



## Florida Department of Environmental Protection

Marjory Stoneman Douglas Building  
3900 Commonwealth Boulevard  
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-3000

Rick Scott  
Governor

Carlos Lopez-Cantera  
Lt. Governor

Noah Valenstein  
Secretary

November 15, 2017

Ms. Holly Greening  
Executive Director  
Tampa Bay Estuary Program  
263 13th Ave South, Suite 350  
St. Petersburg, FL 33701

Dear Ms. Greening:

This letter is to inform you, the Tampa Bay Estuary Program, and other members of the Tampa Bay Nitrogen Management Consortium of the continued approval by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection of the Nitrogen Management Consortium's Reasonable Assurance Plan (RA). The 2017 update demonstrates that reasonable progress towards attainment of the narrative nutrient criteria and associated Class III designated uses continues because of the completed and proposed management actions, and compliance with the allocations.

On October 31, 2017, the department received the Tampa Bay Nitrogen Management Strategy – 2017 Reasonable Assurance Update Document and following a review of the document concluded the 2017 update demonstrates not only the attainment of the RA seagrass targets, but also the total nitrogen numeric nutrient criteria. Because of this success, all segments covered by the RA will be placed in assessment category 2 for total nitrogen. This assessment category designation identifies the segments as not impaired and attaining their designated uses.

I would like to close by emphasizing our appreciation for the outstanding job that you and the stakeholders have done over the years. Taking a valuable water resource, such as Tampa Bay, from impaired to restored is no easy feat. We are especially appreciative of the way stakeholders have continued to embrace this comprehensive restoration plan, and commend them for their efforts to protect and restore Tampa Bay.

If you have additional questions about the information provided in this letter or the assessments, please contact me (850-245-8416, [Julie.Espy@dep.state.fl.us](mailto:Julie.Espy@dep.state.fl.us)).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Julie Espy', with a stylized, cursive script.

Julie Espy, Program Administrator  
Water Quality Assessment Program

Cc: Drew Bartlett, FDEP  
Tom Frick, FDEP  
Mary Walker, US EPA Region 4  
Julie Espy, FDEP