Keri O'Brien

From: Samuel Kaufman
Sent: Wednesday, September 2, 2026 11:03 AM
To: Alison Higgins
Cc: Brian L. Barroso; Rod Delostrinos; Michael J. Turner; Patrick Wright; Keri O'Brien; Kendal Harden; Dorian E. Patton
Subject: Re: Water Quality Questions? (do not reply all)

Mr. Barroso,

Ahead of the Stantec presentation, I would like to provide the questions below in advance. My goal is to focus the discussion on the most relevant and actionable issues without overwhelming the presenters.

1. Overall adequacy and next steps:
Based on Stantec's professional judgment, will the City's current monitoring program provide scientifically reliable information about the condition of Key West's nearshore waters and meaningful changes over time? What are the most important gaps, and what should the City prioritize in the next phase of monitoring?

2. Parameters and potential pollution sources:
Are we testing the appropriate parameters, including turbidity, suspended sediment, nutrients, dissolved oxygen, bacteria and contaminants? Should future monitoring include appropriate indicators associated with vessel activity, including scrubber discharge, ballast water and graywater?

3. Locations:
Are we monitoring the right locations to evaluate the harbor, ship channel, beaches, marinas, stormwater-influenced waters and sensitive marine habitats? Could future monitoring specifically include the Riviera Canal, Sunrise Canal and Lake McKillip?

4. Continuous monitoring, turbidity and sediment movement:
Should the City incorporate continuous or high-frequency monitoring in the harbor and ship channel? Could the Yellow Man monitoring station be used for this purpose, and what parameters can it reliably measure? Can monitoring and, where appropriate, remote sensing help identify significant turbidity events and determine whether disturbed sediment moves toward seagrass, coral or other sensitive habitat?

5. Identifying causes, using existing data and responding to events:
Can the program help distinguish among potential causes of water-quality changes—including vessels, dredging, storms, stormwater, wastewater and marinas? How should existing City, FIU, NOAA, College of the Florida Keys and other datasets be incorporated? Can Stantec recommend objective thresholds or triggers for additional sampling, investigation or mitigation when significant events occur?

6. Transparency and reporting:
Can results, trends, exceedances and significant events be presented through regular reports or a publicly accessible format so the Commission and community can readily understand what the monitoring is showing?

I would also like the Dr. Rice DEP report added to the agenda materials so that it is available as part of the Commission's discussion and public record. Please ask the City Attorney and appropriate staff whether the City can formally transmit or submit the report to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and U.S.

Environmental Protection Agency as an official City submission, and what Commission action, if any, would be required.

My objective is for this discussion to help us determine where the City's monitoring program should go next and how we can develop a scientifically sound, transparent and actionable long-term program.

Thank you,

Sam Kaufman
Mayor
City of Key West, Florida

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From: Alison Higgins <ahiggins@cityofkeywest-fl.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, 01 September 2026 10:52:02
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Cc: Brian L. Barroso <brian.barroso@cityofkeywest-fl.gov>; Rod Delostrinos <rdelostrinos@cityofkeywest-fl.gov>; Michael J. Turner <mturner@cityofkeywest-fl.gov>; Patrick Wright <patrick.wright@cityofkeywest-fl.gov>; Keri O'Brien <kobrien@cityofkeywest-fl.gov>; Kendal Harden <kendal.harden@cityofkeywest-fl.gov>; Dorian E. Patton <dpatton@cityofkeywest-fl.gov>
Subject: Water Quality Questions? (do not reply all)

Hello Commissioners,

Stantec is looking forward to presenting on our Water Quality progress during Thursday evening's Commission discussion.

They invite Commissioners to submit any questions you would like to ask in advance.

Questions may be sent to me by or before this Wednesday night, and I will compile and forward to the team Thursday morning.

Remember to not reply all 😊

Thank you,

Alison Higgins
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