

# SEMINOLE TRIBE OF FLORIDA

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**LARRY HOWARD**, Brighton Councilman

**CHRISTOPHER OSCEOLA**, Hollywood Councilman

**MARIANN BILLIE**, Big Cypress Councilwoman

**LAVONNE ROSE**, Secretary

**PETER A. HAHN**, Treasurer

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## Notice of Virtual Public Hearing

**AGENCY:** Seminole Water Commission

**DEPARTMENT:** Environmental Resource Management Department

**RULES UNDER REVIEW:**

- Tribal Water Code Subtitle B- Water Quality Code
- Seminole Water Commission Rules, Part 12 of Chapter B

**PUBLIC HEARING DATE:**

- Monday, June 13, 2022- 1:00pm to 5:00pm

**SUBJECT AREA TO BE ADDRESSED:**

As required by the Federal Clean Water Act and the Tribal Water Code, the Seminole Water Commission (Commission) will review the existing Tribal surface water quality standards and consider amendments based on new scientific data and information. Water quality standards are provisions of tribal law approved by the Environmental Protection Agency that describe the desired condition of a water body and how that condition will be protected or restored. A water quality standard is made up of three parts: water quality criteria for the protection of human health and the environment; designated uses of all water bodies; and an antidegradation policy to keep the designated uses from becoming impaired from pollution. The Tribal Water Quality Code and the Commission's implementing rules apply to all surface waters, including wetlands, water resource areas, and canals within the Big Cypress and Brighton Reservations. The topics to be discussed during this virtual public hearing include an overview of the Seminole Tribe's water quality standards, the federal requirements for the triennial review, and solicitation of feedback from interested parties regarding the Seminole Tribe's water quality standards.

## **PURPOSE AND EFFECT:**

The Commission is conducting a Public Hearing to solicit comments and feedback on the Seminole Tribe's surface water quality standards. This Triennial Review ensures that all water bodies on the Big Cypress and Brighton Reservations meet federal requirements and ensures the protection of Tribal waters for the designated uses of water on Brighton and Big Cypress Reservations. All surface water quality standards located within the Tribal Water Code Subtitle B- Water Quality Code and Seminole Water Commission Rules, Part 12 of Chapter B- Water Quality are under review and may be revised as part of the Triennial Review.

## **RULEMAKING AUTHORITY AND APPLICABLE LAWS AND REGULATIONS:**

- Amended Constitution and Bylaws of the Seminole Tribe of Florida – Article V;
- Tribal Water Code -3.5 of Subtitle A;
- Tribal Water Code- 12.3 of Subtitle B;
- Tribal Water Code- 15.2 of Subtitle B;
- Tribal Water Code- 15.4 of Subtitle B;
- 33 U.S.C. Section 1251 *et seq.*; and
- Clean Water Act- 40 C.F.R. Parts 25 and 131.

## **CONTACT INFORMATION:**

If you wish to be included in the list of interested persons to receive updates and information about this triennial review process or to receive a link to this virtual public hearing and hearing materials, please contact Whitney Sapienza, Assistant Director at the Environmental Resource Management Department at [SeminoleWaterQuality@semtribe.com](mailto:SeminoleWaterQuality@semtribe.com) or scan the following QR Code:



Full text of the current Tribal surface water quality standards are available on request or can be accessed online here:

[https://www.epa.gov/sites/default/files/2014-12/documents/seminole\\_floridawqs.pdf](https://www.epa.gov/sites/default/files/2014-12/documents/seminole_floridawqs.pdf).

**The Seminole Water Commission has not yet made a determination on any major issues related to this triennial review and no rules are currently proposed.**