



Patti McLauchlin
City Manager
City of Key West

THE CITY OF KEY WEST

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TO: Steven Blackburn, EPA Region 4, South Florida Program
FROM: Patti McLauchlin, City Manager, City of Key West
RE: Letter of Commitment

Dear Mr. Blackburn,

The City of Key West submits this letter of commitment to the College of the Florida Keys' grant application titled: "Monitoring anthropogenic sources of pollution and contaminants of emerging concern (CECs) around Key West, Florida" : A partnership between the City of Key West and the College of the Florida Keys.

The City of Key West has a long history of being proactive on water quality issues. Key West was the first local government in the Keys and most of South Florida to convert from septic to sewers in 1989, eliminating outfalls. Our Wastewater Treatment Plant is award winning and state of the art, treating to Advanced Wastewater Treatment standards before deep well injection.

Now we are embarking on a new collaboration with the College of the Florida Keys to increase available data on the state of our nearshore waters and use that data to create a Water Quality Improvement Plan. The plan will engage partners from the Sanctuary's Water Quality Protection Program to help us interpret the data to our community, while prioritizing actions that are within the City's purview. It is our intent to lead the pack once again, so that other Florida Keys municipalities can follow suite.

The data that the College of the Florida Keys will provide is essential in the development of our Water Quality Improvement Plan. In the wake of State preemption, we need to add to the knowledge of Chemicals of Emerging Concern like oxybenzone. Without monitoring data of our mooring fields, we cannot ensure that current pump out mandates are working. Water quality data from Key West Harbor and Shipping Channel will inform important decisions that balance economy and environment. This grant will ensure that the City has the best available data to move forward with.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Patti McLauchlin".

Patti McLauchlin
City Manager

Key to the Caribbean – Average yearly temperature 77° F.