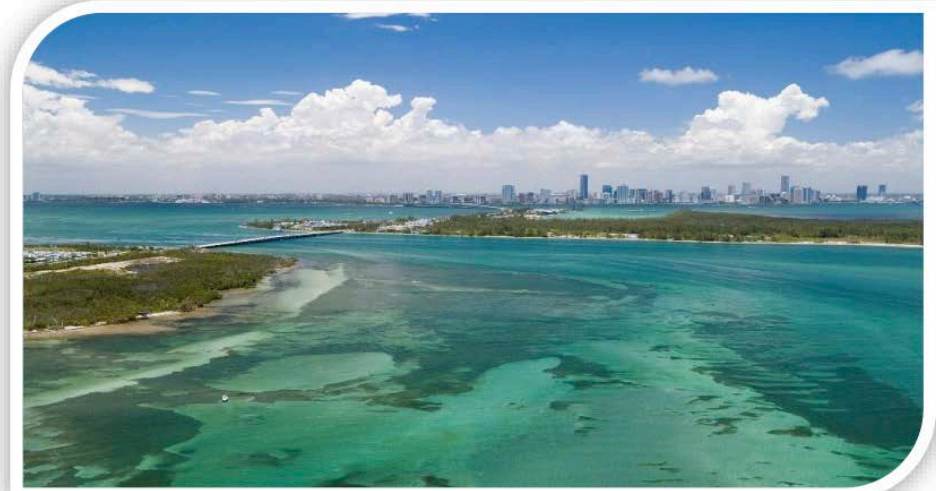


# Biscayne Bay Recovery Plan Summary of Biscayne Bay Task Force Recommendations



## A Unified Approach to Recovery for a Healthy & Resilient Biscayne Bay

*Biscayne Bay Task Force Report and Recommendations*

*June 2020*

### **Biscayne Bay Task Force Members**

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# Overarching Recommendations

**A unified and collaborative approach to watershed restoration is urgently needed.** To improve the water quality and the health of Biscayne Bay, the Task Force recommends:

- Miami-Dade County's Board of County Commissioners (BCC) should create a new intergovernmental body called the **Biscayne Bay Watershed Management Board (WMB)**.
- The WMB should be supported by the creation of a new position called the **Chief Bay Officer (CBO)** in the Office of the Mayor. The WMB and the CBO should be supported by County staff, appropriate technical experts and community input to improve water quality in the Biscayne Bay watershed.
- The WMB will be responsible to develop and, upon approval by the BCC, implement the **Biscayne Bay Watershed Restoration Plan (WRP)**. The WMB, working with the CBO, should ensure that the following recommendations by the Task Force are implemented.



# Improving the Water Quality in Biscayne Bay

	WATER QUALITY	BENCHMARK
1A	Establish science-based, pollutant load reduction goals and interim targets	Short-Term (S)
1B	Develop, implement and continuously monitor and demonstrate progress toward meeting 1A's pollutant load reduction goals and interim targets	Short-Term (S)
1C	Activate additional Department of Regulatory and Economic Resources' (RER) resource management functions	Immediate (I)
1D	County should conduct an immediate assessment of land-based hotspot areas prioritized based on existing, known impairments	Immediate (I)
1E	Review, develop (as needed), implement and enforce local ordinances and policies to attain pollution load reduction goals set forth in the Watershed Restoration Plan (WRP)	Short-Term (S)
1F	Coordinate, staff and provide an annual budget for comprehensive, centralized Biscayne Bay Watershed data and research coordination and data management infrastructure	Immediate (I)
1G	Undertake and secure funding for new pilot projects and research projects focused on reducing pollutant loads	Immediate (I)
1H	Elevate and further amend the Comprehensive Develop Master Plan (CDMP) to further include Biscayne Bay watershed management planning elements	Mid-Term (M)
1I	Conduct a climate change vulnerability assessment for Biscayne Bay	Short-Term (S)
1J	Initiate and fund studies that illuminate specific knowledge gaps for application toward watershed restoration	Immediate (I)
1K	Pass a county-wide fertilizer ordinance	Short-Term (S)
1L	Increase compliance of all marinas and commercial operations along waterways	Immediate (I)
1M	Continue to monitor the progress of the October 7th, 2015 Consent Agreement between FP&L and Miami-Dade County	Immediate (I)

# Government Action to Help Protect and Monitor Biscayne Bay

GOVERNANCE		
2A	Establish by ordinance a Biscayne Bay Watershed Management Board (WMB)	Immediate (I)
2B	The Mayor should appoint a Chief Bay Officer (CBO) and request funding for the position	Immediate (I)
2C	The WMB will, with technical and community recommendations, review, recommend funding for and implement the Watershed Restoration Plan (WRP)	Short-Term (S)
2D	Develop a formal partnership in the form of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the SFWMD	Immediate (I)
2E	Enable the alignment and coordination of County departments that takes a holistic, comprehensive approach to Biscayne Bay recovery and resilience	Immediate (I)
2F	Develop a formal partnership in the form of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Miami River Commission	Immediate (I)

# Critical Infrastructure Improvements to our Water System to Help Protect Biscayne Bay

INFRASTRUCTURE		
3A	Increase compliance with existing laws to result in the immediate connection of ~12,000 properties to the sewer system	Short-Term (S)
3B	Develop and enforce septic system design criteria with design parameters	Short-Term (S)
3C	Initiate a mandatory septic system registration and inspection program	Mid-Term (M)
3D	Undertake immediate efforts to identify and eliminate all root causes of Sanitary Sewer Overflows (SSO) including inflow and infiltration. Accelerate sewer infrastructure maintenance and upgrades	Short-Term (S)
3E	Develop and expedite a Condition Assessment and Asset Management Action Plan to document the condition of the County's wastewater system assets and certify all historical "As Builts" and/or those not already certified with a focus on identifying horizontal and vertical locations of main wastewater transmission lines	Short-Term (S)
3F	Enforce the existing code and update the stormwater design criteria to improve effectiveness and include advances in stormwater treatment technologies	Short-Term (S)
3G	Develop a plan to prioritize the retrofitting of stormwater infrastructure within basins with the most substantial water quality and/or habitat degradation issues	Short-Term (S)
3H	Eliminate direct and indirect stormwater discharges to Biscayne Bay	Mid-Term (M)
3I	Set policy that all As-Builts/Record Drawings are done and certified by a Florida Professional Surveyor and Mapper qualified and registered to do work in Miami-Dade County	Short-Term (S)
3J	Set policy to require during the design phase of future construction that all existing utilities are designated and located vertically and horizontally	Short-Term (S)
3K	Ensure that new infrastructure projects to address coastal flooding and storm surge that are cost-shared by the County adhere to the recommendations of this Task Force and prioritize Biscayne Bay health and resilience	Short-Term (S)

# Restoring Biscayne Bay's Watershed Habitat and Natural Infrastructure

## WATERSHED HABITAT RESTORATION AND NATURAL INFRASTRUCTURE

WATERSHED HABITAT RESTORATION AND NATURAL INFRASTRUCTURE		
4A	Develop ecologically acceptable living shoreline design options that are consistent with the existing Biscayne Bay Aquatic Preserve Act	Immediate (I)
4B	Raise awareness of the value of mangroves through a homeowner education campaign	Short-Term (S)
4C	Increase enforcement of existing rules for protecting existing mangroves and mangrove shorelines	Short-Term (S)
4D	Identify vulnerable properties along the coastline and partner with municipalities to focus on public properties and private property owners to create a voluntary Mangrove Protection and Restoration Zone Program	Short-Term (S)
4E	Prioritize existing and identify new green and blue infrastructure approaches and restoration projects	Immediate (I)
4F	Continue to work with SFWMD and to have the State of Florida allocate the funds necessary to ensure the timely commencement of construction of the Cutler Flow Way in accordance with the project timeline in the Integrated Delivery Schedule	Immediate (I)
4G	Continue to advocate for funding to support the Biscayne Bay Southern Everglades Ecosystem Restoration (BBSEER) project (also known as the BBCW / C-111)	Mid-Term (M)
4H	Establish seagrass targets and maintenance requirements	Short-Term (S)
4I	Accelerate green infrastructure solutions for flooding, resiliency and water quality	Short-Term (S)

# Reducing Land and Water Based Marine Debris to Improve Water Quality on Biscayne Bay

MARINE DEBRIS		
5A	Create a comprehensive marine debris prevention, reduction, and removal program within DERM and to adequately fund and staff the program	Short-Term (S)
5B	Establish a marine debris working group to promote collaboration on ways to reduce marine debris	Short-Term (S)
5C	Through the Miami-Dade County Police Department, direct the Marine Patrol Unit to prioritize its commitment to the enforcement of all applicable laws having a nexus to the environmental health of the Bay and its tributaries	Short-Term (S)
5D	Conduct an analysis of marine debris in Biscayne Bay	Short-Term (S)
5E	Adopt a target maximum input level policy for trash	Short-Term (S)
5F	Evaluate the various existing stormwater outfall systems throughout the county to determine their effectiveness at preventing debris from entering Biscayne Bay	Mid-Term (M)
5G	Identify and establish dedicated and recurring funding sources to pay for marine debris prevention and removal activities	Immediate (I)

# Education and Outreach to Help Citizens and Visitors Learn How to Protect Biscayne Bay

EDUCATION AND OUTREACH		
6A	Create a multi-lingual, multi-media campaign and educational outreach program	Immediate (I)
6B	Leverage the funding in the Community Based Organization grant program to create a special focus on Biscayne Bay education	Short-Term (S)
6C	Conduct an educational campaign to inform the public on the proper and improper ways to dispose of trash and the impacts of littering and marine debris to the health and management of Biscayne Bay	Immediate (I)
6D	Implement policies to reduce the amount of locally generated plastic marine debris	Short-Term (S)
6E	Build upon and increase volunteer clean-up activities county-wide	Immediate (I)
6F	Develop environmental sustainability and "plastic free" best practices	Short-Term (S)
6G	Support a "Living Laboratory for Bay Health"	Short-Term (S)
6H	Develop and implement a contractor and lawn care industry training program	Short-Term (S)
6I	Expand the scope of Baynanza to add year-round activities and collaborate on Biscayne Bay Marine Health Summit activities.	Immediate (I)



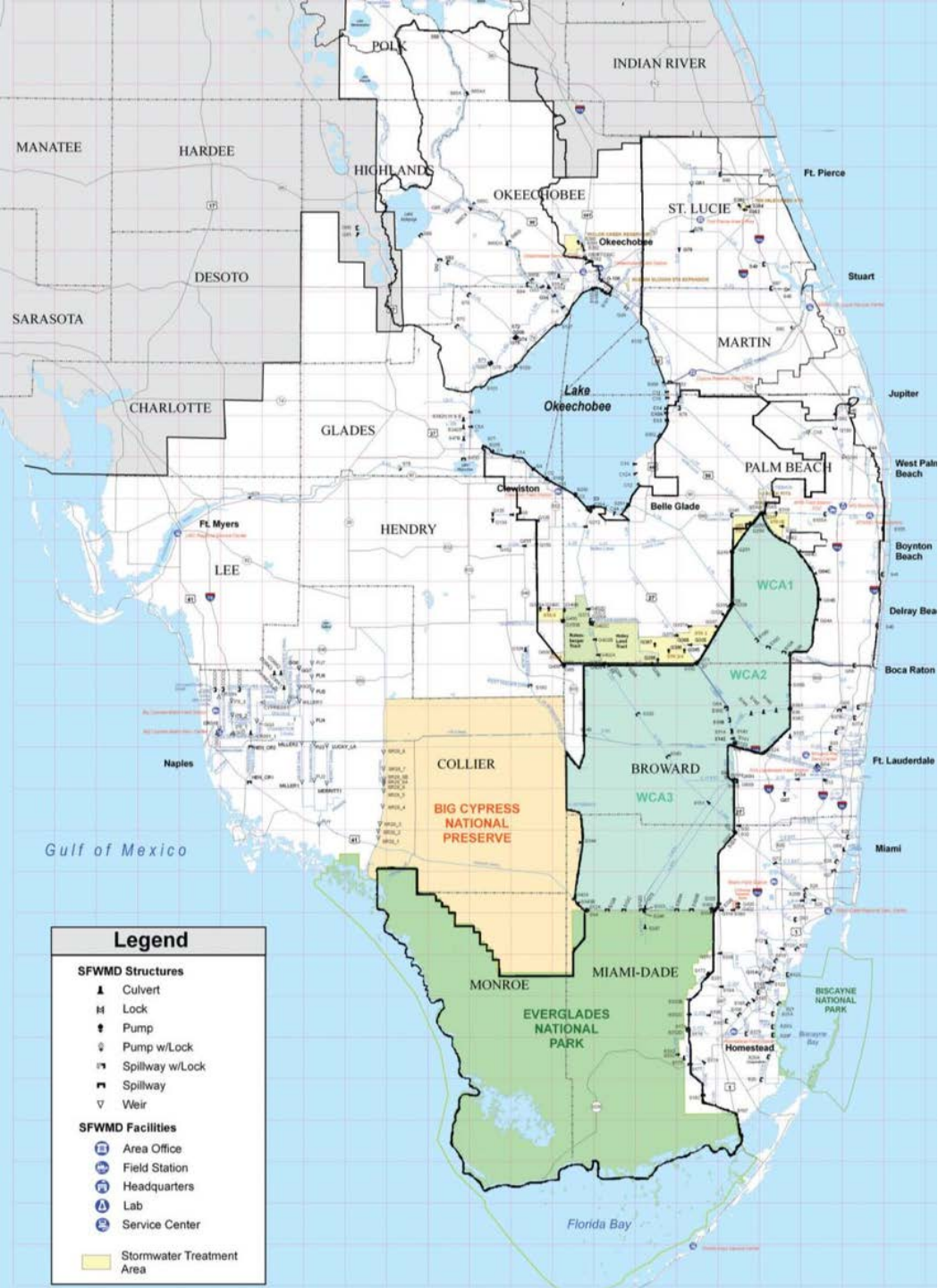
# Creating Funding Opportunities for Biscayne Bay Restoration

FUNDING		
7A	Collaborate with the Miami-Dade Legislative Delegation and the Congressional Delegation to secure annually appropriated funds to support Biscayne Bay watershed restoration	Immediate (I)
7B	Immediately engage in the legislative process to designate a Biscayne Bay License Plate	Immediate (I)
7C	Immediately enter into a cost-share partnership with SFWMD	Immediate (I)
7D	Collaborate with Florida Inland Navigational District (FIND) to immediately identify projects that will improve water quality and restoration of the Biscayne Bay watershed	Immediate (I)
7E	Leverage municipal financial resources through interlocal agreements to supplement County funds	Short-Term (S)
7F	Develop a mechanism to collaborate with municipalities and work with the development community	Short-Term (S)
7G	Direct the preparation of a report of potential funding sources by the Office of Management and Budget and the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs	Immediate (I)



# Coastal and Inland Waterways





One System



*Islander News 09/08/2019*



*Miami Herald, 09/08/2019*



**MIAMI  
WATERKEEPER®**



**SEPTIC**



*Image Courtesy of Miami Waterkeeper*

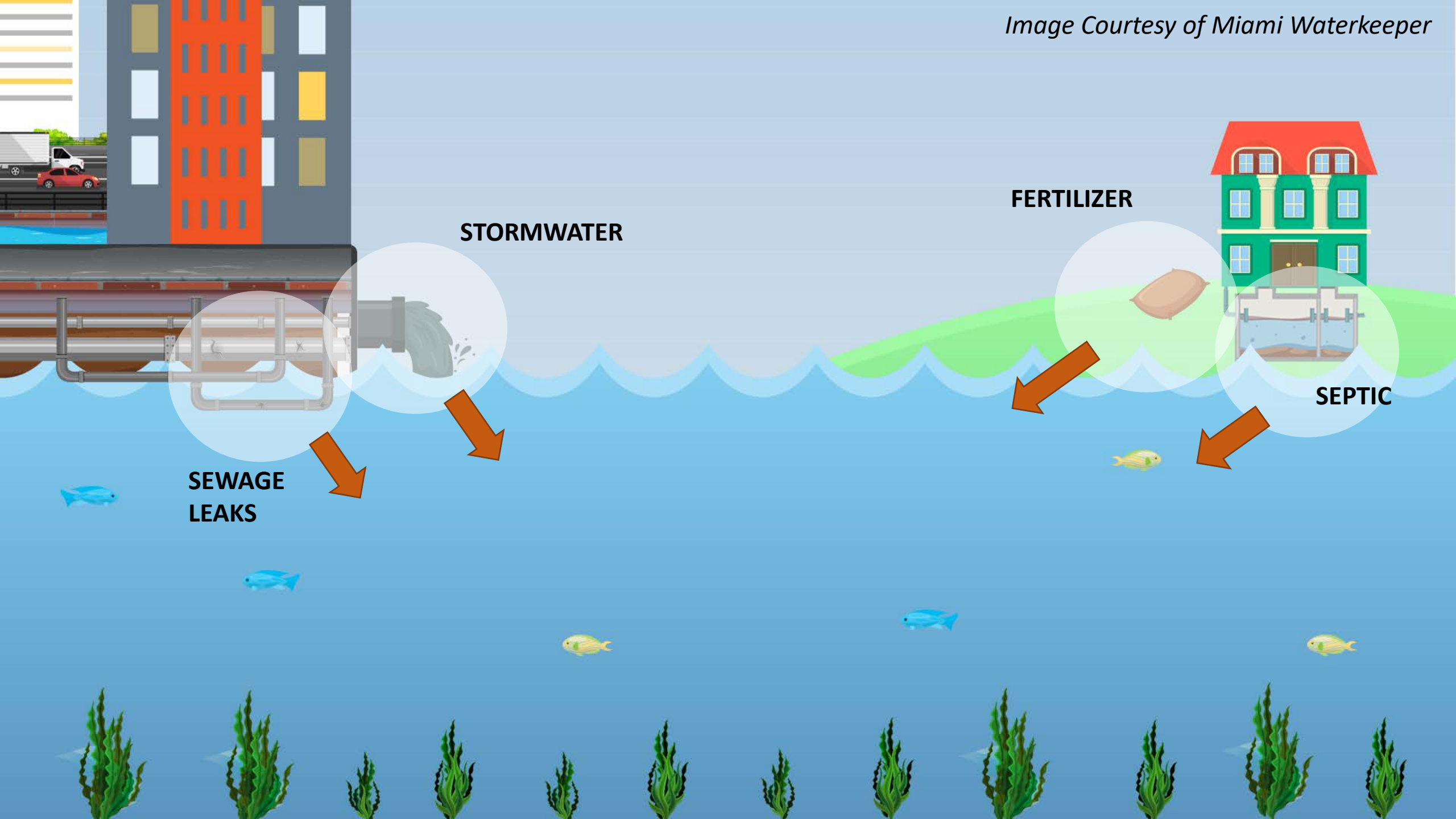
**SEWER**



**STORMWATER**



**FERTILIZER**

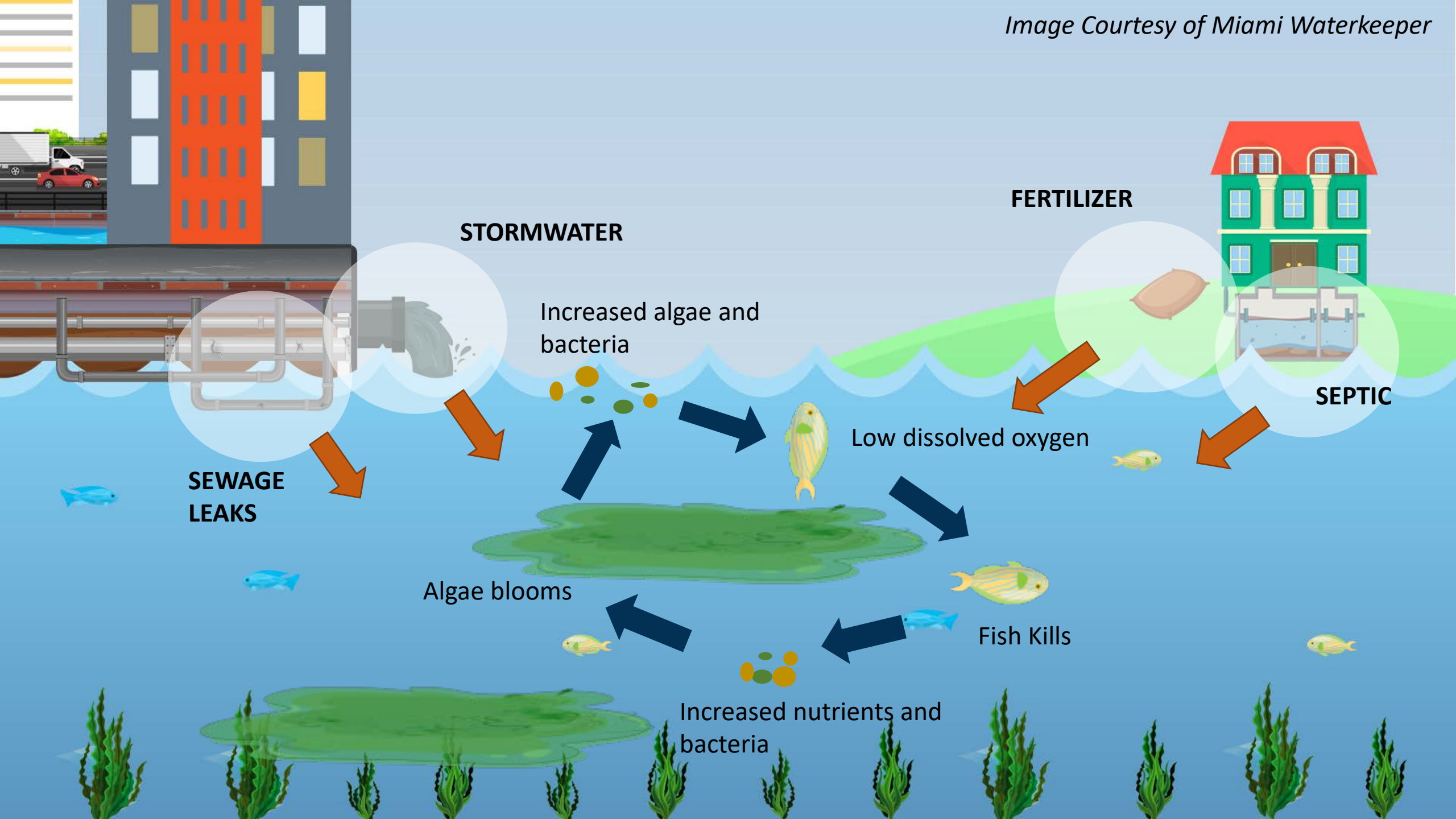


**STORMWATER**

**FERTILIZER**

**SEWAGE  
LEAKS**

**SEPTIC**





# Time for Action

- Environment = economy
- Previous successful efforts
- Watershed approach
- No regrets

