



Margaret Blank [REDACTED]

Mayfield disappointment

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Dear Commissioners;

Saw this in the paper this morning: <http://keysnews.com/node/67528>.

I can't help but think that the county's mismanagement of the wastewater projects contributed to the failure to receive funding this year. No self-respecting politician at the state level would want to throw more money at the Cudjoe project, which is already \$43 million over the bid price. The last time I was in Tallahassee everyone I spoke to had heard from Dump the Pumps. Why would the state want to give money to a financially out-of-control project that is hated by the very people who benefit the most? Politicians want happy photo-ops not wasteful spending, complaining and law suits.

Of course, there is the continuing gross unfairness to Key Largo taxpayers. Although you like to pretend that your behavior is somehow justified and that you have no responsibility for creating or fixing the disparity, nobody else is buying it. Including the folks at the state. It is obvious to everyone but you, that this is completely and utterly wrong. No responsible government would ever have allowed it to happen.

You should certainly impose a higher assessment on the Cudjoe project if that is financially necessary to cover your obligations to ALL taxpayers, including those in Key Largo. Assessments should have been pegged to the escalating cost of the project. That would have created an incentive for the ratepayers in that area to contain costs and reign in their demands. Instead you created a situation, where escalating demands were always met with a "yes" at the expense of county-wide taxpayers. When you finally did say "no", all hell broke loose. Once again, we all pay the price for your lack of responsibility and foresight.

You most definitely need to repair the financial damage you have done to your taxpayers in Key Largo even if no more state money comes through. You have a responsibility to them regardless of what the state does.

Perhaps if you take steps to correct your mistakes, the Keys will have a better chance at funding next year and a brighter financial future for years to come.

Regards,

Margaret Blank