

**RESOLUTION R-03-64**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MANATEE COUNTY, FLORIDA, REQUESTING THAT THE ANNUAL FUNDING IN THE AMOUNT OF \$30.0 MILLION FOR THE STATE OF FLORIDA ECOSYSTEM MANAGEMENT AND RESTORATION TRUST FUND BE MAINTAINED.**

**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 Board of County Commissioners of Manatee County, Florida, strongly urges the Florida Legislature to fully fund the Department of Environmental Protection's beach erosion control project priority list for FY 2003-2004 for \$30 million as provided for in Chapters 161 and 201, Florida Statutes; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Board of County Commissioners of Manatee County, Florida, respectfully 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.

**ADOPTED** by the Board of County Commissioners of Manatee County, Florida, with a quorum present and voting, this 25th day of February, 2003.

Attest: **R. B. "Chips" Shore**  
Clerk of the Circuit Court

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
MANATEE COUNTY, FLORIDA

By: \_\_\_\_\_

*Susan Romine*

By: \_\_\_\_\_

*Jonathan R. Bruce*  
Jonathan R. Bruce, Chairman

