

# Water quality testing above MRSP

**Update** to the  
Myakka River  
Management  
Coordinating Council,  
5/9/2025

**By**  
**Miri Hardy, PhD**  
**Executive Director**



# Two Golf Course Developments on the Myakka River

**Aerial Photo**

July 2024



**TerraNova aka  
Miakka Golf Club**

**Entrance on MJ Road,  
Myakka City**

**Soleta Golf Club**



**Entrance on Singletary  
Rd, Myakka City**



“Since the golf courses began construction we've had bad sediment flow with every rise in the river. When the water drops any low areas have 1-2 inches on average of a black nasty sediment that we've also never had before. The beaches that used to be white when the water drops are now black after each drop as well.”  
Local resident

# Recorded Miakka Golf Course Turbidity violations:

DEP Stormwater and Hazardous Waste Compliance Inspector Avery Ghirghi



## Discharge point from Miakka North into a wetland:

++++ (above meter limit) NTUs reading taken on 8/30

472 NTUs reading taken on 9/9

Background sample taken upstream at the overpass on SR-70 between Singletary and MJ Rds read 2.39 NTUs\*.



\*Turbidity of any water that leaves the site and impacts the water systems cannot be higher than 29 NTUs above background.

**Where this discharge is leading: Wetland, off-site, near the Myakka River**

**806 and 778 NTU** readings taken on 8/30





Stream Turbidity Measurement Datasheet							
Field	Description	Example	1	2	3	4	5
General Information							
Date	Date of data collection (24-hour format)	2025-01-19					
Time	Time of data collection (24-hour format)	14:30					
Sampling Location Name	Name or identifier of the sampling site	Myakka River - Upstream 1					
GPS Coordinates	Latitude and longitude of sampling location	27.12345, -82.54321					
Temperature	Use a weather app to get approximate air temperature	72 degrees F					
Precipitation	Indicate the amount of precipitation from the last time you measured turbidity	0.01 inches in 24 hrs					
Wind	Use a weather app to get approximate wind direction and speed	11 mph, NNE					
Water Quality Data							
Turbidity (NTU)	Measured turbidity in Nephelometric Turbidity Units	12.4					
Visual Observations							
Water Color	Describe the color (e.g., clear, brown, green)	Slightly murky brown					
Odor	Describe any noticeable odor	None					
Debris/Trash	Presence of debris or trash	Small plastic items					
Algae Presence	Describe algae cover (e.g., none, slight, heavy)	Slight near banks					

## Community Water Quality Testing Program:

- Training and oversight by Dr. Abbey Tyrna, Suncoast Waterkeepers.
- Weekly testing since January 22, 2025: Water quality data (turbidity) as well as related visual observations (odor, water color, algae presence).
- Measurements below the golf course developments as well as background measurements are being collected.



*"The minnow population is extremely low compared to what it used to be and there is more silt in the river than I have ever seen in my lifetime of being here. Normally the bottom is clean and sandy this time of year and there is a solid layer of vegetative silt covering the bottom of the river...there's a layer of sediment over the sand that did not exist previous to this construction".*

*The deeper holes always have had a sediment layer but there is so much sediment now that it is throughout the entire River. Usually in the winter time and all throughout the spring the river would be extremely clean looking. Which is not the case now. It's hard to convey that to people who are seeing it for the first time..."*

- Local resident (Water Quality Tester)



## **COMPLAINT REFERRAL FORM**

Agency tracking #: DEP: \_\_\_\_\_ / SWFWMD: 437595

### **Complainant Information**

Last name: Ghirghi	First Name: Avery	Phone: 8134705705
Company: FDEP		
Address: 13051 N Telecom Pkwy #101		
City: Temple Terrace	State: FL	Zip: 33637
<b>Complaint Description:</b> Construction in area has had a history of discharges, multiple residents are now newly complaining about the water quality in Myakka river, reporting sediment deposits that are not historically present and murky waters. DEP is currently pursuing enforcement for the CGP MiaKka Golf (SWFWMD Permit 43046811) over poor BMP management and turbid discharges.		

### **Alleged Violator**

#### **Mailing address:**

Last name: Wilson	First Name: David	Phone:
Company: Wilson Site (MiaKka Golf)		
Street Address: 30518 Saddlebag Trl	City: Myakka City	
State: FL	Zip: 34251	

#### **Location of Activity: MiaKka Golf Club (FLR20HC37)**

Street Address: 12950 MJ Road	City: Myakka City	
Zip: 34251	County: Manatee	
Water body involved: Myakka River	Section:	
	Township:	
	Range:	

A second ERP application from Miakka Golf Club, which will result in additional wetlands impact, was recently approved by SWFWMD.

Wetland mitigation for permanent impacts will be provided by the purchase of 1.42 non-forested wetland credits from the Myakka Mitigation Bank - ERP No. 43003997.000.

While the second permit was under review, I reached out to the SWFWMD Environmental Scientist assigned to the Environmental Resource Permit to express concerns and asked whether a SWFWMD assessment to quantify the increase in silt depots and their composition is in order, given both the resident complaints and DEP reports.

A SWFWMD compliance inspector conducted a site visit in response to the DEP inter-agency complaint. His visual inspection did not detect any irregularities in the river or BMPs. A more thorough assessment was not deemed warranted.

# Short Form Consent Order issued to Miakka Golf Club, to levy \$6,500 in fines for the discharges found during DEP's inspection days in August and September, 2024. The developer has paid the fine and the case is now closed.



## FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF Environmental Protection

Southwest District  
13051 North Telecom Parkway #101  
Temple Terrace, Florida 33637-0926

Ron DeSantis  
Governor

Joanne Nieves  
Lt. Governor

Alexis A. Lambert  
Secretary

March 17, 2025

David Wilson, Permittee  
30518 Saddlebag Trl  
Myakka City, FL 34251-8417  
[david@wilson-site.com](mailto:david@wilson-site.com)

SUBJECT: Department of Environmental Protection v. David Wilson  
OGC File No.: 25-0464  
Miakka Golf Club  
NPDES Facility ID No. FLR20HC37

Mr. Wilson:

The State of Florida Department of Environmental Protection ("Department") finds that David Wilson ("Respondent" or "you") failed to conduct inspections per the construction generic permit, maintain records per the construction generic permit, develop an adequate stormwater pollution prevention plan, and properly install/implement/operate/maintain best management practices in violation of Chapter 403, Florida Statutes (F.S.), and Chapter 62-621, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.). Before sending this letter, the Department requested that you undertake certain actions to resolve the violation(s). These actions have since been completed. However, due to the nature of the violation(s), you remain subject to civil penalties. You are also responsible for costs incurred by the Department during the investigation of this matter.

### The Department's Offer

Based on the violations described above, the Department is seeking \$6,000 in civil penalties and \$500 for costs and expenses the Department has incurred in investigating this matter, which amounts to a total of \$6,500. The civil penalties are apportioned as follows: \$6,000 for the violation of F.A.C. 403.121(4)(b).

DEP vs. David Wilson  
OGC No. 25-0464  
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### Respondent's Acceptance

If you wish to accept this offer and fully resolve this pending enforcement matter, please sign this letter and return it to the Department at the Southwest District by **April 4, 2025**. The Department will then countersign it and file it with a designated clerk of the Department. Once the document is filed with the designated clerk, it will constitute a final order of the Department pursuant to Section 120.52(7), F.S. and will be effective unless a request for an administrative hearing is filed by a third party in accordance with Chapter 120, F.S. and the attached Notice of Rights.

By accepting this offer you:

- (1) acknowledge and waive your right to an administrative hearing pursuant to Sections 120.569 and 120.57, F.S., on the terms of this offer;
- (2) acknowledge and waive your right to an appeal pursuant to Section 120.68, F.S.; and
- (3) acknowledge that payment of the above amount does not constitute a waiver of the Department's right, if any, to recover emergency response related costs and expenses for this matter.

The Department acknowledges that your acceptance of this offer does not constitute an admission of liability for the violation(s) referenced above.

### Respondent's Performance

After signing and returning this document to the Department,

- (1) **You must pay \$6,500 in full by April 18, 2025.**
- (2) Respondent shall make all payments required by this Order by cashier's check, money order or on-line payment. Cashier's check or money order shall be made payable to the "Department of Environmental Protection" and shall include both the OGC number assigned to this Order and the notation "Water Quality Assurance Trust Fund." Online payments by e-check can be made by going to the DEP Business Portal at: <http://www.fldepportal.com/go/pay/>. It will take a number of days after this order is final, effective and filed with the Clerk of the Department before ability to make online payment is available.

The Department may enforce the terms of this document, once final, and seek to collect monies owed pursuant to Sections 120.69 and 403.121, F.S.



Commissioner Kruse Visit  
1/17/2025



Commissioner Felts Visit  
2/9/2025