**Southern Everglades & Florida Bay Restoration Agency Meeting**

Wednesday, Dec. 12, 2018 from 9:30am – 4:30pm • **Public comment taken at 2pm and 4pm**

Founder’s Park Community Center, Islamorada • 87000 Overseas Hwy, Islamorada, FL 33036

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, South Florida Water Management District, National Park Service, and government agencies will be meeting in Islamorada to discuss restoration of Florida Bay. These decision-makers must hear from locals who depend on clean water for their lives and livelihoods. Please plan to attend and speak about why Florida Bay is important to you, your family, and your business – and why we must send clean water to save Florida Bay.

Important talking points for the meeting include:

* State and federal agencies have spent over a decade planning restoration projects to deliver more freshwater to Florida Bay. We appreciate your efforts to get where we are today.
* Thank you for hosting this meeting in Monroe County so that people who live and work on the water can have their voices heard. Our ask is simple – send as much clean, freshwater to Florida Bay as possible with the infrastructure that has been built for exactly this purpose.
* Clean water is the lifeblood of the Florida Keys’ economy. Our businesses and especially our tourism economy cannot survive unless we send more clean water south.
* According to a 2017 economic report by Andrew Stainback, Florida Bay provides:
  + $455 million annually in ecosystem services including storm surge protection
  + $213 million annually in recreational angling revenue to the local economy
  + $458 million annually to commercial and recreational fisheries
  + $1.2 billion to the value of single family homes in the Florida Keys
* American taxpayers have spent nearly a **billion dollars** over the past 30 years on restoration projects to save Everglades National Park and Florida Bay. We want a billion dollars worth of benefits, and we need it now.
* When the agencies met in Homestead last August, there was a lot of concern from Florida Bay advocates that none of the project alternatives on the table will save Florida Bay. Since then, and with that feedback, the agencies have worked on a new option (“Alternative O”) that delivers more water, in the right location, to Florida Bay. Thank you for prioritizing the needs of our community, of the Everglades, and of the Bay in this new alternative.
* Alternative O is the only option that gives hope for the future of Florida Bay!
* There is still more work to be done as the alternatives are refined, but we are encouraged to see this new alternative and appreciate the agencies including the voice of the Keys in this important restoration process.

Questions? Cara Capp, National Parks Conservation Association

305-546-6689 (call / text anytime) or email [ccapp@npca.org](mailto:ccapp@npca.org)