

**RESOLUTION R-03-266**

**RESOLUTION 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

**WHEREAS**, Florida's economy benefits from \$21.9 billion 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**, the Florida Legislature, pursuant to section 161.088 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 governmental 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**, Manatee County initiated a federally funded nourishment project in partnership with the State of Florida for approximately six miles along Anna Maria Island under a 50-year cooperative agreement with the Army Corps of Engineers in 1993 and completed its first periodic re-nourishment nine years later in 2002; and

**WHEREAS**, a reduction in state funding for FY04-05 will result in federal and state matching beach dollars being diverted to other uses, and will send a message to federal partners that the State of Florida is backing away from its commitment to healthy beaches for future generations.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that Manatee County strongly urges the Florida Legislature to fully fund the Department of Environmental Protection's beach erosion control project priority list for FY04-05 for \$30 million as provided for in chapters 161 and 201, Florida Statutes; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that Manatee County respectfully requests that the Manatee County Legislature Delegation 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; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that copies of this resolution be provided to individual members of Manatee County's Florida Legislative Delegation, Governor, Senate Appropriations Committee, and the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on General Government, and the House Appropriations Committee, and House Agriculture and Environment Appropriations Subcommittee.

**ADOPTED** by the Board of County Commissioners of Manatee County, Florida, with a quorum present and voting, this 7TH day of October, 2003.

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

By: *Susan J. Homine*

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
MANATEE COUNTY, FLORIDA

By: *John A. B...*  
Chairman

