

RESOLUTION NO. 03-25

A RESOLUTION BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF FORT MYERS BEACH IN SUPPORT OF CONTINUED BEACH MANAGEMENT FUNDING OF \$30 MILLION ANNUALLY FROM DOCUMENTARY STAMP TAX REVENUES

WHEREAS, beaches are Florida's most recognized and productive economic and environmental asset. Sandy beaches, including those enhanced by beach restoration and nourishment, are Florida's largest playground, public park and habitat for endangered species, and

WHEREAS, Florida had 75.6 million visitors in 2002, with beaches being its number one tourist attraction, and beach erosion the number one concern expressed by beach tourists, and

WHEREAS, Florida's economy benefits from \$21.9 million in direct spending and \$19.7 billion in indirect spending by beach-going tourists (2000), and

WHEREAS, beaches contribute over \$1 billion in tourist-related sales tax to state 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, beach renourishment is a necessary infrastructure investment to maintain Florida's most important industry, 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), unanimously reaffirmed its commitment to our beaches by providing that funding of \$30 million annually 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 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, and

WHEREAS, to provide anything less than the \$30 million in state funding for FY 04-05 will result in federal and state matching beach dollars being diverted to other uses, and will send a message to intergovernmental partners that the State of Florida is backing away from its commitment to healthy beaches for future generations, and

WHEREAS, a full one-third of the Lee County Tourist Development Tax is dedicated to beach and shoreline projects and renourishment, equating to over \$3.5 million annually.

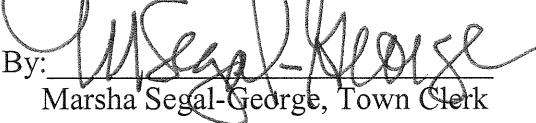
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Town of Fort Myers Beach strongly urges the Florida Legislature to fully fund the Department of Environmental Protection's beach erosion control project priority list for FY 04-05 for \$30 million as provided for in Chapters 161 and 201, Florida Statutes, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Town of Fort Myers Beach 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.

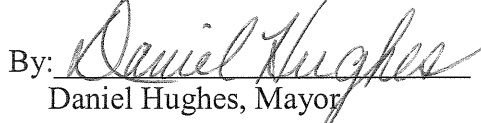
PASSED AND DULY ADOPTED by the Town of Fort Myers Beach on the 8th day of September 2003, upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

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>

ATTEST:

By: 
Marsha Segal-George, Town Clerk

TOWN OF FORT MYERS BEACH

By: 
Daniel Hughes, Mayor

Approved as to form by:


Richard V.S. Roosa, Town Attorney