

May 2006 Public Comment: Joyce Tarnow

Please enter my comments into the public record regarding the lack of offshore water quality monitoring by Broward County, Florida.

I have lived in Pompano Beach for thirty-one years. There has been an explosion of development in this city but the city has in the past been derelict in managing our near shore drinking water wells. I had to take action in the way of an administrative proceeding through the South Florida Water Management District as the city had operated for eight years without a consumptive use water permit.

We have a fishing pier jutting out into the ocean just North of Atlantic Boulevard. The restaurant, small shops and lavatories at the pier have a constant smell of sewage despite some efforts to improve a lift pump that handles the sewage line. That has been one of the constant problems at the pier.

The other problem has been periodically recurring high bacterial counts making it necessary to close the beach to bathers. The studies were inconclusive as to what was causing the high bacterial counts but the most favored explanation was that the pigeons were causing the problem.

We need to monitor and enforce appropriate measures that will protect our offshore reefs. The majority of our city commission has been negligent in protecting the quality of our ocean recreation. They even had the audacity to pay an amount of money to some organization that certifies Pompano Beach as something called a Blue Beach (or some euphemism indicating a health beach, which it is not always healthy).

Please take my comments into consideration as you discuss a plan to protect Florida's valuable reef system. There is already too much disease with our corals up and down the coastline.

Joyce Tarnow, President
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<http://www.flsuspop.org>

(Check out our video, "Phantom Future", at the link to Florida Store on our Home Page. The footage on Reef Relief in the Florida Keys is another statement of our lack of protection.)