

THE TRUTH BEHIND THE NORTH SPREADER CANAL ISSUE

This petition is being circulated endorsing opposition to replacing a barrier and boat lift at the southern end of the North Spreader Waterway. Your involvement in this issue is critical if you do not wish to have tens of millions of Cape Coral tax dollars wasted on a project that has been demonstrated to be detrimental to the environment and to Cape Coral property values.

Cape residents have, in effect, been taken hostage by local and regional environmental activist groups who did not negotiate in good faith over the last two years in the North Spreader Ecosystem Management Agreement (NSEMA). The NSEMA was an attempt to determine the wisdom of replacing an existing barrier/boat lift that was catastrophically breached by tidal action in January 2006. The remnants of this structure were removed in 2008 by the city of Cape Coral with the approval of State and Federal officials. This group was further tasked with identifying other environmentally-orientated projects that collectively provide for a greater Net Environmental Benefit (NEB) than replacing the barrier.

The NSEMA meetings commenced in mid-2008. Representatives of city, county, state, and federal governments participated, as well as many of the regions top engineers and scientists. An independent environmental consultant compiled data and performed hydrologic models of the canal system. These meetings were also attended by members of the various environmental activist groups referenced above.

After two years of data compilation and modeling this group determined that the barrier is detrimental to the environment. The barrier failed due to tremendous tidal forces, not stormwater inflow as believed by the activists. Many projects were identified that would provide a greater NEB than replacing the barrier. All of the engineers, scientists, and consultants, and even the environmental activists, agreed that replacement of the barrier was a fool's errand that would be overly costly and certainly doomed to fail, while creating more environmental damage than it would cure. Not one technically qualified person refuted the findings of the NSEMA. Yet these activist groups now are demanding that the findings be refuted, ignoring the engineering and science that concludes that the barrier should not be replaced.

This issue was discussed in detail during a community meeting at the Northwest Regional Library on December 18, 2010. Your neighbors and city officials were present to discuss the issue in depth.

The environmental activists are numerous and organized. They are submitting their emotion-based opinions supporting the barrier replacement. They are many hundreds strong. So are we. Get involved.

For more information email: nwna@nwcape.com or contact

Rick Williams at 898-5004, David Scott at 246-7508, or Nate Bliss at 282-3550.

GET INVOLVED or GET RUN OVER
Northwest Cape Coral Neighborhood Association, Inc.