much as what the crowd had wanted.

The vote by the agency commonly known as "Swiftmud" is likely to mean changes for residents and businesses in Citrus and Hernando counties as they are likely to start seeing efforts to clamp down on excess irrigation and other water uses.

Swiftmud and Florida's other four water districts are setting what are called "minimum flows and levels" for Florida's major waterways. The idea is to figure out how much more those rivers, springs and lakes can be drained for water supply purposes before causing environmental problems.

The law requiring the agencies to set those minimums calls for avoiding "significant harm," but does not define what that means. Swiftmud's experts ran computer models to check how various levels of cutbacks in the flow would affect the rivers as habitat for manatees, fish, birds and other flora and fauna.

Ultimately, they concluded that a 15 percent reduction in the wildlife habitat would constitute "significant harm." Then they calculated how much water could be taken out without hitting that 15 percent mark.

In the Chassahowitzka, that would mean cutting the flow no more than 9 percent, the Swiftmud staff said, and in the Homosassa that would mean cutting the flow no more than 3 percent.

Among the hundreds of people who objected to that proposed limit: Boyd Blihovde, deputy manager of the Chassahowitzka National Wildlife Refuge.

"If the flows on the Chassahowitzka are reduced by 9 percent it will have a devastating impact on Florida manatees, migratory birds, blue crabs, the American alligator and many more species," Blihovde said.

Former legislator Nancy Argenziano told board members they should aim to do better than what the law requires. " 'Significant harm' is not something we should aspire to," she said.

Many of the people who testified told the board they feared increased pumping of water from the aquifer and increased pollution flowing into the rivers had already damaged them, leading to increased saltiness and changes in the wildlife. Saltwater barnacles are showing up on boats in what used to be the freshwater part of the rivers, for instance.

However, Swiftmud resource management division director Mark Hammond said computer models showed that sea level rise and a long drought had been the real culprits, with groundwater pumping only a minor contributing factor.

"The drawdown is not the culprit of the degraded river?" Swiftmud board member Carlos Beruff asked, sounding dubious.

"That's our belief," Hammond told him.

Ultimately the board struck a compromise, agreeing to a limit on cutting the flow on both the Homosassa and the Chassahowitzka of 3 percent and agreeing to re-evaluate those flow limits in six years. And they told the staff to start working on creating a "water use caution area" for that region, classifying those two counties as an area where water resources are or will become critical in the next 20 years and creating a plan for cutting back on use

From: Bob Knight [<mailto:bknight@floridaspringsinstitute.org>]

Sent: Friday, October 19, 2012 4:47 PM

To: 'jadams@abbeyadams.com'; 'michael@2riversranch.net'; 'margoh@medallionhome.com'; 'jclosshey@ideas-innovations.com'; 'info@conservationfoundation.com'; 'rsmaggard@gmail.com'; 'todd@pressmaninc.com'; 'senft1hp2u@aol.com'; 'dtharp@embarqmail.com'; 'wendygiesygriffin@gmail.com'

Cc: blake.quillory@watermatters.org; Mark.Hammond@swfwmd.state.fl.us;

'lou.kavouras@watermatters.org'; 'chris.zajac@watermatters.org'

Subject: Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Spring MFLs

Dear GB Members:

I hope to be able to attend the SWFWMD Governing Board meeting on October 30 to hear your deliberations concerning these two spring MFLs. Unfortunately, I may need to miss the meeting due to the Spring Ecosystems class I teach at the University of Florida on Tuesday and Thursday mornings. In case I am not able to make the meeting, I want to provide you with a brief list of thoughts and a few suggestions for your consideration:

1. MFLs are an important tool for protection of adequate flows and levels to protect springs from significant harm. The Florida Springs Institute applauds your investment in staff and consultant resources to evaluate and recommend protective springs MFLs.
2. Research conducted over the past two decades by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and the state's water management districts has indicated that many if not most of the state's springs are already impaired in terms of reduced flows and water quality. These impacts are apparent to the thousands of individuals who routinely visit these springs for purposes of recreation, research, and commercial endeavors.
3. There is considerable disagreement and scientific uncertainty concerning the causes for reduced spring flows. We know reductions in spring flows result from a combination of changes in both rainfall and groundwater pumping. Estimated groundwater pumping rates in the SWFWMD are currently about 1.1 billion gallons per day. In the absence of pumping much of this water would instead be contributing to average spring flows.
4. Your groundwater model estimates that existing flows in these two springs have been reduced on average by only one percent as a result of existing pumping rates. While this conclusion is arguable it is interesting to note that this estimated one percent is currently supplying the

groundwater needs for the existing populations in much of Citrus and Hernando Counties along the Springs Coast.

5. Your staff is planning to recommend an allowable maximum reduction in flows at Chassahowitzka of nine percent and three percent at Homosassa. These proposed reductions appear to be well beyond existing and future needs if current uses are only requiring about one percent of these springs flows.
6. Considering the importance of these springs to the economy of the District and the impairments these springs have already experienced, it does not appear to be prudent to allow any additional reductions in the flows at these springs.
7. As a compromise, please consider following a more cautious approach by allowing an interim maximum flow reduction of two percent for each spring. Based on your staff's analysis, this increase should provide adequate groundwater availability for another 20 to 40 years. With implementation of an ongoing assessment program at these springs, you can direct your staff to continue to monitor the health of these springs and to revisit these MFLs in ten years.

The public is very interested in protecting flows at these two spring systems. In your MFL deliberations please honor the Hippocratic Oath of "*Primum non nocere*" (First, Do No Harm). It is easier and less costly to avoid an additional impact to these springs than it is to fix them later.

Thank you for your efforts to effectively manage our precious water resources.

Bob

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