

Gov. DeSantis Off to Good Start

by Sarah Ashton & Jim Metzler, DDWS Advocacy Committee Co-Chairs

In his first few days in office Governor DeSantis made two major moves that have the potential to improve water quality in Florida. In one of those moves, Governor DeSantis signed an [Executive Order](#) that calls for:

- \$2.5 billion for Everglades restoration and protection of water resources over the next four years;
- The establishment of a Blue-Green Algae Task Force to immediately reduce its adverse impacts;
- The South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) to immediately start the next phase of the Everglades Agricultural Area Storage Reservoir Project;
- The formation of a new Office of Environmental Accountability and Transparency to organize and direct integrated scientific research and analysis; and
- The appointment of a Chief Science Officer to coordinate and prioritize scientific data, research, monitoring and analysis needs.

In addition, Gov. DeSantis asked for the [resignation of all the Governing Board members of the SFWMD](#) to best achieve Everglades restoration.