

Barrier Island Governmental Council (BIG-C)
Resolution # 2003-03

A RESOLUTION OF THE BARRIER ISLAND GOVERNMENTAL COUNCIL IN SUPPORT OF CONTINUED BEACH MANAGEMENT FUNDING OF \$30 MILLION ANNUALLY FROM DOCUMENTARY STAMP TAX REVENUE;

WHEREAS, beaches are Florida's most recognized public recreational asset and environmental treasure. Sandy beaches, including those enhanced by beach restoration and nourishment, are Florida's playground, public parks and habitat for endangered species; and

WHEREAS, Florida had 75.6 million visitors in 2002, with beaches being its number one tourist attraction; and

WHEREAS, Florida's economy benefits from 21.9 billion in direct spending and 19.7 billion in indirect spending by beach going tourists (year 2000); and

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

WHEREAS, 442,000 jobs are created by beach related tourism with a \$8 billion payroll resulting from the 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 section Florida Statute 161.088, 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 governmental responsibility to preserve Florida's beaches and make provision for beach nourishment projects; and

WHEREAS, the Florida Legislature, in 1998, pursuant to sections: Florida Statutes 161.091 and 201.15(11), unanimously reaffirmed its commitment to our beaches by providing that funding of \$30 million annually be deposited in the Ecosystem Management revenues with the documentary stamp tax revenue shall be the source of that funding; and

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

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Barrier Island Governmental Council, which represents the business interests and the public safety of ten (10) cities along the beaches of Pinellas County, in open session this 29th day of October 2003, 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 Barrier Island Governmental Council respectively requests that the 2004 Florida Legislature oppose any legislative efforts to amend the existing law which allocates \$30 million annual in documentary stamp tax revenues to the Ecosystem Management and Restoration Trust Fund for the purpose of beach construction and repair.

The foregoing Resolution was offered during General Meeting of the Barrier Islands Governmental Council (BIG-C), Pinellas County, Florida, on the 29th day of October, 2003, by _____, who moved its adoption, and said motion was seconded by _____; and upon roll call the vote was:

AYES:

NAYS:

J. J. Beyrouti, President
Mayor Town of Redington Shores

ATTEST:

Tom De Cesare, Secretary
City of Madeira Beach