

DEVELOPING: NEW STORMWATER CONTROL POLICY

Eight volunteer members that form a policy subcommittee under the Government Affairs Committee at NABOR® are closely watching a draft ordinance by the City of Naples that would change code requirements and increase retention and detention capabilities for a development site's or existing structure's storm water management system.

In an effort to mitigate flood issues and improve water quality, city officials want to accelerate compliance that would require all structures, with limited exemptions, be equipped with storm water management systems. The cost to input a storm water management system varies widely. Engineers at Collier Building Industry Association estimate it costing anywhere from \$25,000 on the low end to more than 10X that cost to retro fit a system on a detached single family home!

City staff and Council are also discussing how it should enforce the policy for existing structures. One suggestion that could create complications for homeowners is to enforce compliance at the time of sale or transfer of ownership. This could add a serious financial burden to many families living in the city limits. NABOR® will continue to monitor this proposed ordinance and provide advocacy and expertise to city officials as amendments to the ordinance are made in coming weeks.

Water Quality Advisory



As the voice of REALTORS® in the Naples area, NABOR® has and will always advocate for action to reduce or eliminate any man-made or environmental threats to home ownership, property values and the living standards in Florida.

Collier County Public Utilities Responds: FLORIDA WATER TREATMENT PLANT HACKED

On February 5th, a hacker breached a remote access system at a water treatment plant in Oldsmar, Florida, and briefly increased the amount of sodium hydroxide by a factor of one hundred (from 100 parts per million to 11,100 parts per million).

A supervisor physically working at the plant and watching a system monitor saw a mouse controlled by the intruder move across the screen and change settings. The supervisor was able to quickly intervene and immediately reverse the changes.

Sodium hydroxide (aka lye) is used to treat water acidity at water treatment plants, but the compound is also found in cleaning supplies including drain cleaners. It can cause irritation, burns and other complications in large quantities.

According to a statement released by Collier County Public Utilities,

“ the department takes water safety very seriously and has in place security measures to protect the drinking water supply. A dedicated critical infrastructure security office is responsible for the physical and operational security programs that safeguard the county’s water, wastewater, and solid and

STUDY SHOWS U.S. RIVER COLORS ARE CHANGING

According to a recent study, “The Color of Rivers,” published in *Geophysical Research Letters* and conducted by scientists at University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, et.al., America’s rivers have significantly changed in color over the last 34 years. Using satellite remote sensing records from NASA between 1984 to 2018, the researchers measured the color of rivers across the United States and determined that large rivers have distinct seasonal patterns in color that change with river flow, and that the dominant color in one third of rivers had significantly changed.



Water color changes can be seen with the human eye, and is linked to water quality which is related to the amount of sediment, algae, and dissolved organic carbon found in water. By measuring the color of rivers

using NASA satellites, the scientists found 56% of observed river satellite images were dominantly yellow, and 38% dominantly green.

In essence, over 11,000 miles of U.S. rivers became greener, which might indicate heightened levels of algae. The researchers found 2% of rivers in America have shifted from yellow to green. The study concluded that long-view observations of water color can pinpoint rivers undergoing rapid environmental change.

Sources: Borenstein, Seth. One-third of America's rivers have changed color since 1984. ABC News. Jan 7, 2021. Gardner, J. R., Yang, X., Topp, S. N., Ross, M. R., V., Altenau, E. H., & Pavelsky, T. M. (2021). The color of rivers. Geophysical Research Letters, 48, e2020GL088946.



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Treatment Plant Hack, continued from page 1

hazardous waste operations. The county’s information technology security team uses a variety of security measures to keep systems safe following guidelines from federal agencies such as DHS, FBI and NIST. Water quality is continuously monitored onsite 24/7/365 by state-certified operators and laboratory personnel. Process control testing is conducted hourly to ensure a safe and reliable source of drinking water.”

The FBI was called in to investigate the Oldsmar plant attack. If found, the person who conducted the hack would likely face state felony charges, with the potential for federal charges depending on the circumstances, such as the place where the hack originated.

\$250M FOR EVERGLADES RESTORATION IN 2021

Approved by Congress, Florida will receive a bump in federal monies to help it sustain many important water quality projects in 2021. President Trump originally allocated \$63 million to Everglades Restoration in the budget, but increased it to \$250 million after touring Lake Okeechobee with U.S. senators from Florida. Approval means this is the push Florida needed to continue a massive reservoir to clean the polluted water that flows from the lake. Construction of the reservoir, according to the Army Corps of Engineers, is estimated to cost \$1.6 billion. Florida received \$200 million for restoration from the federal government in 2020.

RESOURCES

[Calusa WaterKeeper](#)

[Captains for Clean Water](#)

[Collier County WaterKeeper](#)

[Collier County Watershed Management Plan](#)

[Daily Red Tide Reports](#)

[protectingfloridatogether.gov](#)