



## About Shoreline



news from the Florida Shore and Beach Preservation Association

**July 2022** 

# **2022 LEGISLATIVE SESSION - FY 2022-23 BUDGET UPDATE**

by Pepper Uchino



On June 2<sup>nd</sup>, Governor DeSantis signed the state's largest ever budget (\$109.9 billion) with an equally record-breaking veto list of \$3.13 billion. It is the second straight budget to surpass \$100 billion, which is a trend that will become the rule rather than the exception. Florida's economy remains

strong in the face of recession concerns, and the state is positioned well with more than \$16 billion in reserves. Moreover, Florida's tax collections continue to exceed estimates. May's numbers indicate strong sales tax growth, which, unfortunately for consumers, was driven by inflation. Even though the numbers coming in are a double-edged sword, consumer spending is still strong in Florida. We will wait and see what the June numbers look like, but early indications are they will also exceed expectations. Doc stamp revenues, from which beaches gets its recurring funding, also beat expectations in April, coming in at a staggering 159.7% above estimates, indicating a still red-hot housing market in Florida, although rising interest rates are starting to impact the market. Consumer spending and the housing market are not the only bright spots, though. Florida's tourism industry welcomed a record 36 million visitors in the first quarter of 2022, marking an increase of 1.3% over pre-pandemic levels.

During the 2022 Legislative Session, FSBPA fought for full funding of the list (\$58.65 million) and tracked various other resilience and coastal

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US Army Corps of Engineers<sub>®</sub>

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National Conference on Beach Preservation Technology

Coming Soon—The Call for Abstracts for the 2023 National Conference on Beach Preservation Technology

February 1 - 3, 2023, in downtown Ft. Myers for the very first time. The call for abstracts will open soon.



projects. Ultimately, the large unspent balances for beaches from the previous year's historic funding led the House to hold firm at \$50 million, and the Senate agreed on this position in the waning hours of Session. I stressed to the governor's office the importance of beach spending and was assured programmatic beach funding would be "safe." Ultimately, that was true, and the budget contains \$50 million for the beach program; however, the \$25 million allocation for Little Talbot State Park (line item 1736A) was vetoed, leaving an additional \$30 million earmarked for certain state park beaches rather than the \$55 million as passed by the Legislature.

The veto list also contained other projects we tracked throughout session, including:

- 1665A Grants and Aids to Local Governments Water Projects local coastal or resilience appropriations member bills (project 60) Fernandina Beach resiliency project
- 1755A Grants and Aids to Local Governments and Nonstate Entities several local park projects were vetoed (projects 4 and 14)
- 1768 The Florida Ocean Alliance Florida Ocean Alliance Expanding Florida's Blue Economy Development of Blue Economy Strategy
- 1775B Local Resiliency Projects a few local resiliency projects were vetoed, including St. Pete Beach Coastal Resiliency Community Center Shoreline Rehab (project 4)

For further information on the FY 2022-23 budget, here is the governor's <u>full press release</u> including links to all documents, including the <u>Governor's 2022-23 Budget Highlights</u>, in which he mentions the importance of addressing Florida's critically eroded shorelines with beach nourishment and inlet management. Thank you for all the hard work you put in every day to ensure Florida has the best beaches in the world.

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## **2022 Florida Resilience Conference**

FSBPA and Resiliency Florida hope you are making plans to attend the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Florida Resilience Conference at the Hyatt Regency Resort in Bonita Springs. The conference will be held as an in person only event for the first time since 2019! The program is under construction this month and already has important policy discussions that you will not want to miss. The format of the conference will consist two plenary sessions – the Wednesday opening and Friday closing sessions, and the remaining conference format will have presentations specific to one of the following tracks:

- 1. Beach Management
- 2. Infrastructure nature based, gray, transportation
- 3. Energy and Planning & Management
- Agriculture

The schedule at a glance is provided on the conference <u>website</u>. Be sure to make you plans early to join us for this groundbreaking event.

## FSBPA Awards Committee

Joshua Revord, Chair Damon Douglas Dan Rowe FSBPA members are also invited to <u>nominate a colleague or beach</u> <u>advocate</u> to receive an esteemed FSBPA Award in recognition of contributions or service to beach preservation in Florida. The Awards Committee will consider nominations received by July 13 for this longstanding tradition. Recipients will be honored at the banquet on Thursday evening, October 6.

## **Key Dates to Remember**

July 13 – Awards Nomination Deadline
September 9 – Early Registration closes
September 12 – Last Day Hotel Room RSVP guaranteed
October 5 – Conference kick off

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# **Broward County Shore Protection Project - Segment II Construction Contract Completed**

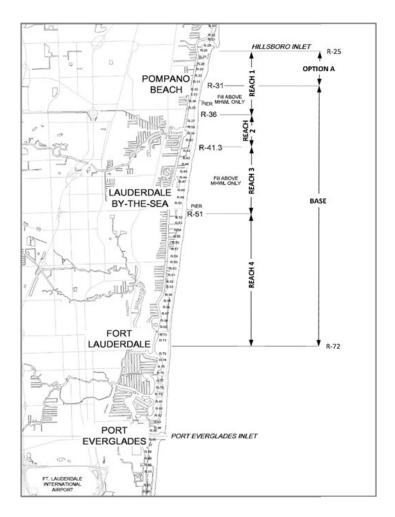
by Tiphanie J. Mattis, Project Manager, USACE Jacksonville District



The renourishment of the eroded shoreline along approximately 8.9 miles of Atlantic Ocean shoreline in central Broward County, Florida, was completed on April 29, 2022. The strengthened sections of beach lie within the municipalities of Pompano Beach, Sea Ranch Lakes, Lauderdale-by-the-Sea and Fort Lauderdale.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Jacksonville District, awarded the construction contract for the project on January 11, 2021, to Eastman Aggregate Enterprises, LLC, for placement of 387,000 cubic yards of material between Hillsboro Inlet and the northern portion of Fort Lauderdale.

The contract work was structured as a base contract and one additional option totaling \$20,569,940, with all sand placement occurring between Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) Monuments R-25 and R-72. The project scope also included vibration control and monitoring, environmental species monitoring, and turbidity monitoring.



2021 - 2022 Broward County Segment II Beach Renourishment



Sand for the renourishment was sourced from upland mines in central Florida and truck-hauled to the beach fill areas. The beach restoration project was justified by Congress for Flood Control and Coastal Emergency (FCCE) rehabilitation under Public Law 84-99 in response to Hurricane Irma in 2017, when high waves and water levels created significant beach erosion. All work associated with the FCCE was 100 percent funded by the federal government.

An earlier FCCE nourishment was performed between November 2013 and February 2014 following Hurricane Sandy in 2012 to partially nourish 5.1 miles of critically eroded shoreline immediately south of Hillsboro Inlet between FDEP Monuments R-26 and R-53. A total of 130,000 cubic yards of beach quality sand was placed along the shore in that FCCE renourishment, restoring the beach to pre-storm condition.

In the past Broward County, the local sponsor, had constructed all shore protection features along its shoreline, including initial construction in 1970, renourishment in 1983, and most recently in 2016.









The Broward County Segment II beach restoration will help reduce potential economic, environmental and infrastructure damage that may be caused by future tropical storms and hurricanes. With the renourishment complete, residents can count on an additional layer of property protection in advance of this year's hurricane season.

"I am happy to see this one finish up," said Tiphanie Mattis, Project Manager. "Completion of the Broward County Segment II renourishment is another example of the Corps of Engineers delivering our mission objectives."



## FDEP Office of Resilience and Coastal Protection Updates - July 2022



#### **Coastal Resilience Forum**

Registration is open for the next Coastal Resilience Forum, which will be held on Aug. 3, 2022. Registration is required. Interested participants may sign up for the webinar by contacting <a href="mailto:Resilience@FloridaDEP.gov">Resilience@FloridaDEP.gov</a>. You will receive a return email with instructions for participating. <a href="mailto:Previous presentations">Previous presentations and notes can be found online.</a>

#### **Critical Erosion Report 2022**

Sections <u>161.101</u> and <u>161.161</u>, Florida Statutes, charge the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) with the responsibility of identifying those beaches of the state that are critically eroding and developing and maintaining a comprehensive long-term management plan for their restoration.

The <u>Critically Eroded Beaches</u> report of 2022 is now available. The 2022 list includes 426.3 miles of critically eroded beach; 9.1 miles of critically eroded inlet shoreline; 88.7 miles of non-critically eroded beach; and 3.2 miles of non-critically eroded inlet shoreline statewide. There were no changes in this annual update from the 2021 Critically Eroded Beaches report.

#### **Annual Inlet Report**

DEP is charged with developing an annual inlet report stating the status of each managed inlet's successes in balancing the sediment budget and mitigating the erosive effects on adjacent beaches. Section 161.143, Florida Statutes was recently amended (2019) The agency released the first edition of the Annual Inlet Report in 2021 and will release the second edition in the summer of 2022.

Local governments, local inlet entities or the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers actively manage altered inlets around the state, which includes bypassing beach-quality sand to the adjacent eroding beaches, as described in <a href="Section 161.142">Section 161.142</a>, F.S. A bypass objective, which is written within the strategies of inlet management plans for most managed inlets, is the performance measure for each inlet within the annual report.

Of the 66 inlets in the state of Florida, there are 25 altered inlets that have an approved inlet management plan with the state. In the second edition of the annual inlet report, 12 of the 25 altered inlets are meeting their bypass objective at 100% or greater; two inlets are above 90%; two inlets are above 70%; one inlet is above 60%; one inlet is above 50%; and nine inlets are below 40% of meeting their bypass objective.



In total, 57% of the inlets are above 90% in meeting their bypass objectives. The Annual Inlet Report will assist DEP, local governments and inlet entities in tracking how they perform on an annual basis for inlet management activities.

The <u>second edition of the report</u> will be posted online in July 2022.

#### Palm Beach Island Pilot Beach Management Agreement

DEP held the annual Palm Beach Island Beach Management Agreement (BMA) public meeting on June 7, 2022. This pilot BMA is an effort to coordinate projects and monitoring along the approximately 15-mile shoreline and encourage net environmental benefit projects. The primary local sponsors are the Town of Palm Beach and Palm Beach County.

The main topic of this year's annual meeting was the unveiling of an updated version of the BMA. The update is a requirement of the BMA after year five of the signed agreement. Most of the updates were to the marine turtle and nearshore hardbottom monitoring protocols. These updates ensure the conditions of the required monitoring align with current practices of DEP and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, as well as to improve upon lessons learned over the previous five years.

Additionally, minor changes to administrative procedures were made, including items such as:

- Not requiring a permitting fee for projects constructed multiple times under the BMA over a 15-year period, which is consistent with Joint Coastal Permitting (JCP) rule.
- Not requiring proof of upland interest as this is no longer a requirement under Florida Administrative Code.
- Updating the project description and drawings for the Palm Beach Harbor maintenance dredging to reflect the JCP permit modification, which authorized the southern extension of sand placement to DEP Reference Monument R-80.35.

The updated BMA agreement can be found online.

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#### Shoreline

A monthly electronic publication of the Florida Shore & Beach Preservation Association.

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## **CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

## **FSBPA Conferences**

**October 5-7, 2022** 

2<sup>nd</sup> Annual

Florida Resilience Conference

featuring the 65th FSBPA Annual Meeting 🗖

Hyatt Regency Coconut Point Bonita Springs, Florida





#### February 1-3, 2023

36<sup>th</sup> National Conference on Beach Preservation Technology

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