



# Hillsborough River Interlocal Planning Board & Technical Advisory Council

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December 7, 2015

Ms. Janet Llewelyn, Policy Administrator, Office of Water Policy  
Florida Department of Environmental Protection  
2600 Blair Stone Road  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-2400

Re: Morris Bridge Sink Project

Dear Ms. Llewelyn:

The Hillsborough River Interlocal Planning Board was created by the Florida Legislature to coordinate and monitor activities and developments within the Hillsborough River corridor to ensure the health and wellbeing of the river. The Hillsborough River Interlocal Planning Board OPPOSES the issuance of a Consumptive Use Permit for the Morris Bridge Sink.

The technical report submitted at the workshop by Michael (Sid) Flannery, former Chief Environmental Scientist of the SWFWMD, entitled, "Technical Concerns That Support a Recommendation for the Re-evaluation of the Minimum Flows Recovery Strategy for the Lower Hillsborough River", dated November 4, 2015 shows that adequate alternatives for augmentation to the Lower Hillsborough River are already available and another source (Blue Sink) will soon be available.

We note that DEP is legally bound to deny any permit where there is not the necessary "Reasonable Assurance", at the time of permit issuance, that the withdrawals will not result in adverse environmental impacts. We conclude that adequate scientific evidence has not been submitted by the applicant to show that adverse environmental impacts to wetlands and other natural resources will not result from the pumping of water from Morris Bridge Sink. The Department and the Water Management District should strive to prevent harm to natural systems without the need for artificial maintenance by pumped groundwater augmentation, especially in pristine and sensitive environments.

The installation of pumping facilities and needless alteration of this unique natural resource to provide minimum flows to an over-permitted, highly urbanized river, when other sources to supply adequate minimum flows already exist, is not in the best interest of the public or the region's natural resources.

One of the fundamental principles of a minimum flows recovery strategy should

## Hillsborough River Board

Hillsborough County  
Commission

◆  
Tampa City Council

◆  
Temple Terrace  
City Council

## Technical Advisory Council

Southwest Florida  
Water Management  
District

◆  
Environmental Protection  
Commission of  
Hillsborough County

◆  
Tampa Port Authority

◆  
Hillsborough County  
City-County Planning  
Commission

◆  
Tampa Bay Regional  
Planning Council

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Florida Department  
of Environmental  
Protection

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Temple Terrace  
Citizen

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Tampa Citizen

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Hillsborough  
County Citizen

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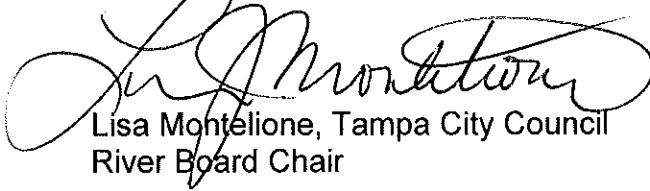
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be to not extend adverse impacts to other natural resources. This project does extend adverse impacts and we encourage the FDEP not to issue this permit.

Should you have any questions please contact Shawn College, River Board Executive Director, at (813) 273-3774 x367.

We greatly appreciate your consideration.

Regards,



Lisa Montelione, Tampa City Council  
River Board Chair