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PRESS RELEASE 8-15-05
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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LAB RESULTS SHOW MASS ALGAE AND DECAYING ORGANICS IN LAKE CLARKE CANALS

Lake Clarke Shores, FL –Residents of an area south of Summit Boulevard and east of Florida Mango have been experiencing a pungent odor similar to that of raw sewage since Thursday. Test results have now shown this to be from an algae bloom and decaying organic materials from canal banks. Palm Beach County Health Officials caution against swimming in these waters but boating and fishing restriction have been lifted,

On Thursday evening August 11, 2005 Lake Clarke Police were notified of a major sewage odor and water discoloration in the vicinity of Florida Mango and Forest Hill. Further investigation on Friday discovered two additional locations and upon visual inspection by Health and other water officials it was thought to be the result of illegal dumping of raw sewage. The water avoidance order was issued by the Health Department while Lake Clarke officials had the waters tested.

Lab results received Monday showed the presence of large amounts of decaying organic material, mass quantities of algae cells but very low levels of fecal coliform, the bacteria associated with human waste. "We are continuing to investigate the cause but at this time we now feel that this is the result of an algae bloom coupled with decaying organics due to weed control along the banks," Said Health Department Environmental Supervisor Michael Hambor. Over the past several weeks canals in the area were treated with an herbicide to control the weeds. High heat, oxygenation of the material and resultant die off have been known to create pungent odors and clumping as the organic material rots.

The Town of Lake Clarke Shores has removed much of the material and the remainder is being monitored for dissipation.

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