

RICK SCOTT

LET'S KEEP  
**FLORIDA BEAUTIFUL**

# LET'S KEEP FLORIDA BEAUTIFUL:

- Florida's natural resources are the foundation of our state's economy
- A restored Everglades and clear, flowing springs should be part of the Florida our children enjoy
- We must cherish and be good stewards of the lands and waters that define our state
- Investments in environmental education lead to better compliance with our laws and regulations
- Investing in our coastal resources protects our economy
- Our fines for environmental violations must reflect the importance of our natural resources
- Higher taxes and fees, and more bureaucracy, do not equal better environmental protection



Florida's geography, economy, and quality of life are all defined by our natural resources. We are blessed with more than 800 miles of beaches, more than 900 freshwater springs, world-renowned fisheries, the St. Johns River, the Florida Keys, working agricultural landscapes that maintain the state's rural character, and America's Everglades. Each of these resources help create a foundation for our growing economy, whether it is driving the state's tourism industry, anchoring our housing market, providing a supply of water for growing industry, ensuring Florida remains an agricultural leader, or providing a quality of life that has attracted families to this state for generations. During my first term I worked to bring divergent stakeholders together to craft solutions to decades-old problems plaguing our environment, proposed paths forward, and got to work. While my administration has made historic strides forward on Everglades restoration, protecting Florida's valuable citrus industry, funding springs restoration, and protecting our Areas of Critical State Concern, there is still much to be done.

#### During my second term I will:

1) Ensure that Everglades and Indian River Lagoon restoration continue to have the vision and funding to provide a restored ecosystem to our children; 2) Continue to expand funding for springs restoration and alternative water supply programs; 3) Improve recreational and outdoor opportunities for Florida's families by better maintaining and investing in Florida's treasured properties, and lastly; 4) Ensure that our natural resource management decisions are made in a transparent manner with local input and clear goals and timelines.

– Governor Scott

## INVESTING IN FLORIDA'S WATERS: A BILLION DOLLAR PLAN

### \$500 MILLION COMMITMENT TO ALTERNATIVE WATER SUPPLY

As Florida's economy continues to steadily recover we must ensure that an adequate supply of water is available for growth and the environment. During Governor Scott's first term, the Department of Environmental Protection worked with the Water Management Districts to create consistency with how withdrawals of water are permitted and to ensure that the districts are focused on their core mission of protecting Florida's water supply. Now, as more industries move to and grow in Florida, the state must invest in growing Florida's water supply through funding for alternative water supply, focusing on conservation. **At the beginning of Governor Scott's second term he will propose a 10-year, \$500 million, funding program for alternative water supply investment that requires an applicant to meet water conservation benchmarks to qualify for funding.**

### \$500 MILLION COMMITMENT TO SPRINGS RESTORATION

Over the last two years Governor Scott's administration has provided historic funding for springs restoration, an investment that the prior administration failed to make. In 2013 the budget included \$10 million for springs restoration and in 2014 the budget included \$30 million dollars. These funds will be spent on projects that directly benefit the water quality and quantity of springs. With local matching funds these appropriations will result in more than \$100 million of projects throughout the state. As our economy continues to recover these investments need to increase. **During a second Governor Scott term will recommend a ten-year program for springs restoration totaling \$500 million.**

## EXECUTIVE ORDER TO PROTECT WATER QUALITY

Protecting our springs is not just a financial investment. It also takes sound planning, science based permitting, and partnerships with our local governments and stakeholders. By the end of the Governor's first term, his administration will have proposed cleanup plans for more than 387 springs. Furthermore, during Governor Scott's first term alone, his administration will have set twice as many minimum flow and levels (protecting the quantity of water for our springs) than have been set in the entire previous two decades. But there is more work to do. **That is why Governor Scott will issue an Executive Order to provide a foundation for bringing together stakeholders to plan with his administration for additional needed actions.**

## PROTECT FLORIDA KEYS AND APALACHICOLA BAY

Two of Florida's most endangered coastal resources are Apalachicola Bay and the Florida Keys. During Governor Scott's first term he secured more funding for Apalachicola Bay than any prior administration and filed a historic lawsuit in the Supreme Court of the United States to protect the waters of Apalachicola Bay from the reckless consumption of water by the State of Georgia. At the other end of the state, his administration invested \$100 million to protect the only living coral barrier reef in the continental United States. In contrast, the prior administration never invested a penny in the Stan Mayfield Grant Program to repair wastewater treatment facilities in the Keys. Ensuring the health of our coastal economies is key to maintaining our state's economic growth. **During a second term, Governor Scott will recommend an additional \$100 million for Keys wastewater funding to protect south Florida's reefs and waters and establish an Apalachicola Bay advisory council to coordinate our continued work and investments to restore this critical fishery.**

# A RESTORED EVERGLADES FOR GENERATIONS TO COME

## THE GOVERNOR'S HISTORIC WATER QUALITY PLAN

Prior administrations have struggled to complete their commitments to the Everglades, and struggled with never-ending litigation. One of the first things Governor Scott did upon taking office was to demand that needless and expensive litigation over Everglades restoration end and that projects to restore the Everglades begin. For decades, the state, federal government, and local partners refused to agree on a plan to improve the quality of the water flowing into the Everglades. While fingers were pointed, projects stalled. That is why, in the fall of 2011, Governor Scott proposed the Everglades Water Quality Plan and earned the support of environmental groups, industry, and our federal partners. After more than a year of hard work, Governor Scott signed into law HB 7065, which provides \$32 million, annually, in state funding for Governor Scott's \$880 million Everglades water quality plan. **This plan ends years of litigation and is a historic step forward in restoring America's Everglades by improving water quality and water flow.**

## Governor Scott's landmark water quality plan includes:

- 6,500 acres of additional stormwater treatment areas, which are man-made managed wetlands that naturally remove phosphorus from water prior to the water being discharged into the Everglades
- 110,000 acre-feet of water storage capabilities in flow equalization basins, or reservoirs that work with the proposed and existing stormwater treatment areas to regulate flows and optimize treatment efficiency
- Additional modifications of conveyance features necessary to move the water south

### DEDICATE A POSITION TO FOCUS ON MOVING WATER SOUTH

Sending excess water within Lake Okeechobee south is critical both to the restoration of the Everglades and the protection of the St. Lucie and Caloosahatchee estuaries. That is why in the fall of 2011 Governor Scott's administration partnered with the federal government to draft a comprehensive plan to expedite the construction of projects needed to send water south. The Central Everglades Planning Project (CEPP) brought together federal, state, and local stakeholders to work together in a collaborative, transparent, and expedited process. The result is a consensus product that was unanimously approved by the South Florida Water Management District and, after intense lobbying by the Governor's office and local stakeholders, was also approved by the Army Corps of Engineers. But the work is not yet done. **During a second term Governor Scott will create a position in the Governor's Office to work with the Florida congressional delegation and local stakeholders to ensure CEPP is authorized in the next Water Resources Development Act and that Congress provides its fair share of funding for Everglades restoration.**

### ADVANCE THE C-43 AND C-44 PROJECTS FOR SOUTH FLORIDA'S ESTUARIES

While the Governor's water quality plan and CEPP are critical to move water south and away from the St. Lucie and Caloosahatchee estuaries, more local water storage is also needed to control and cleanse water headed towards Florida's estuaries. During the Governor's first term, he increased the amount of local water storage by investing in the storage of water on agricultural and state lands, providing more than \$60 million in funding for the C-44 STA and by working to federally authorize the C-43 reservoir and providing \$18 million in state funds to kick-start this west coast project. **During a second term, Governor Scott will make the completion of the C-43 and C-44 projects a priority and lobby congress to appropriate matching funds.**

## FORM A RENEWED INDIAN RIVER LAGOON ESTUARY PROGRAM

One thing is certain, in the years ahead South Florida will continue to face challenges with managing the water flowing across its landscape. Governor Scott's water quality plan, CEPP, and local water storage provide a roadmap to address excessive amounts of water while also restoring the Everglades and our estuaries. However, Governor Scott believes that local involvement is also critical to the success of restoration efforts. State and water management scientists must work hand-in-hand with local officials and stakeholders to review all options and ensure constant progress forward. **That is why Governor Scott supports the formation of a renewed Indian River Lagoon Estuary Program.** Modeled after the successful Tampa Bay Estuary Program, this team of scientists and grassroots stakeholders will provide local involvement and empower south Florida's communities to play a larger role in charting the path forward for restoration of their waterways.

## INVESTING IN FLORIDA'S TREASURED PROPERTIES

### \$150 MILLION COMMITMENT TO PRESERVING SENSITIVE LANDS, AGRICULTURE, AND PARKS

Florida is blessed with a gold medal winning state park system and has preserved hundreds of unique natural treasures throughout Florida. The State must invest more to ensure that the gems that we have acquired are maintained and managed so that they can continue to be cherished by generations to come. The State must also continue to look for opportunities to protect natural and historical resources not yet under the state's care, but the acquisition of additional lands should not mean a lower level of investment in the lands we already manage. **During a second term, Governor Scott will recommend \$150 million a year for Florida Forever, to protect and take care of working agricultural landscapes, conservation lands, and local parks.**

### \$2 MILLION GRANT PROGRAM FOR PARKS TO WIN ANOTHER GOLD MEDAL

Under Governor Scott's administration Florida's State Park System won its third national gold medal, the most of any state and the first gold medal since Jeb Bush was Governor. Florida's state parks, greenways, wildlife management areas, and state forests link together our communities and provide educational and healthy activities for Florida families. It is the creativity and involvement of these communities that is key to the continued success of our parks. By creating a \$2 million dollar capital improvement grant program to partner with our friends of parks organizations we can foster a sense of community needed to continue the success of our state park system. **With the help of the communities that our parks serve, Florida's state park system will win a fourth gold medal.**



# SMART INVESTMENTS IN WATER AND LAND MUST BE SCIENCE BASED AND PUBLICLY PLANNED

## TRANSPARENCY FOR WATER PROJECTS THROUGH SCIENCE-BASED GRANT PROCESS

Each year the state appropriates millions of dollars to support local water quality and quantity projects. Many times these requests circumvent a state loan or grant process and are not ranked and approved through a public, science based process. This model is typical for the federal government, but not our state government. **During a second term Governor Scott will work to end this process of earmarks and propose a science-based, public process.** Creating a state water project grant process will ensure tax payer dollars are being spent wisely and will also make certain all funding decisions are made in the public.

## TARGET KEY ECOSYSTEMS, DEFINE GOALS, ACCOMPLISH SUCCESS, AND REPEAT

Florida is blessed with divergent ecosystems, each with their own challenges and needs. A restoration plan for the Florida Keys is different than one for the St. Johns River or Apalachicola Bay. However, each ecosystem needs clear restoration goals, a timeline for accomplishing those goals, and metrics by which to measure success. Without a comprehensive set of ecosystem restoration plans for all of Florida, the State will fall into the trap of investing in a piecemeal fashion, and will not be able to measure the progress made in preserving Florida's resources for future generations. This is especially important for our coastal ecosystems that provide the framework for so much of Florida's economy. **During a second term Governor Scott will initiate a public process to develop comprehensive ecosystem restoration plans that span the state, including protecting our coastal resources and the Gulf of Mexico.**

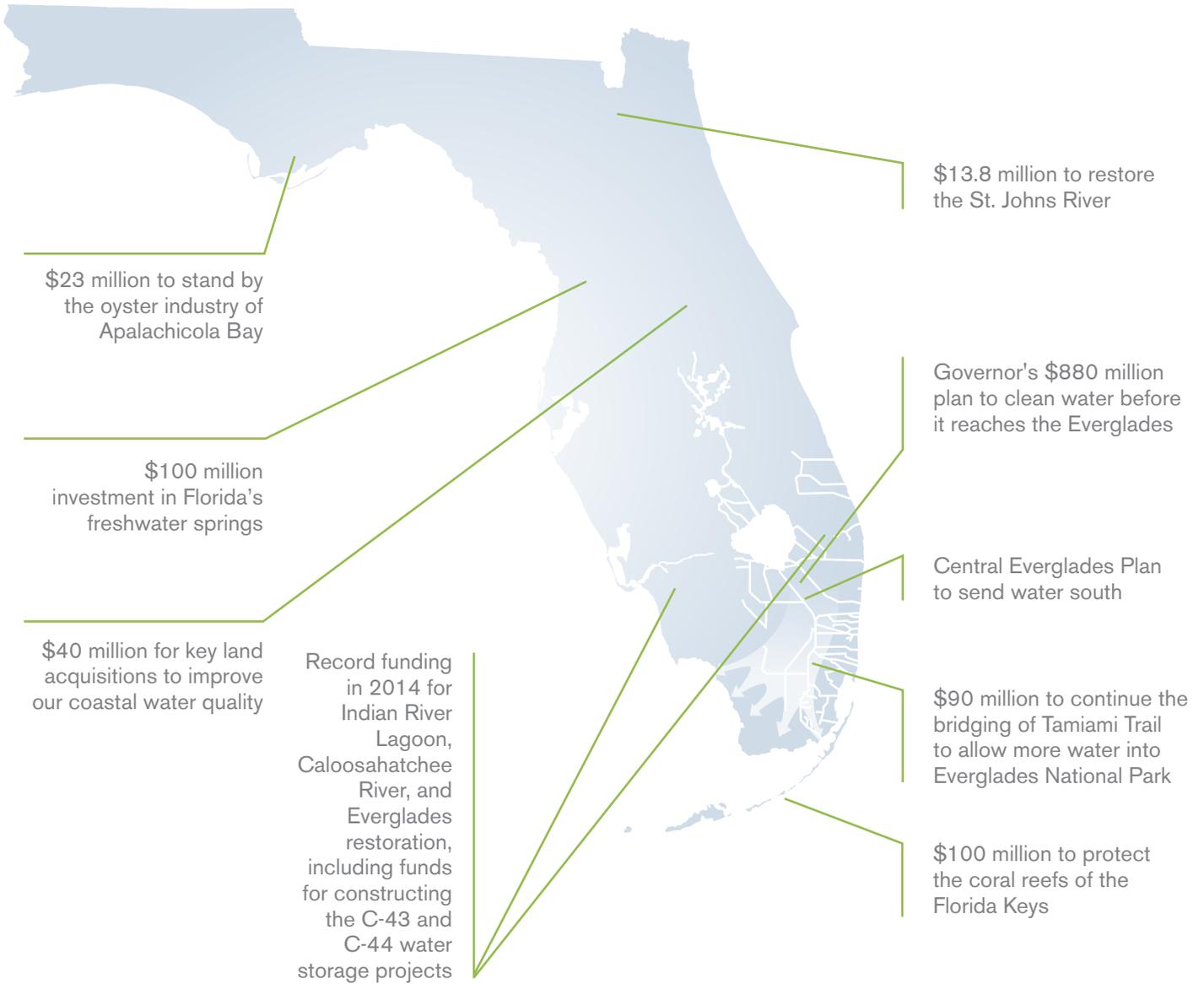
## TOUGH PENALTIES FOR BAD ACTORS

Ensuring the health of our natural resources is key to maintaining our state's economic growth. Just as we work to ensure that Florida's regulatory environment encourages investments by good businesses, the State should also ensure that regulators have the tools they need to deny permits to those that repeatedly break laws, or act poorly in another state and then move to Florida. We also need to ensure that our penalties match the value of our precious natural resources. For instance, it is ridiculous that under Florida's current statutes an oil and gas production facility can only be fined \$10,000 a day, yet pose a risk to Florida's environment that is exponentially higher.

**That is why during a second term, Governor Scott will propose legislation to increase penalties to ensure fines match the value of Florida's natural resources, and also provide agencies with the flexibility to analyze the past actions of those seeking environmental permits in Florida.**



# KEY INVESTMENTS



	SCOTT	CRIST
SPRINGS	\$40 million state, \$100 million total	\$8 million state and total
KEYS	Stan Mayfield Grant Program \$100 million	\$0
EVERGLADES	\$386 million	\$350 million

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