

THE SOUTH ST LUCIE COUNTY BEACH RESTORATION / PROPERTY PROTECTION PROJECT

GOAL: Restore the coastline to a condition better than it was 40 years ago to provide dramatically better protection of the oceanfront buildings. Sand will be dredged and pumped from an approved off-shore source in an engineered design to double the width of the protective dunes and increase the beach width by approximately 40 feet resulting in beaches about 100 feet wide. The total project calls for 500,000 cubic yards of sand strategically placed along our beaches and dunes, which equals about 50,000 truckloads of sand at half the cost of land sourced sand.

THE COST

STATE: At this time, moving ahead with the project is contingent on obtaining state funding or the project does not proceed. Since the legislature is just going into session, it is necessary to show support for the project so the maximum state funding can be obtained. We are hopeful of obtaining 43% of the project cost from the state. Based on conversations with state officials, the county representatives are optimistic about receiving state funding *if the project receives local voter support*. If we proceed to approve this project and regionalize with Martin County, additional state funding can be available. The state saw the growing need for property protection and has already contributed \$3.2 million to fund environmental studies to this stage.

COUNTY: The County would be responsible for 23% of the project costs to enhance the shoreline protection for county owned parks.

PROPERTY OWNERS: St. Lucie County oceanfront property owners would be responsible for 34% of the project costs to help protect their property and that can be reduced further if Regionalization with Martin County occurs.

THIS MEANS: 66% of the project will be paid by local and state government. Property owners will be able to either pay the assessments costs up front (average cost \$1400), or finance those costs over 10 years through your County tax bill. In addition, the tax bill assessments qualify as a deduction on federal taxes, further reducing your cost.

REASONS TO PROCEED NOW:

- Improved protection for the buildings with much wider dunes and beach.
- A wider, healthier beach creating an improved habitat for nesting turtles & shorebirds.
- Increased real estate values.
- Timing fits with Martin County's work which can save us significant dollars.
- Federal Post Storm Disaster Relief: FEMA guidelines are that *a beach is considered eligible for permanent repair if it is an improved beach and has been routinely maintained prior to a disaster*. FEMA will require periodic beach nourishment but at a minimal scale compared to this project.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF WE DO NOT PROCEED?

- Our homes will have the existing beach / dune as the only protection from the next storm & surge.
- We will lose our priority ranking at the state level delaying property protection for years.
- We will lose the benefits of regionalizing the St Lucie & Martin County project areas.
- Future requests for beach restoration would require duplicating the extensive environmental tests and approvals this project has undergone.
- Future oceanfront property protection costs would most likely be at the expense of each building without County, State, or Federal assistance.

No one likes to spend money unnecessarily, but considering what a larger beach and significantly increased protection is worth to a condominium investment, it seems a pretty reasonable cost. **Storm damage is real, its impact is serious**, and prudence in dealing with that threat makes sense.

CRITICAL NOTE: Association & members in the project area spoke up on record; government listened and responded. If this project is not approved because of the cost share amount from the people the project protects, it could be devastating the next time there is an emergency or permit need.

PLEASE SUPPORT THIS PROJECT WITH YOUR VOICE AND YOUR VOTE!

Patricia M Pacitti, Presidents' Council S Hutchinson Island