

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF
THE TOWN OF FORT MYERS BEACH, FLORIDA
RESOLUTION 03-03

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF CONTINUED BEACH MANAGEMENT
FUNDING OF \$30 MILLION ANNUALLY

WHEREAS, Florida's number one tourist attraction is its beaches, and

WHEREAS, beach-related tourism has a \$41.6 billion impact on the state's economy, and

WHEREAS, beaches contribute over \$1 billion in tourist-related sales tax revenues annually, and

WHEREAS, 442,000 jobs are created by beach-related tourism, with an \$8 billion payroll resulting from additional spending related to Florida's beaches, and

WHEREAS, over half of Florida's 825 miles of sandy beaches are experiencing erosion, with 333 miles designated by the Department of Environmental Protection as critically-eroded, and

WHEREAS, the Florida Legislature, pursuant to Chapter 161, F.S., has declared beach erosion to be a serious threat to the economic and general welfare of the state and its residents; and has further declared it to be a necessary responsibility to preserve Florida's beaches and make provision for beach nourishment projects, and

WHEREAS, the Florida Legislature, in 1998, pursuant to s. 161.091, and s. 201.15 (11), provided that designated funding of \$30 million annually shall be deposited in the Ecosystem Management and Restoration Trust Fund, and that documentary stamp tax revenues shall be the source of that funding, and

WHEREAS, this \$30 million allocation has enabled Florida to develop a consistent, adequately-funded, priority-driven, long range management program to address critical erosion, and

WHEREAS, this program represents a cost-effective intergovernmental partnership which leverages a dollar for dollar local government match, and up to 65% of the total project cost from federal sources.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Town of Fort Myers Beach strongly urges the Florida Legislature to fully fund the Department of Environmental Protection's beach erosion control project priority list for FY03-04 for \$30 million as provided for in Chapters 161 and 201, Florida Statutes, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Town of Fort Myers Beach or respectively requests that the Florida Legislature oppose any legislative efforts to amend existing law which allocates \$30 million annually in certain documentary stamp tax revenues to the Ecosystem Management and Restoration Trust Fund for purposes of beach preservation and repair.

The foregoing resolution was adopted by the Fort Myers Beach town Council upon being put to a vote, the result was as follows:

Howard Rynearson	<u>aye</u>
Daniel Hughes	<u>aye</u>
Bill Thomas	<u>aye</u>
W.H. "Bill" Van Duzer	<u>aye</u>
Terry Cain	<u>aye</u>

APPROVED this 10th day of February, 2003.

ATTEST:

By: Marsha Segal-George
Marsha Segal-George, Town Clerk

TOWN OF FORT MYERS BEACH

By: Daniel Hughes
Daniel Hughes, Mayor

Approved as to form by:

Richard V.S. Roosa
Richard V.S. Roosa, Town Attorney