



## AGENDA MEMORANDUM

*Natural Resources  
Department*

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**City Council Meeting Date: April 21, 2026**

**To:** City Council  
**From:** Dana Dettmar, Environmental Biologist  
**Date:** April 3, 2026

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**SUBJECT:** 2025 On-island Water Quality Program Update

**BACKGROUND:** In recent years, Sanibel has experienced multiple storm events (Hurricanes Ian, Idalia, Debby, Helene, and Milton), which had varying degrees of impact to the island and its natural resources. There is concern for what the negative implications of these events might be as it relates to wildlife, native plant communities, and water quality. Natural Resources staff in partnership with the Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation (SCCF) Marine Lab initiated several efforts to investigate conditions in formerly freshwater systems, tracking their progression over time and what that might mean for the island's ecology.

Pre-storm water quality conditions are well documented through the City's established Sanibel Communities for Clean Water Program (SCCW). To document post-storm conditions, the City and SCCF sampled a sub-set of the sites included in the program. This included 40 of the 78 lakes that are typically sampled as part of the SCCW Program. This study also included 27 groundwater monitoring well sites to evaluate the relationship between groundwater and surface water. Additionally, this reporting period included 11 canal sites as part of the City's Clean Canals Program (CCP). Mark Thompson, Research Associate at the Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation will provide a brief presentation of the 2025 SCCW and groundwater monitoring report and CCP monitoring report. The full reports are included as agenda attachments. <https://www.sanibelcleanwater.org/>

**FUNDING SOURCE:** N/A

**RECOMMENDATION:** For information & discussion.

*Sanibel is and shall remain a barrier island sanctuary*