



Florida Water & Pollution Control Operators Association

A Non-Profit Association Serving Water and Wastewater Professionals in the State of Florida

The Honorable Angie Gardner, Mayor
The Town of Eatonville
307 E. Kennedy Blvd.
Eatonville FL 32751

June 24, 2025

RE: Proclamation request for Florida Water Professionals Month and Emergency Responder Status

Dear Mayor Gardner:

The Florida Water & Pollution Control Operators Association (FWPCOA) was organized in 1940 as a non-profit trade organization to promote the sustainability of Florida's water utility industry that works to protect our citizens' health and preserve our state's water resources. The FWPCOA offers water and wastewater treatment plant operator and water distribution system operator training courses for state licensing requirements, eight voluntary certification programs, and continuing education programs for license renewal.

Our state's water industry employees work around the clock, 365 days every year, to ensure that safe drinking water is accessible to all Floridians and that our environment and natural resources are protected. The FWPCOA has celebrated "Florida Water Professionals Month" to recognize their hard work and dedication. This year, the FWPCOA seeks to increase community awareness by designating the month of August as "Florida Water Professionals Month."

Like other states, Florida depends on a network of aging underground pipes. The Florida Section of the American Society of Civil Engineers' most recent report card graded our Drinking Water Infrastructure a C and our Wastewater Infrastructure a C. This assessment highlights the importance of recognizing and supporting Florida's water professionals more than ever—out of sight need not be out of mind. In addition to recognizing our water professionals this August, the State of Florida elevated water professionals to Essential First Responder Status with the rights and responsibilities implied. This status becomes critical during natural disasters when water professionals are expected to keep vital, safe drinking water and wastewater systems operating. We ask that The Town of Eatonville consider recognizing operators as essential first responders.

We invite you and the Town of Eatonville to join us in supporting the efforts of water professionals in your community. You can help by executing a proclamation recognizing this important event. I am enclosing a sample proclamation for your reference. Please send your executed proclamation to my address, stated below, so that we can recognize the Town of Eatonville's participation in this year's awareness month. If you would like an officer from our association to accept the proclamation at your commission meeting, please get in touch with regional director Jonathan Torres at 561-223-5455. Thank you in advance for your anticipated participation.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Torres

Jonathan Torres
State Publicity Chair
PO Box 33119
Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33420-3119