



PROTECTING FLORIDA TOGETHER

#OneFlorida #AchieveMoreNow

During his first week in office, Governor DeSantis made it abundantly clear that **PROTECTING FLORIDA'S ENVIRONMENT** is a top priority through the signing of an **EXECUTIVE ORDER** directing the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and Florida's water management districts to take immediate, strategic action to **ACHIEVE MORE NOW** for Florida's environment.

The Governor's budget proposal for a record \$2.5 billion investment over the next four years would significantly expedite Everglades restoration and protection of our water resources.

Florida is working to rapidly improve water quality, by:

- Creating a Blue-Green Algae Task Force, which will focus on expediting progress toward reducing the adverse impacts of blue-green algae blooms now and over the next five years, as well as re-establishing a Red Tide Task Force.
- Expediting projects to clean and reduce discharges from Lake Okeechobee, and pursuing the federal government's unfulfilled commitment of \$200 million annually for Everglades restoration.
- Creating grant programs to assist communities with water supply and septic tank projects.

The Governor has directed changes at DEP to enhance effectiveness, collaboration and transparency, including:

- Appointing a Chief Science Officer to prioritize scientific research and analyze needs for addressing the state's most pressing environmental concerns.
- Moving the Environmental Crimes Enforcement Unit from the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission to DEP, to align resources focused on protection and ensure strong enforcement of Florida's environmental laws.

DEP has been directed to ensure that Florida's valuable and vulnerable coastlines are protected in perpetuity, including:

- Creating an Office of Resilience and Coastal Protection to ensure Florida's coastal communities are prepared for the impacts of sea-level rise.
- Opposing all off-shore oil and gas activities off every coast in Florida, as well as hydraulic fracturing.