

WENTWORTH ESTATES COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT

January, 2021

The Wentworth Estates Community Development District and FGCU has begun a test program in Treviso Bay to evaluate the use of non-chemical methods to treat harmful algal blooms by bouy technology. The District applauds the University for these forward thinking programs. This program is anticipated to last a year you will see the University teams monitoring the bouys over this time.

Professor Bill Mitsch, Director, Everglades Research Park, FGCU, Naples Florida

The Everglades Wetland Research Park, part of FGCU's Water School and located on the Naples Botanical Garden's campus, secured a major water quality improvement grant from Florida's Department of Environmental Protection in early 2020 to investigate the use of a novel, non-chemical technique to remove algal blooms from lakes, rivers, and coastal waters.

The field study of this project over January – December 2021 is being conducted in 7 of the 42 lakes at Treviso Bay Naples to evaluate if this ecotechnology will be effective in south Florida conditions to clean up algal blooms without using poisonous chemicals. Each of 9 "sonic buoys" that were just deployed in the 7 lakes at Treviso Bay can treat up to 49 acres each with "silent sonic waves" rather than chemicals. We made significant progress in the first two weeks of January 2021 in implementing this one-year water monitoring project. Our team of 8 to 10 staff and students was able to construct, from scratch, 9 sonic buoys at two construction sites at Treviso Bay (Figure 1) during the first week of January.



Figure 1. LG Sonic buoys constructed by staff and students from FGCU's Everglades Wetland Research Park at a temporary construction site at the Peninsula at Treviso Bay.

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During the second week in January, a specialist from LG Sonic's Netherlands headquarters visited Treviso Bay and oversaw the deployment of these 9 buoys into their assigned lakes (Figure 2 and 3 and Table 1).



Figure 2. Sonic Buoy and anchor deployment at one of the experimental lakes.



Figure 3. Deployed sonic buoy in one of the experimental lakes at Treviso Bay.