



“RICK SCOTT’S WATER CRISIS”

Video	Audio	Facts
<p>Close-up of thick algae on water, remains throughout as background texture</p> <p>GFX: TOXIC ALGAE</p> <p>superimpose news footage of posted sign: “Due to the Algae swim at your own RISK!”</p>	<p>VO: Toxic algae is polluting Florida's rivers and beaches.</p>	
<p>GFX: KILLING WILDLIFE</p>	<p>It’s killing wildlife,</p>	<p>Wildlife Rehab Clinic Director: “Wildlife Has Given Us That Early Warning Signal, They’re Telling Us The Water Is Making Us Sick.” In July of 2018, ABC 7 News in Cape Coral reported: “The blue-green algae is more than just an eyesore, it can be deadly to wildlife. ‘A lot of these animals are extremely down, depressed, lethargic, [and] not willing to get up and kind of work through their normal daily schedule,’ said research and medical director for the Clinic for the Rehabilitation of Wildlife (CROW), Heather Barron. ‘Wildlife has given us that early warning signal, they’re telling us the water is making us sick.’”[WBBH ABC 7 News, 7/5/2018]</p> <p>Disturbing Footage: Dead Ducks Covered In Algae. In July of 2018, WINK News reported “It’s a sight nobody wants to see – dead animals covered in algae in their backyard. Cape Coral resident Maria Farmer says she saw ducks roaming around behind her house Thursday morning. Later in the day, she found them dead, stuck in algae muck. ‘It really didn’t seem to hit home until it was literally in my backyard,’ Farmer said, emotionally, ‘It was</p>



		<p>just so fast. And I was like ‘Oh my gosh, what if it could have been a child.’ Farmer and her boyfriend thought about burying the dead ducks, “I felt like the ducks – they were living creatures. They deserve the respect of a burial. But when I got close to them and took photos, the sight of that death, I got scared.” [WINK News, 7/12/2018]</p> <p>Algae Blooms Are Toxic To Florida’s Wildlife. “The algal blooms in Lee county is putting the hurt on wildlife. The Clinic for the Rehabilitation of Wildlife (CROW) has been busy treating animals because of Red Tide. ‘We are definitely extending beyond what we normally see,’ Dr. Heather Barron from CROW said. ‘We’re getting a lot of birds and an unusual amount of sea turtles.’ Dr. Barron said Red Tide and the blue-green algae blooms could be harmful for wildlife. Red Tide is a threat to sea birds, fish, and turtles. However, the green algae targets fresh water animals like ducks. ‘It can be toxic to wildlife, people, and domestic animals,’ Dr. Barron said. Red Tide and green algae are different types of algal blooms. They both could contain different toxins. Green algae has a neurotoxin and a liver toxin that could give animals some trouble.” [WFTX Fox 4 News, 7/3/2018]</p> <p>FWC: Blue-Green Algae “Can Kill Domestic Animals, Pets, And Fish And Wildlife” According to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission’s website: “Recently, the issue of blue-green algae (cyanobacteria) and their potential impacts to the environment, natural resources, and public health has earned much attention in the USA. Common in most of Florida’s aquatic environments, many cyanobacteria species are capable of producing harmful toxins (cyanotoxins). Cyanobacteria can cause unsightly blooms; cause taste and odor problems in public water supplies and can kill domestic animals, pets, and fish and wildlife that drink or are otherwise exposed to untreated contaminated water or toxic biota.” [Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission website accessed 9/5/2018]</p>
--	--	--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------



<p>composite children in swimwear</p> <p>GFX: MAKING KIDS SICK</p>	<p>making kids sick,</p>	<p>Just Breathing Near An Algae Bloom Can Make You Sick. On July 12, 2018, WINK News reported: “Vanessa Heath, physicians assistant with MedExpress explained potential symptoms of being near the algae, ‘They can have some shortness of breath some wheezing some difficulty breathing’ Medical experts say ingesting and breathing in the algae’s stench can make you sick. ‘We do recommend to just really try to avoid excess exposure to it just for the sake of not developing any respiratory issues,’ Heath said.” [WINK News, 7/12/2018]</p> <p>Water Contaminated With Cyanobacteria (Blue-Green Algae) Can Cause Nausea, Vomiting, And Acute Liver Failure. In July of 2018, The Weather Channel reported: “Harmful algae blooms along Florida's coasts are sending people to emergency rooms and killing marine wildlife by the scores. At least 15 people were treated at area hospitals last week after making contact with water teeming with blue-green algae from the St. Lucie River near Palm City on Florida's east coast, tcpalm.com reports. The algae prompted Sportsman magazine in Stuart, Florida, to close its office. ‘It smells like death,’ publisher Blair Wickstrom told the Sun-Sentinel. If ingested, water contaminated with toxic cyanobacteria can cause nausea, vomiting and, in severe cases, acute liver failure, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) says. The Centers for Disease Control says coming in direct contact with the algae can result in a rash. Some research indicates a link between long-term inhalation of toxic algae fumes and neurological disorders like Parkinson’s and Lou Gehrig’s diseases.” [The Weather Channel, 7/31/2018]</p> <p>Martin County Department Of Health: “Children And Pets Are Particularly Vulnerable.” In a July, 2018 press release, the Martin County Department of Health warned: “Exposure to blue-green algae may cause gastrointestinal effects if swallowed and irritation or rash if touched or inhaled. Swimming in water with blue green algae blooms may cause ear, eye and skin reactions, and hay fever and flu-like symptoms (including diarrhea)—these reactions are not common. Children and pets are particularly</p>
--------------------------------------------------------------------	--------------------------	-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------



		<p>vulnerable, so keeping them away from the water during a bloom is especially important.” [Martin County Department of Health press release, 7/11/2018]</p> <p>Martin Health System Emergency Rooms Treated Dozens Of Patients For Algae Symptoms In A Two Week Period. On August 8, 2018, the TC Palm reported: “Eighty-six people treated by the [Martin Health] system's emergency rooms, clinics and primary care doctors between July 24 and Aug. 6 reported they had contact with the St. Lucie River within the previous seven days, Romano said. About 25 percent had symptoms that could be attributed to contact with toxic algae. ‘It's just two weeks of data,’ Romano said, ‘but it's starting to show that the algae blooms are a health hazard, and people are getting sick because of that hazard.’” [TC Palm, 8/8/2018]</p>
<p>composite: closed doors, sign reading: “CLOSED TOXIC ALGAE FUMES”</p> <p>GFX: DEVASTATING SMALL BUSINESSES</p>	<p>and devastating small businesses.</p>	<p>“Green Gunk” Infesting Florida Waters Is Turning Away Tourists. In July of 2018, WPEC CBS 12 News reported: “During the summer, the Treasure Coast is usually a popular tourist destination. They come to see Florida at its best, which means algae free. But with the green gunk infesting the waters, some people are looking for a different place to vacation. For tourists who already booked their trips here, they don’t have much choice. But those with more flexibility may choose to spend their money somewhere else.” [WPEC CBS 12, 7/31/2018]</p> <p>Boca Grande Tourism Business Forced To Close Up And Dismiss Employees Due To Algae Crisis. In August of 2018, WZVN ABC 7 News reported: “White said that since the blue-green algae has become such a problem in Southwest Florida, tourists are staying away. He said he's used to a slow summer, but this year he's seen virtually no reservations. Those he has had have canceled out of fear of the algae. Elsewhere, in Boca Grande, one tourism centered business hasn't seen a customer since Memorial Day. Glass Bottom Kayaks has been forced to close up shop and dismiss employees until conditions improve. ‘Nobody has been out here in months,’ said Aaron Coher, from Glass Bottom Kayaks. ‘Normally this place is so busy it looks like a beach, the water is crystal clear.’” [WZVN ABC 7 News 8/11/2018]</p>



<p>Image of Rick Scott</p> <p>GFX: <PolitiFact Florida Logo> “YES, RICK SCOTT DID CUT \$700 MILLION FROM FLORIDA’S WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICTS”</p> <p>CITE: TAMPA BAY TIMES, 8/14/2018</p>	<p>VO: But Rick Scott cut \$700 million from the fight to keep Florida's waters clean. He even admitted it.</p>	<p>Rick Scott Cut Budgets For Water Management Districts By \$700 Million In His First Year. In a September 2014 editorial, the Tampa Bay Times pointed out: “In his first year, Scott forced the state's five regional water management districts to reduce their budgets by \$700 million and filled their appointed boards with developers, land use lawyers and others more interested in granting permits than preservation. That triggered cuts to water supply, restoration and other projects, and led to widespread layoffs at the water management districts that turned them into shells of their former selves. The Scott administration undercut enforcement and dampened public input on development as it eliminated the state's growth management agency. DEP offered bonuses to employees to speed up permitting, and its departing regulatory chief boasted this year that the agency cut wait times for permits by two-thirds.” [Tampa Bay Times Editorial, 9/5/2014]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Florida Judge Raised Concerns About Rick Scott’s Proposals To Cut Funding For Water Management Agencies, Saying “The Entire Situation Is Rapidly Sliding Backwards.” In an order issued in a lawsuit brought by an Indian tribe and Florida environmental groups, a federal judge criticized the State of Florida’s lack of enforcement of Clean Water Act provisions, writing: “Furthermore, a recent proposal to reduce taxes for the State's water management districts to decrease their budgets by 25 percent, or approximately \$100 million from the SFWMD's budget, has presented another concern for not only the District, but the parties to this litigation.
------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Compounding these recent financial predicaments are the latest departures of individuals who were administratively responsible for overseeing the processes in this litigation. Simply stated, the entire situation is rapidly sliding backwards.” [[Miccosukee Tribe v USA et al 04-21448 ECF #585, 4/26/2011](#)]

- **Rick Scott Boasted On Camera About Cutting \$700 Million From Water Management Districts.** In Governor Rick Scott’s weekly radio address published in video format on YouTube on August 26, 2011, Scott said: “Also this week, I took action on the proposed budgets of Florida’s five water management districts. All together, these budgets reflect a reduction of more than 700-million-dollars over last year.” [[Governor Rick Scott’s Weekly Radio Address, 8/26/2011](#)]
- **PolitiFact Florida Headline: “Yes, Rick Scott Did Cut \$700 Million From Florida’s Water management Districts.”** Reporting with the headline “Yes, Rick Scott did cut \$700 million from Florida’s water management districts,” PolitiFact Florida wrote: “The Florida Democratic Party tweeted that Scott ‘cut \$700 million from water management.’ The budgets of Florida’s five water management districts were collectively cut by over \$700 million about a year into Scott’s first term. Since the governor has the final say over the water management districts’ budgets, the tweet is largely accurate.” [[PolitiFact Florida/Tampa Bay Times, 8/14/2018](#)]



<p>Rick Scott to camera, close-up in Governor’s office</p> <p>“REDUCTION OF MORE THAN \$700 MILLION”</p>	<p>RICK SCOTT: "All together, these budgets reflect a reduction of more than \$700 million dollars"</p>	<p>Rick Scott Boasted On Camera About Cutting \$700 Million From Water Management Districts. In Governor Rick Scott’s weekly radio address published in video format on YouTube on August 26, 2011, Scott said: “Also this week, I took action on the proposed budgets of Florida’s five water management districts. All together, these budgets reflect a reduction of more than 700-million-dollars over last year.” [Governor Rick Scott’s Weekly Radio Address, 8/26/2011]</p>
<p>Image of Rick Scott signing document</p> <p>GFX: “ROLLED BACK EVERY COMMON-SENSE SAFEGUARD IN THE BOOKS”</p> <p>CITE: FLORIDA CONSERVATION VOTERS, 8/1/2018</p>	<p>VO: Experts and local leaders agree Scott’s rolled back every common-sense safeguard on the books."</p>	<p>Florida Conservation Voters: Rick Scott “Rolled Back Every Common-Sense Safeguard In The Books.” In a statement provided to Fox 4 WFTX, Florida Conservation Voters said: “For eight years, Scott has been in charge of Florida’s water quality and in that time he’s rolled back every common-sense safeguard in the books, including septic tank inspections and a ban on dumping sewage sludge in sensitive areas. No matter how he wants to spin it, Rick Scott owns this algae crisis. Any attempt to say otherwise is just slimy spin.” [Florida Conservation Voters statement, 8/1/2018 (via Fox 4 WFTX)]</p> <p>On Algae Crisis, Florida Sierra Club Director Points To Rick Scott's Rollbacks Of Pollution Safeguards. On August 9, 2018, the Washington Post reported on the Algae crisis in Florida, noting: "Frank Jackalone, director of the Sierra Club’s Florida chapter, said that although Scott is trying to shift the blame to Nelson, the governor is the one largely responsible for the crisis. 'The fact is, Rick Scott has had far more power to deal with these issues than Bill Nelson,' Jackalone said. 'Bill Nelson has one vote in the U.S. Senate. Rick Scott is the governor of Florida and has had the power to enforce the Clean Water Act in the state. He could have enforced pollution regulations. Instead, he cut back funding, rolled back regulations, and eliminated a large part of his enforcement staff.'" [Washington Post, 8/9/2017]</p>



		<p>Former Water District Chairman: “Rick Scott In My Opinion Has Frustrated Efforts To Solve This Problem From The Beginning Of His Term And Only Got Some Religion On It Late In The Game Because It Finally Dawned On Him That This Was A Political Issue”. In August of 2018, the Times Picayune reported: “After he first took office, appointees Scott placed on boards that govern state water management districts cut \$700 million from their budgets, including money for red-tide research. ‘Rick Scott in my opinion has frustrated efforts to solve this problem from the beginning of his term and only got some religion on it late in the game because it finally dawned on him that this was a political issue,’ said Eric Buermann, a former general counsel for the state Republican Party and former board chair of the South Florida Water Management District. Buermann said the water district’s budget is about half of what it was under Scott’s predecessor. When Scott’s appointees cut the amount of taxes the district could collect from homeowners, he saved the average household \$3 per month while slicing the authority’s revenue by \$21 million.” [New Orleans Times Picayune, 8/28/2018]</p>
<p>composite oil refinery in background, hands counting a stack of bills in the foreground</p> <p>GFX: PUTTING POLLUTERS IN CHARGE</p>	<p>VO: Putting polluters in charge, while they funnel cash to his campaign.</p>	<p>Rick Scott Has Taken More Than \$600,000 From Sugar Interests. In a column for the Orlando Sentinel, Scott Maxwell pointed out: “Nelson’s newly declared Senate opponent, Gov. Rick Scott, has taken more than than \$600,000 from sugar interests through the years, including money raised during a fundraiser personally hosted by Florida Crystals exec Pepe Fanjul.” [Orlando Sentinel, 3/17/2018]</p> <p>U.S. Sugar Donated \$100,000 To Scott’s Let’s Get To Work PAC In June 2016. According to the Tampa Bay Times, “U.S. Sugar is among the largest donors to the governor’s Let’s Get to Work PAC, handing over another \$100,000 in June. Rubio’s campaigns have been fueled by sugar donations, too. After he announced his presidential run last year, he stepped off the stage and immediately hugged a sugar mogul.” [Tampa Bay Times, 7/1/16]</p> <p>Jan. 2016: Scott Signed Into Law A Rewrite Of Florida’s Pollution Dumping Restrictions To Require That Sugar Companies To Only Show They Followed “Best Management Practices” In Governing Their</p>



		<p>Pollution Discharges. According to the Tampa Bay Times, “In January, Scott signed into law a sweeping rewrite of the state’s water policy that included a loosening of the restrictions on dumping pollution into the lake. Now, instead of going through a strict permitting process governing their discharges, sugar companies and other agriculture operations need only show that they’re following a set of ‘best management practices.’ ‘As long as agriculture implements those best management practices, they don’t have to reduce their pollution discharges at all,’ said Ryan Smart, president of 1,000 Friends of Florida.” [Tampa Bay Times, 7/1/16]</p> <p>Diane Roberts: “What Does That [Best Management Practices] Mean? Why, Whatever Big Ag Says It Means!” According to Diane Roberts in Florida Politics, “Actually, the state has recently made it easier for polluters to dump crap into Florida waters. Since Scott signed Big Ag’s comprehensive water bill into law in January this year, all polluters have to do is claim they’re following ‘best management practices.’ And what does that mean? Why, whatever Big Ag says it means!” [Diane Roberts – Florida Politics, 7/6/16]</p>
	<p>VO: So the next time you hear Governor Scott say this,</p>	
<p>tracking video: Rick Scott at podium outdoors</p> <p>GFX: “WE’VE GOT TO CONTINUE TO INVEST”</p> <p>GFX: ?</p>	<p>RICK SCOTT: "We've got to continue to invest uh whenever we can in our environment."</p>	<p>Rick Scott: “We’ve Got To Continue To Invest, Uh, Whenever We Can In Our Environment.” At a press event at the Hoover Dike Road boat ramp in Clewiston, FL on February 1, 2018, Rick Scott said: We've got to continue to invest uh whenever we can in our environment." [Rick Scott press event in Clewiston, FL, 2/1/2018]</p>
<p>Aerial footage of green water washing up on beach</p>	<p>VO: remember - Rick Scott's politics are dirty. And Florida's paying the price.</p>	



<p>Image of Rick Scott</p> <p>GFX: RICK SCOTT DIRTY POLITICS HURTING FLORIDA</p> <p>Paid for by American Bridge 21st Century AND LCV Victory Fund; not authorized by any candidate or candidate's committee.</p> <p>www.americanbridgepac.org - www.lcvvictoryfund.org</p>		
-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--	--