

May 2, 2024

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT: FL KEYS POTABLE WATER CONTAMINATION

A recent University of Florida peer reviewed study showed that Monroe County has the highest levels of PFAS contaminants of all Florida counties (Crowdsourcing citizens for statewide mapping of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in Florida drinking water: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.scitotenv.2024.171932>). Each of the 13 sources tested across the Keys demonstrated these high levels of PFAS. These levels exceed recently adjusted EPA safe standards by over 20 times.

The report states that the potable water supply in the FL Keys is contaminated with PFAS, a set of pollutants linked to: (Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substance Toxicity and Human Health Review: Current State of Knowledge and Strategies for informing Future Research:

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7906952/>)

- Several forms of cancer: testicular, kidney, breast
- Thyroid disease
- Liver damage
- Cholesterol level increase
- Inflammatory bowel disease
- Obesity
- Risks to unborn children (short and long term)
 - o Miscarriage risk
 - o Low birth weight babies
 - o Pregnancy hypertension
 - o Early onset puberty
 - o Low sperm count
 - o Delayed mammary gland development

The Florida Keys Environmental Coalition (FKEC.org) is working to raise awareness for the Keys community, as part of our appointed responsibilities under a series of unanimous resolutions to represent ecosystem health to all elected governmental bodies in Monroe County. The FL Keys Aqueduct Authority (FKAA) administers and provides the central potable water supply for all of the Keys. These revised EPA standards need to be met as quickly as possible to protect our public health.

Our FKAA must ensure that the drinking water of the Florida Keys is safe to drink. There must be no shortcuts, or “acceptable risks” allowed. The amount of tax revenue generated by the Florida Keys to our State government more than justifies providing whatever is necessary to maintain the supply of safe drinking water and to expedite complete resolution to this contamination.

We believe that our citizens can greatly expedite this process by demonstrating urgency through letter and email writing, and phone calls expressing vital concern in a unified voice.

Please include the following to all elected and administration officials listed below (Contact List) along with your personal comments:

“Safe drinking water is the right of every citizen of the Florida Keys, including visitors. Please actively support Executive Director, Greg Veliz, FKAA, to as rapidly as possible, design and execute a plan that will preserve and protect our community, this amazing archipelago and the economic engine it supports.

Please protect our families!!”

To copy FKEC.org on any emails sent please use: support@fkec.org

Barry Wray, Executive Director

Contact List:

FL Dept of Envir Prot (Ombudsman): Public.Services@FloridaDEP.gov (850) 245-2118

Governor Ron DeSantis: <https://www.flgov.com/email-the-governor/> (850) 717-9337

Congressman Carlos Gimenez: <https://gimenez.house.gov/contact> (305) 292-4485 (KW)

Senator Marco Rubio: <https://www.rubio.senate.gov/contact/> (202)-224-3041

Senator Rick Scott: <https://www.rickscott.senate.gov/contact/contact> (786) 501-7141 (MIA)

State Representative Jim Mooney:
<https://www.myfloridahouse.gov/Sections/Representatives/contactmember.aspx?MemberId=4797&SessionId=103> (305) 453-1202 (KL)

State Senator Ana Maria Rodriguez: <https://flsenate.gov/Senators/S40> (305) 470-2552 (Dor)

Administrator of the EPA, Michael Regan: Regan.Michael@epa.gov (202) 564-4700

President Joseph Biden: president@whitehouse.gov; <https://www.whitehouse.gov/contact/>
Comments: 202-456-1111; Switchboard: 202-456-1414; (TTY/TTD): 202-456-6213

Board of County Comm: county_commissioners@monroecounty-fl.gov (305) 294-4641

Village of Islamorada: buddy.Pinder@islamorada.fl.us (Mayor) (305) 664-6400

City of Marathon: council@ci.marathon.fl.us (305) 743-0033

City of Key West: Mayor@cityofkeywest-fl.gov (305) 809-3844

City of Layton: cityhall@cityoflayton.com (305) 664-4667

City of Key Colony Beach: Mayor@KeyColonyBeach.net (305) 289-1212 ext 111