



# CITY OF STUART PRESS RELEASE

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## **Stuart Joins County in Declaring Local State of Emergency**

**Stuart, FL** – The City Commission of Stuart has unanimously approved a declaration of a local state of emergency in response to degrading conditions of the St. Lucie River; a consequence of freshwater discharges and pollution from Lake Okeechobee.

On Wednesday, June 29<sup>th</sup>, the City Commission held a special meeting to discuss the devastating impacts of algae growth and the presence of microcystin toxin in the River. The rapidly deteriorating conditions of the River as a result of non-stop freshwater discharges authorized by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers now presents an immediate danger to health, safety, and welfare of citizens. In addition, blue-green algae blooms are further damaging the local ecosystem; killing fish and other wildlife.

The City Commission is requesting the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to put an immediate halt to any further discharges into the River so that conditions may improve through natural filtration.

In collaboration with Martin County, the City is also requesting Governor Scott issue a State of Emergency for Martin County and other affected areas to provide immediate relief to residents and local businesses; further urging the Governor to request federal aid and other critical resources.

The City of Stuart stands united with Martin County, remaining dedicated to fighting for the River and the well-being of all citizens; and will continue to work with local, state, and federal partners in addressing both short and long term solutions to this ongoing crisis.

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