

STATE OF FLORIDA

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

EXECUTIVE ORDER NUMBER 18-311

(Emergency Management – Extension of Executive Order 18-249)

WHEREAS, in the month of June 2018, there was an increase in the number of algae blooms stemming from the decision of the Army Corps of Engineers to discharge water from Lake Okeechobee; and

WHEREAS, the discharge of this harmful water from Lake Okeechobee into the Caloosahatchee River, St. Lucie River, Indian River Lagoon, and estuaries has resulted in wide-spread algae blooms; and

WHEREAS, on June 20, 2018, I directed the Florida Department of Environmental Protection to issue an Emergency Order urging the Army Corps of Engineers and the South Florida Water Management District to take emergency action to help redirect the flow of water and curb the potential for algae blooms, including deploying additional water monitoring stations; and

WHEREAS, during my tenure as Governor, I have used state authority to address the federal government's failure to act with regards to Lake Okeechobee, including securing \$100 million in state funding to expedite repairs to the Herbert Hoover Dike, accelerating the Everglades Agricultural Area Storage (EAA) Reservoir Project, and investing more than \$1.8 billion in restoring the Everglades ecosystem and water quality; and

WHEREAS, the algae blooms have resulted in an increasing threat to our environment and fragile ecosystem, including our rivers, beaches, and wildlife, as well as causing the issuance of health advisories, closures of recreational areas, and economic losses in adjacent communities; and

WHEREAS, on July 9, 2018, I issued Executive Order 18-191 declaring a state of emergency for Glades, Hendry, Lee, Martin, Okeechobee, Palm Beach, and St. Lucie counties due to the on-going threat and impact of algae blooms; and

WHEREAS, on July 9, 2018, I toured the Caloosahatchee River to monitor the algae blooms and observe the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's water monitoring stations; and

WHEREAS, on August 10, 2018, I toured the St. Lucie River to monitor and observe the impact of the algae blooms; and

WHEREAS, since I declared the state of emergency, President Trump's administration has approved the EAA reservoir project and submitted it to Congress for authorization; and

WHEREAS, since declaring the state of emergency, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection has distributed \$16 million in grants to local counties to combat the algae blooms; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Economic Opportunity has activated the Emergency Business Damage Assessment to assist local businesses impacted by the algae blooms; and

WHEREAS, on August 20, 2018, I requested the U.S. Small Business Administration issue an Economic Injury Disaster Declaration to assist small businesses who have been impacted by the algae blooms; and

WHEREAS, no state of emergency declared pursuant to the Florida Emergency Management Act may continue for more than 60 days unless renewed by the Governor; and

WHEREAS, the following counties are still experiencing the damaging effects of the algae blooms: Glades, Hendry, Lee, Martin, Okeechobee, Palm Beach, and St. Lucie; and

WHEREAS, the State of Florida remains committed to combating the effects of algae blooms caused by the federal discharge of water from Lake Okeechobee by the federal government and helping every local community; and

WHEREAS, the effects of these algae blooms pose a continuing threat to the health, safety and welfare of the State of Florida, its residents, and environment.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, RICK SCOTT, as Governor of Florida, by virtue of the authority vested in me by Article IV, Section 1(a) of the Florida Constitution and by the Florida Emergency Management Act, as amended, and all other applicable laws, promulgate the following Executive

Order, to take immediate effect:

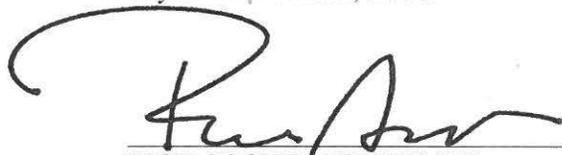
Section 1. The state of emergency declared in Executive Order 18-191 and extended by Executive Order 18-249 will be extended for 60 days following the issuance of this order.

Section 2. All actions taken by the Director of the Division of Emergency Management as the State Coordinating Officer with respect to this emergency before the issuance of this Executive Order are ratified, and he is directed to continue to execute the State's Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan and other response, recovery, and mitigation plans necessary to cope with the emergency.

Section 3. Except as amended herein, Executive Orders 18-191 and 18-249 are ratified and reaffirmed.



IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Florida to be affixed, at Tallahassee, this 5th day of November, 2018.


RICK SCOTT, GOVERNOR

ATTEST:


SECRETARY OF STATE

2018 NOV -5 PM 4:00
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA

FILED