

Roadways and Water Quality

A resolution of the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary Water Quality Protection Program

The following resolution was passed by the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary's Water Quality Protection Program Steering Committee on March 9, 2023 with 14 members present, all in favor.

The Water Quality Protection Program (WQPP) Steering Committee for the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary urges the Florida Department of Transportation and the Federal Highway Administration to fund stormwater treatment for roadway improvement projects in the Florida Keys including those that do not increase impervious surface. A 1999 EPA report identified stormwater, particularly runoff from roadways, as the second leading contributor of nitrogen and phosphorus into the nearshore waters behind wastewater, which has since been a major focus of infrastructure improvements. Sanctuary water quality is a primary focus of federal and State management and protection in the Florida Keys, with stormwater treatment being identified as a top priority in 2020 by the WQPP Steering Committee. Therefore, treatment of roadway runoff must be a priority to reduce contaminant loading into the nearshore waters. This also addresses the Florida Keys Reasonable Assurance Document to meet federal and State water quality standards and protect the world-class marine environment that the Florida economy depends upon.