



ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION COMMISSION
OF HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY



ABOUT US

DIVISIONS

HOW DO I?

SERVICES

Annual Report 2014

EPC Board

September 18, 2014



MISSION

To protect our natural
resources and quality of life
for the citizens of
Hillsborough County

VISION

Environmental
excellence in a
changing world

VALUES

Environmental stewardship
in a culture of fairness and
cooperation

Core Functions

The Enabling Act prescribes our Core Functions to be:

Citizen's support– timely and thorough

Air and water monitoring – comprehensive and unbiased

Waste, wetlands, water and air permitting – protective yet ***cooperative***

Waste, wetlands, water and air compliance assurance – proactive and promoting
environmental stewardship

Waste, wetlands, water and air enforcement – ***fair*** and consistent

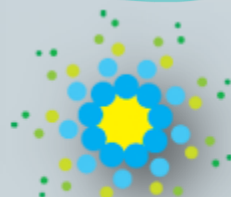
EPC Building Partnerships & Ensuring Protection of Our Natural Resources



THE FLORIDA
AQUARIUM



Nature's
Classroom



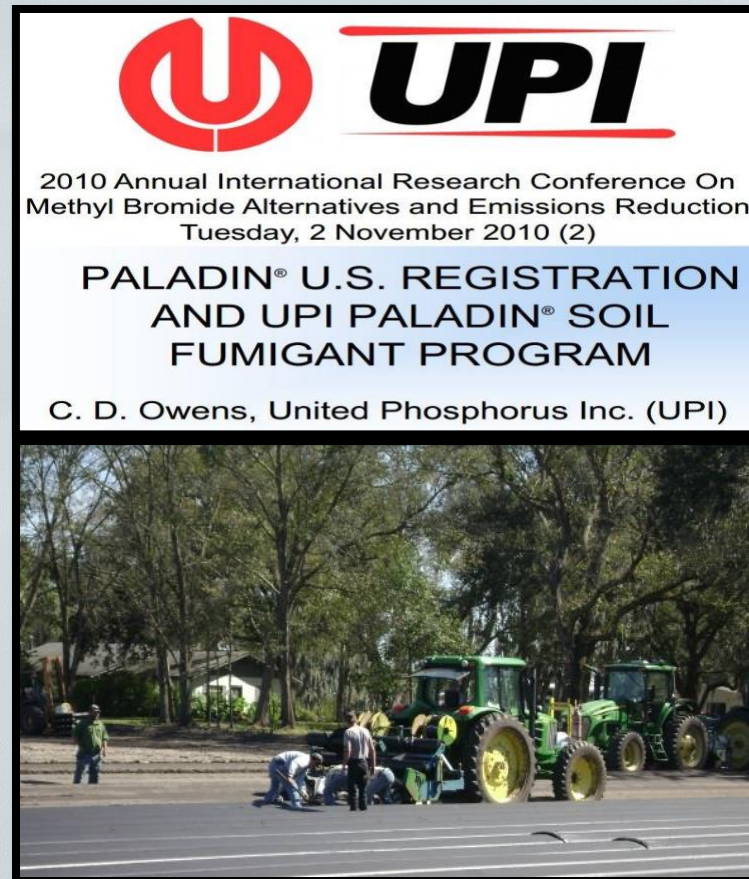
Tampa Hillsborough
Economic Development Corporation



Partnering with Agriculture (Paladin)

Worked with Arkema, Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services and the Florida Strawberry Growers Association to improve the practices associated with applying fumigants

- Arkema retrained the applicators
- FDACS required improved tarps
- EPC is co-hosting a community meeting



Partnering with the Port

- Worked with the Port Tampa Bay to improve their environmental programs by offering compliance assistance.
- EPC participated in workshops with Port operators



Partnering with the Community

Worked with Neighborhood Relations Department and numerous Homeowner Associations to offer mini-grants and educate citizens to be better environment stewards

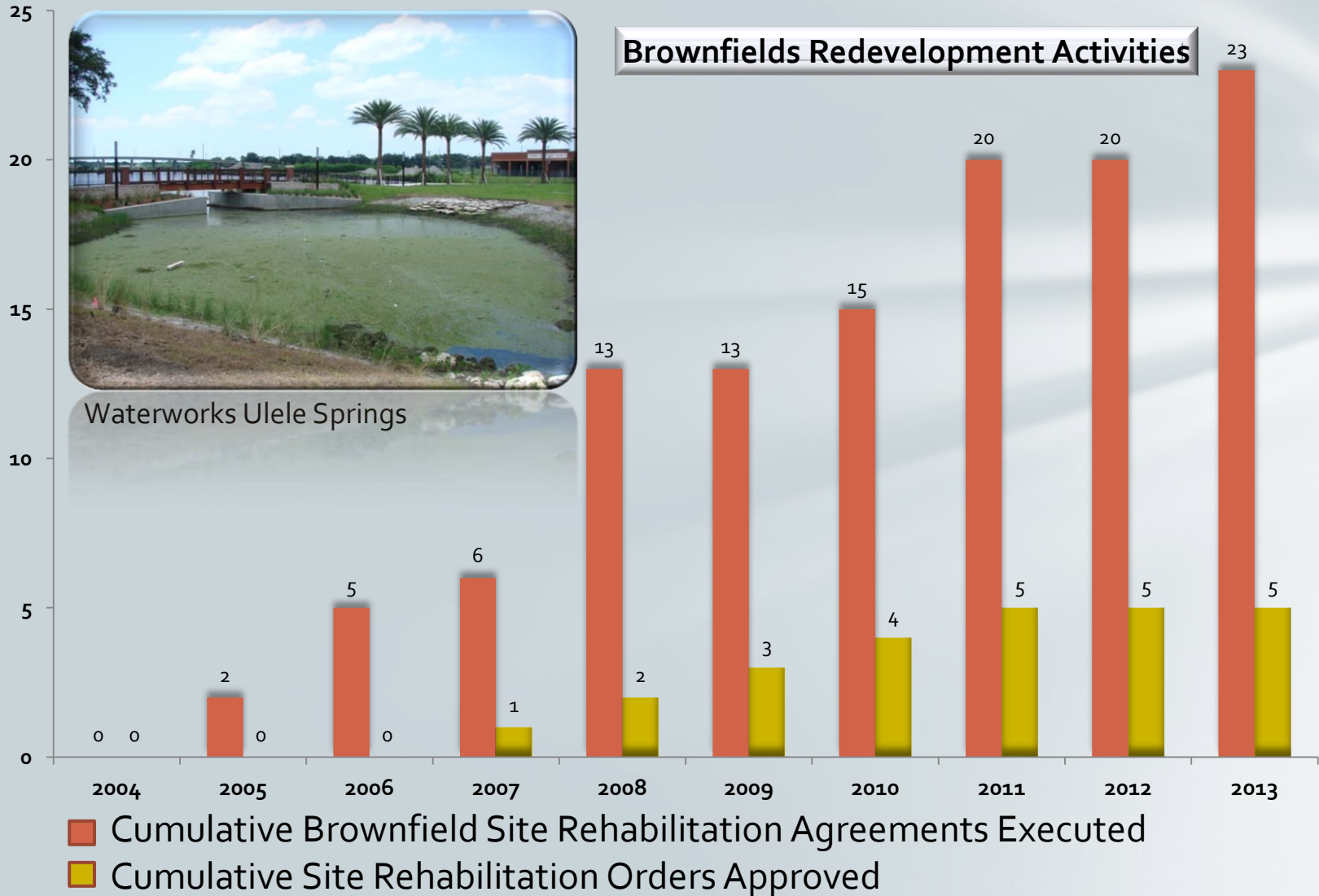


Providence Lakes HOA



Ridgewood Park HOA

Partnering with Economic Development



Partnering with Industry

Negotiated with molten sulfur industry in the port to improve product handling to minimize fires and spills



- Improved tank integrity at a cost of >\$2M on repairs and improvements



- Agreed to more frequent and thorough inspections

Partnering with Other Agencies to Improve Permitting in Wetland Areas

- TPA/FDEP/USACoE: Improve process + Rule modifications + Enabling Act modifications + Mapping Riparian Lines
- Active Participation in Comprehensive Plans and Land Development Code Re-writes
- Pro-active Approach with County's Key Economic Spaces + Priority Development Areas



Partnering with Our Schools

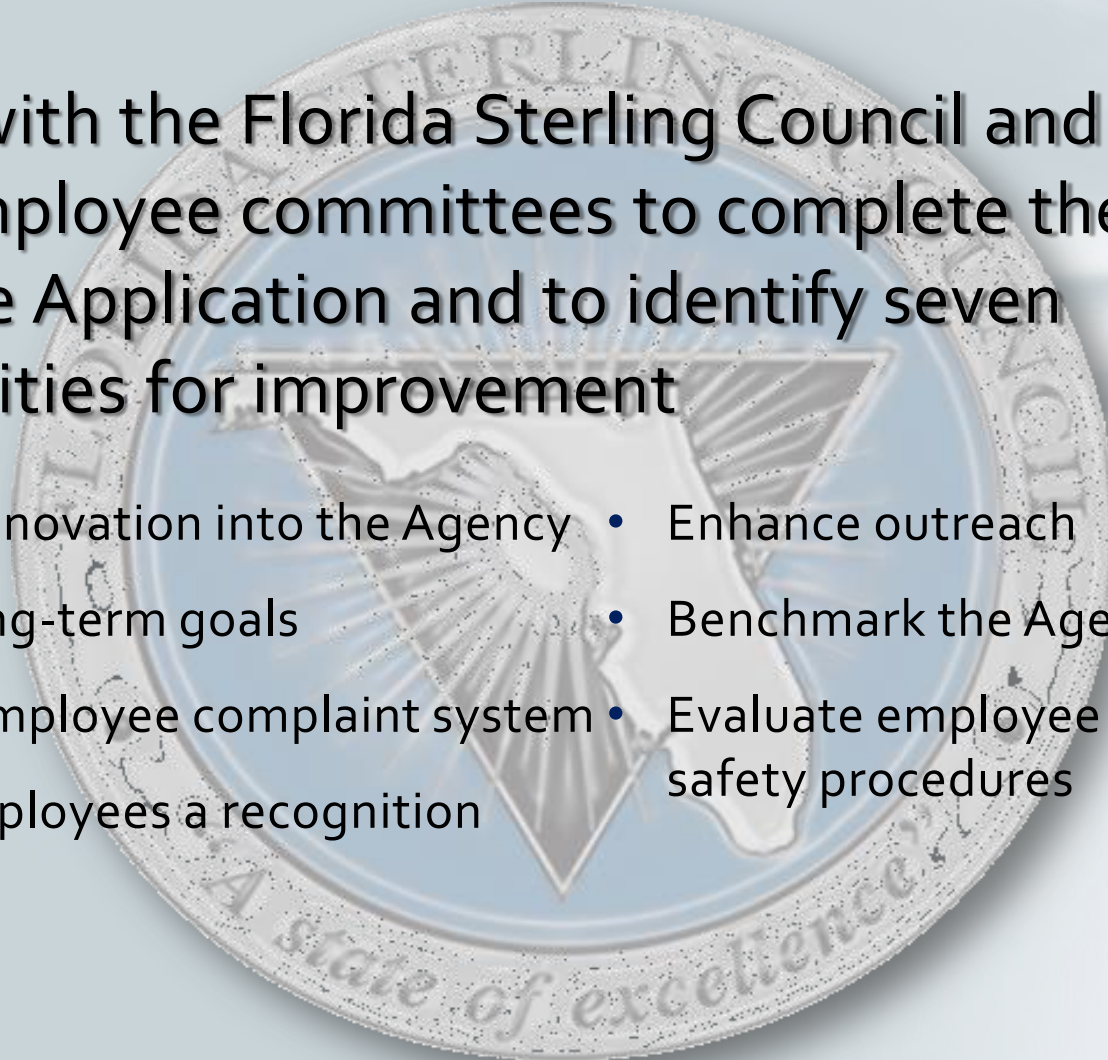
Participated in school activities such as Nature's Classrooms, Great American Teach-in and the Science Fair. Hosted an environmentally-themed photos contest as part of our Clean Air Month celebration



Partnering with the Florida Sterling Council

Worked with the Florida Sterling Council and some dozen employee committees to complete the Sterling Challenge Application and to identify seven opportunities for improvement

- Integrate innovation into the Agency
- Enhance outreach
- Develop long-term goals
- Benchmark the Agency's metrics
- Establish employee complaint system
- Evaluate employee health and safety procedures
- Provide employees a recognition program



Partnering with Patel School of Sustainability

Joined forces with the Patel College of Global Sustainability and Tampa Electric to form the Tampa Bay Clean Cities Coalition and received official designation from the US Department of Energy.



Update on Environmental Trends and Programs

3629

Environmental
Protection
Commission



Safety & Risk
Management



EPC Monitoring Reveals 40-year Trend of Water Quality Improvement in Tampa Bay

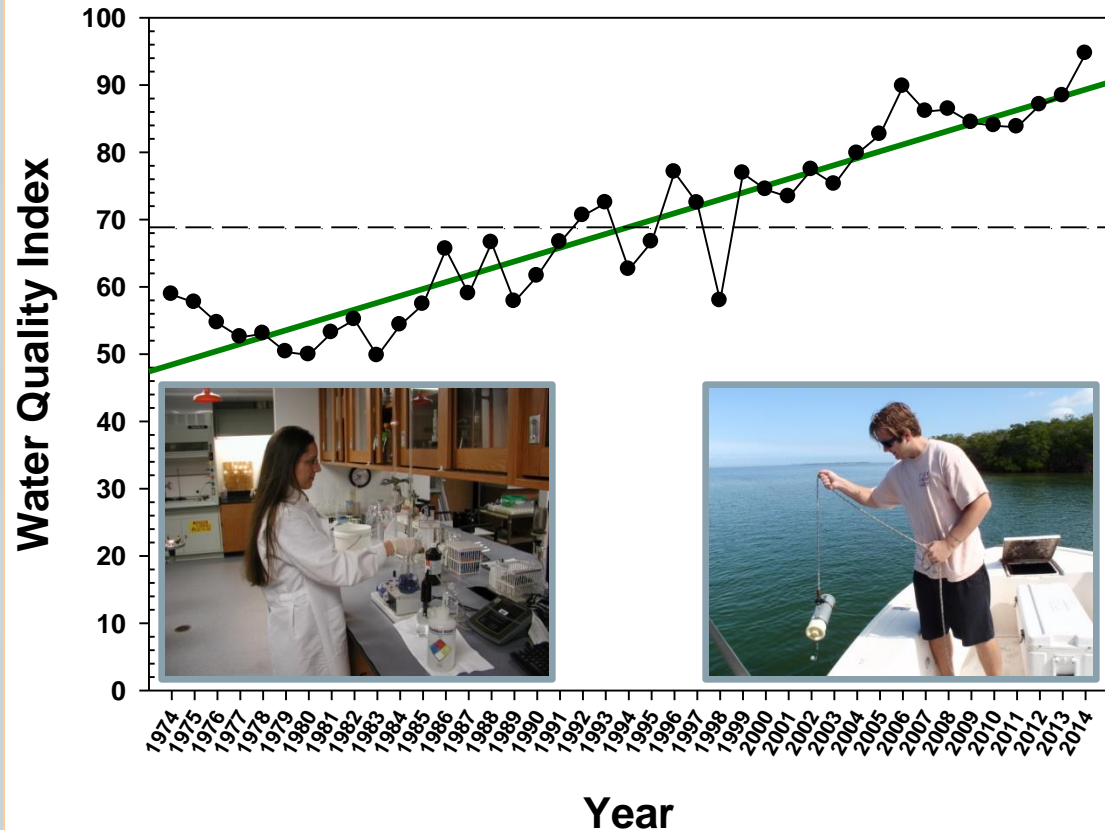
•Water Quality Index

- Chlorophyll a
- Turbidity
- Dissolved Oxygen
- Total Nitrogen
- Total Phosphorus
- Water Clarity
- Bacteria

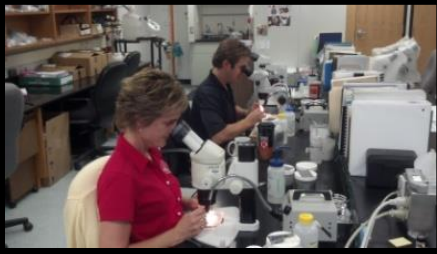
•Dashed line:

- 40 year historical average
- Index consistently above 80 since 1994 which is considered very good

Tampa Bay
1974 - 2014



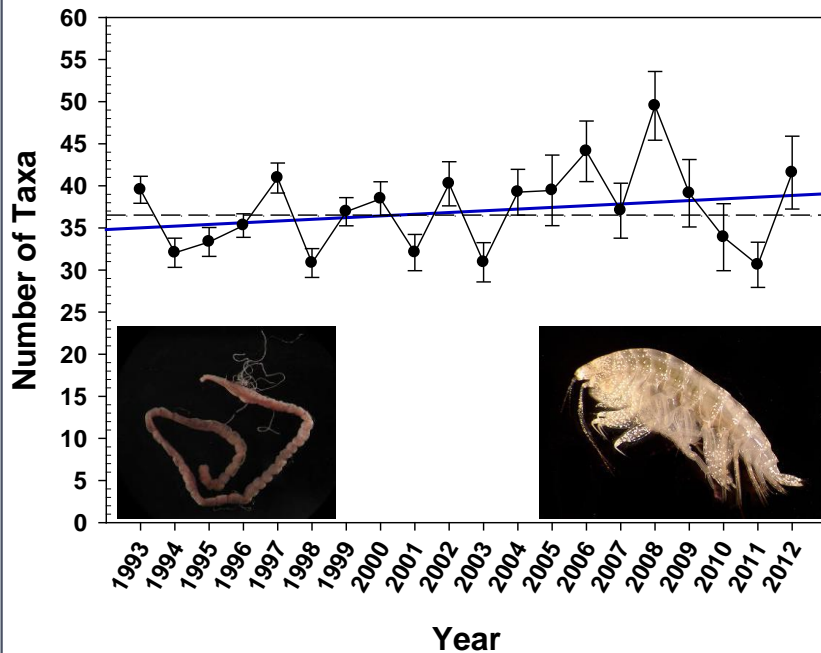
Health of Tampa Bay Benthic Monitoring



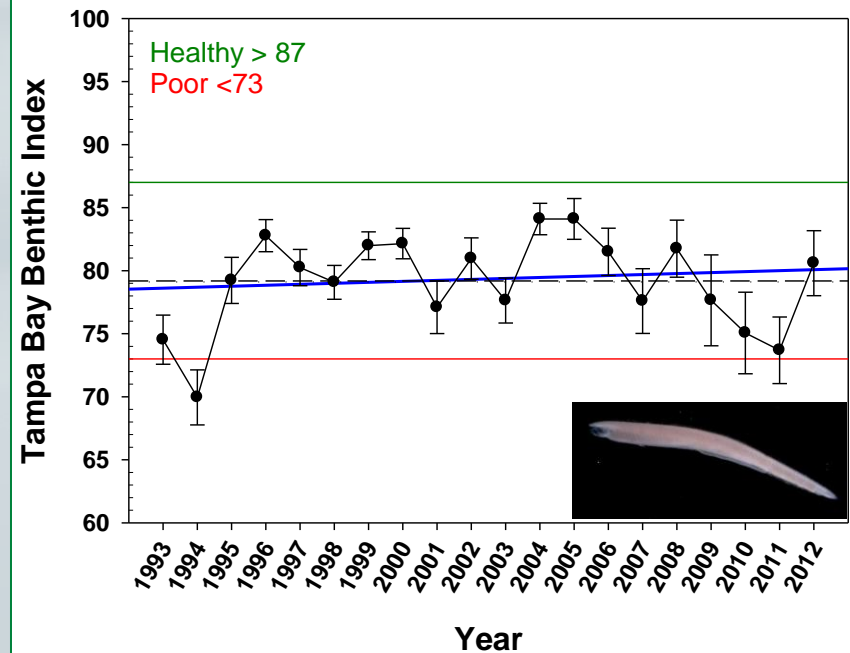
Species Richness

Tampa Bay Benthic Index

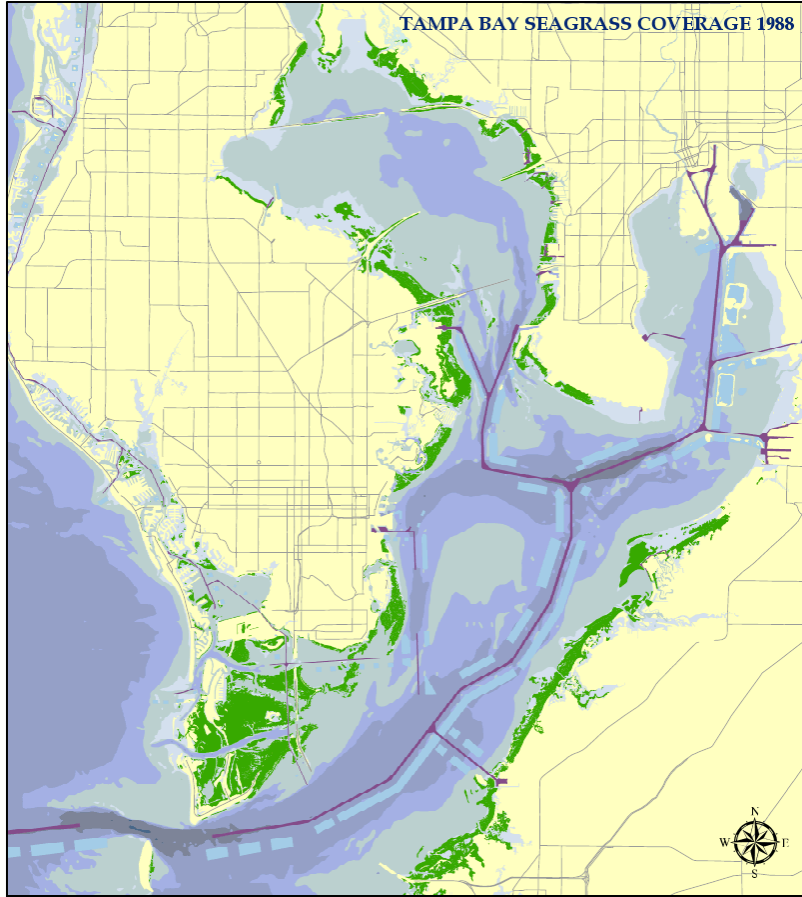
**Tampa Bay
1993-2012**



**Tampa Bay
1993-2012**



Tampa Bay Seagrass Recovery Continues



Environmental Protection Commission
Hillsborough County
3020 Queen City Drive
Tampa, FL 33610
Phone: 813-260-1000

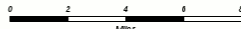
Environmental Protection Commission
of Hillsborough County - GIS

©GISProject_AUG081104p15_Seagrass1988_2012

Legend



Seagrass Extent



Hillsborough County, Florida
Aerial Seagrass Coverage

- Baywide Seagrass Goal = 38,000 acres
- Current Level = 34,642 acres (91% of restoration goal)
- Largest percentage increase was Hillsborough Bay (72%)

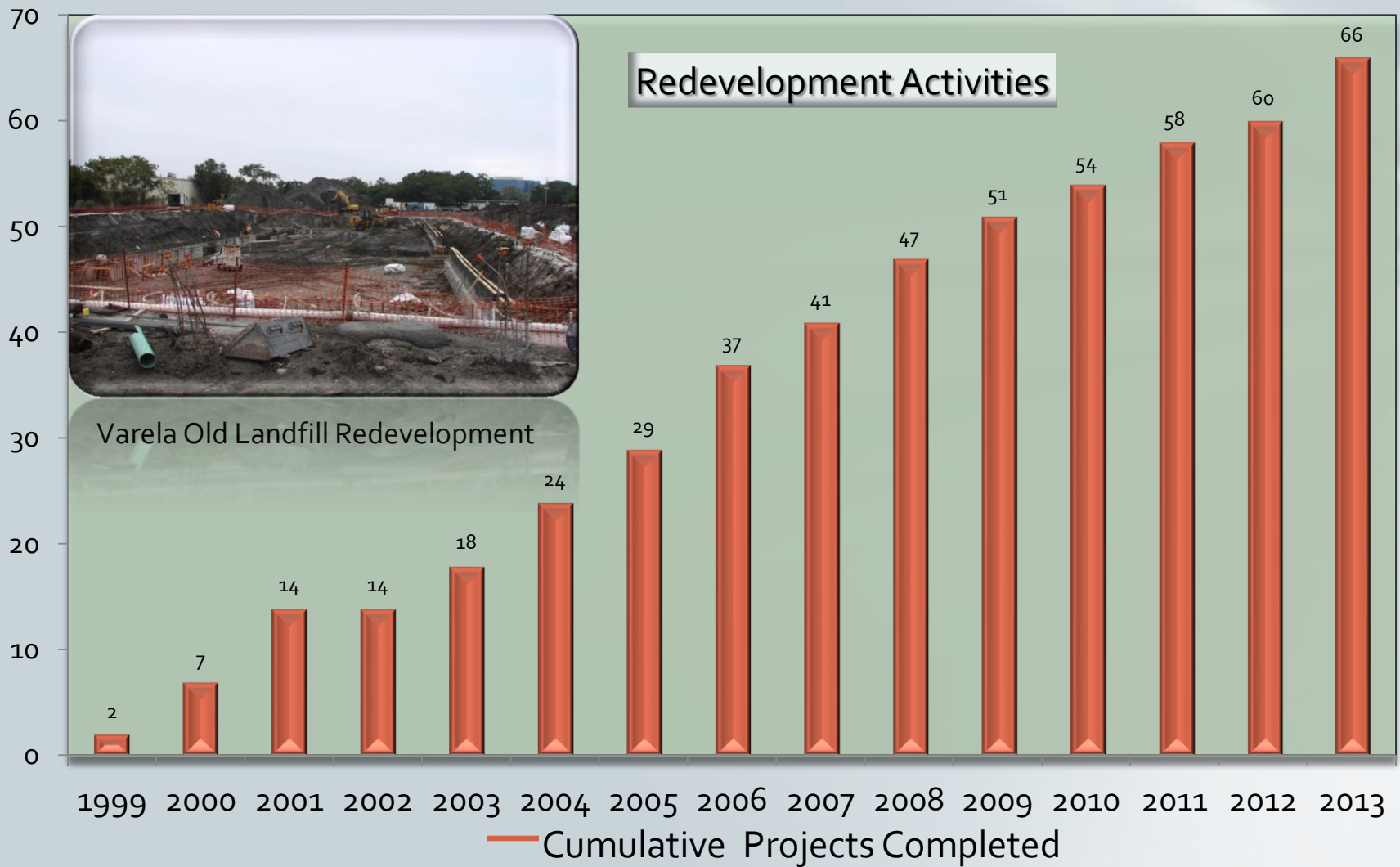
The most since the 1950's

Management of Our Old Landfills

Redevelopment Activities



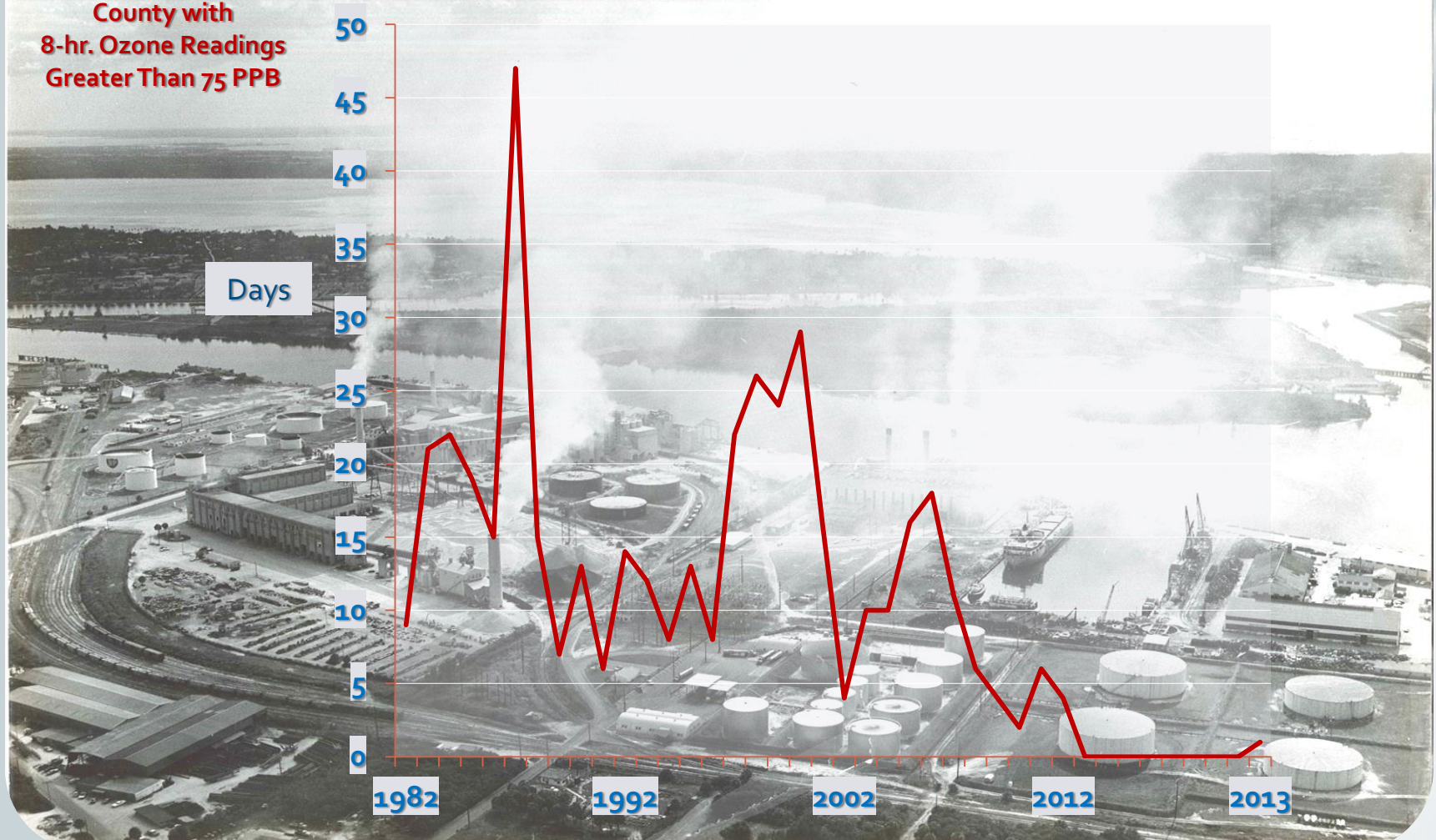
Varela Old Landfill Redevelopment



The Health of the Air

August 11, 1972

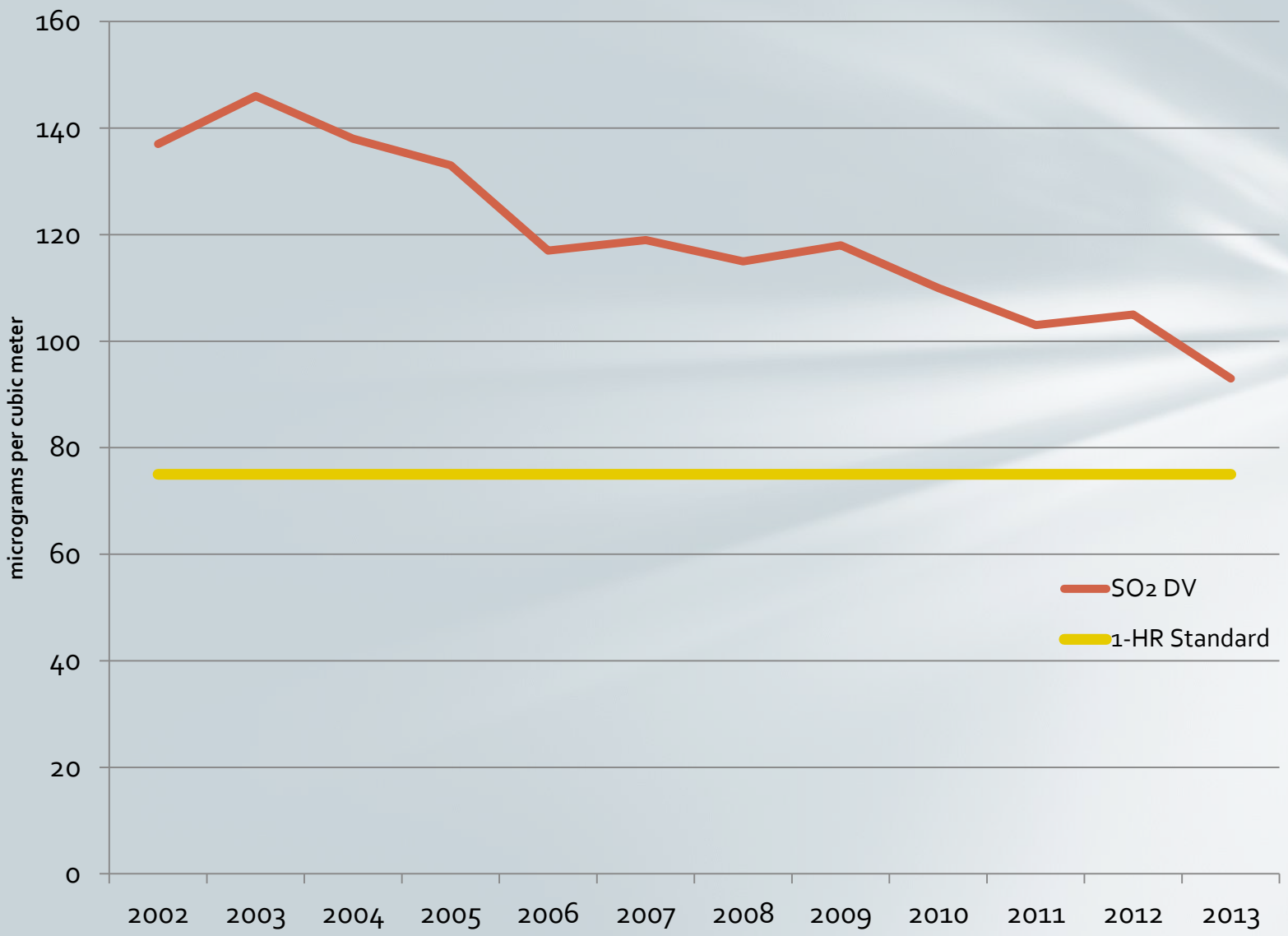
**Number of Days Per
Year in Hillsborough
County with
8-hr. Ozone Readings
Greater Than 75 PPB**



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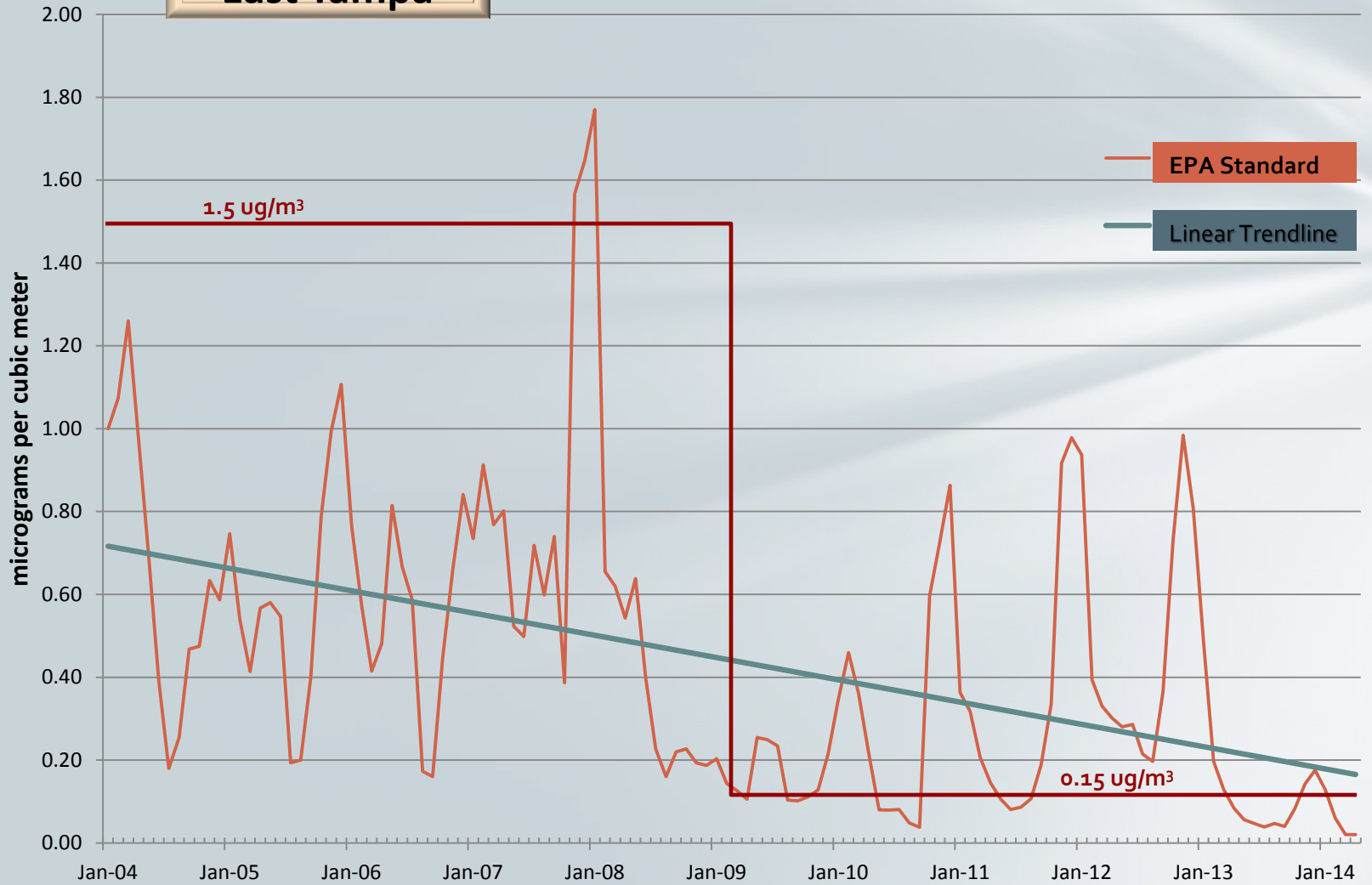
SO₂ Hot Spot in Gibsonton



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**Lead Hot Spot in
East Tampa**



Managing Our Wetlands

851 Development Services Reviews (re-zonings, site development, subdivisions, etc)

388 pre-application meetings

860 Wetland delineations, surveys, MAIW, mangroves, noticed exemptions, etc.....involving 525 wetland acres

24 (3.7%) acres of wetland impacts approved out of 645 total

1,062 TPA, FDEP, USACoE reviews

3,993 Unscheduled Cases of Assisting Citizens

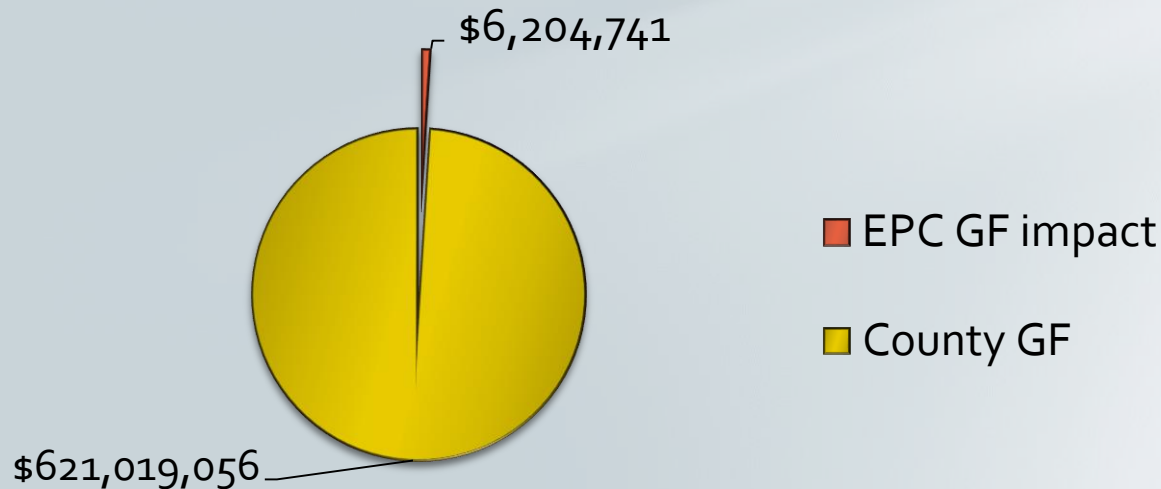
1,234 Wetland-related Compliance Inspections

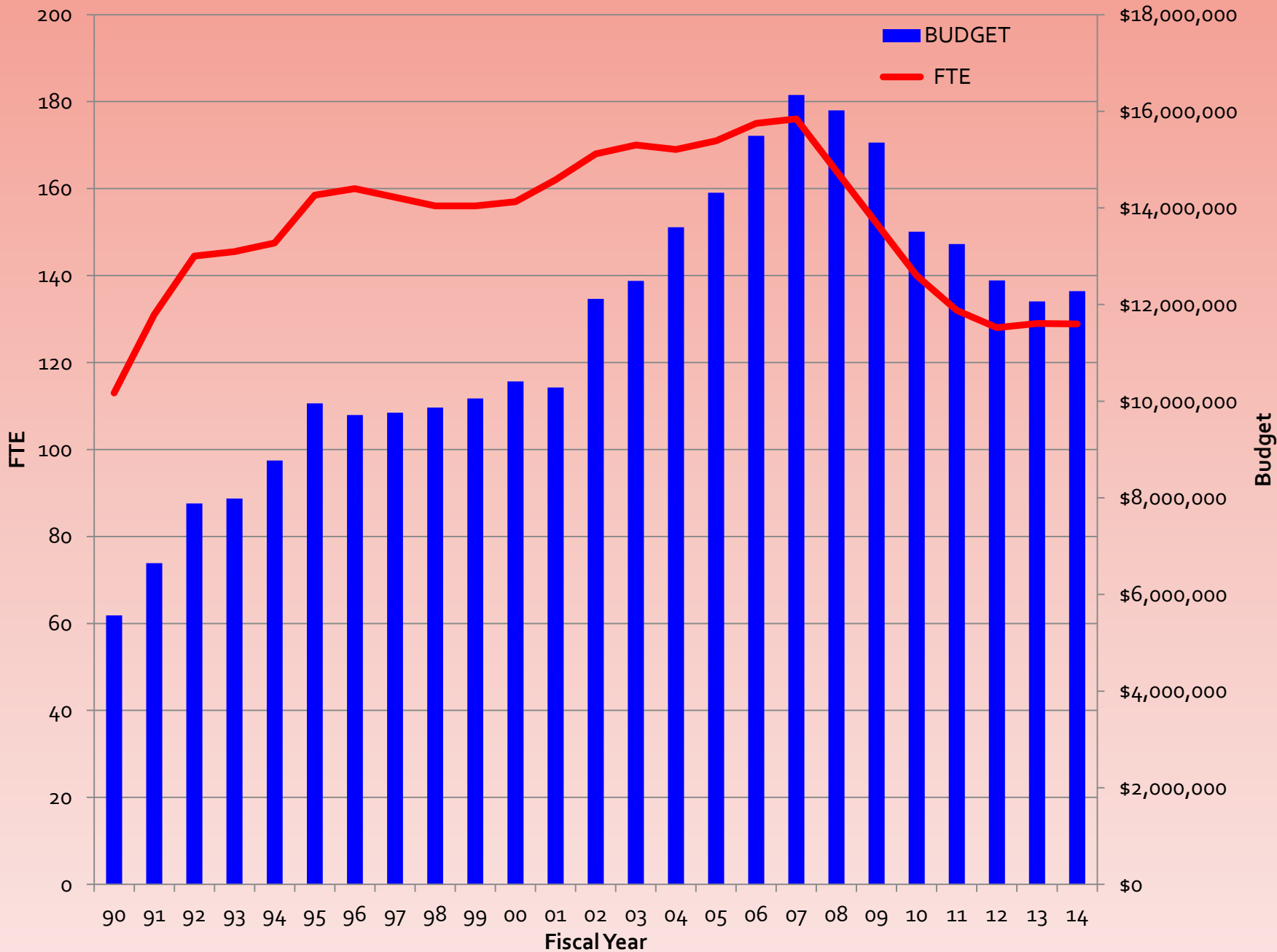


EPC's Budget

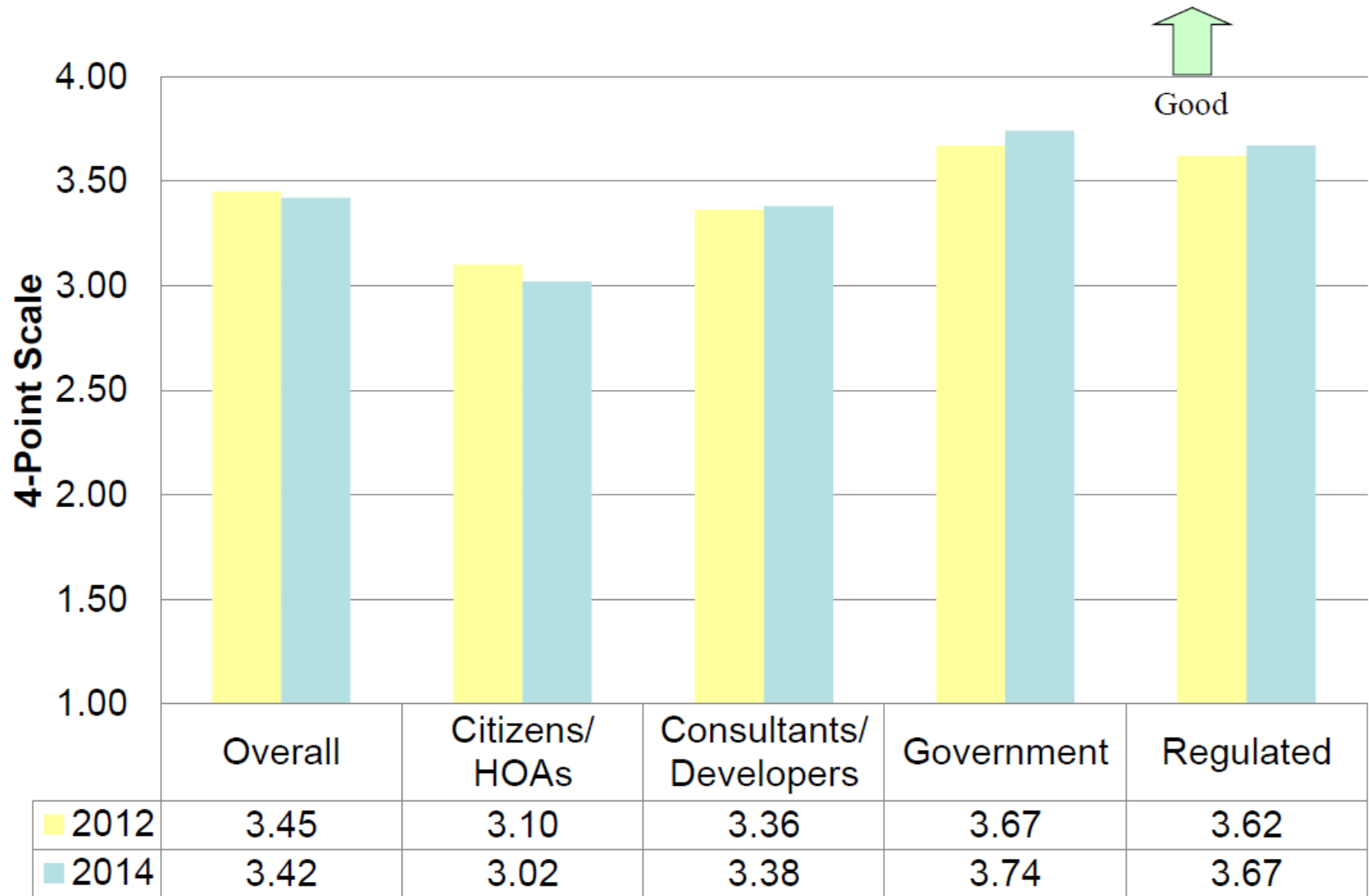
Partnering makes *Cents*

- Grants and contracts with: Environmental Protection Agency, Department of Homeland Security, Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Southwest Florida Water Management District and Tampa Bay Estuary Program
- On average about 50% of budget comes from non-General Fund sources
- FY 14 EPC impact on Countywide General Fund is approximately 1%





Results – Q5 Overall Satisfaction with EPC



Challenges Ahead for EPC in 2015

- Completing GSA Application
- Implementing Pay for Performance Program for Employees
- Continuing to Obtain Delegation of Major Environmental Programs
- Improving Outreach and Citizen's Assistance



Thank You!