FLORIDA SHORE & BEACH
PRESERVATION ASSOCIATION
A League of Cities, Counties, and other Coastal Interests on Beach Issues

2018 Legislative Priorities

Support current level of state funding of $50M for beach nourishment and inlet management projects to preserve our beaches

- **Support amendments to Chapter 375, F.S., to provide $50M in recurring, dedicated funding for beaches from the Land Acquisition Trust Fund.** For FY 17/18, the Legislature provided $50M, $29.5M as recurring LATF. A recurring $50M annual LATF allocation is needed to predictably fund the statewide beach management program, and maximize federal and local matching dollars.
- Assist coastal communities with Hurricane Irma storm damage recovery, supporting a separate, one-time state appropriation for local government sponsors to match Congressional (USACE and FEMA) supplemental funding for beaches.
- Increase funding emphasis on inlet management/sand bypassing projects. Florida's 60 inlets starve adjacent beaches and are the major cause of erosion on Florida's East Coast. Effective inlet sand management will reduce nourishment costs and frequency on downdrift eroded beaches, and conserve sand resources.
- Ensure annual funding is used for projects in greatest need by revising ranking criteria for beach and inlet management projects to better capture the economic benefits of tourism, storm damage reduction and resource protection.

FLORIDA'S BEACHES ARE LOSING GROUND
The cost of doing nothing is too great

Historically, the Legislature committed $30M annually in doc stamp revenues for the statewide beach program. Following passage of Amendment 1, the 1998 allocation was replaced in law, recognizing the program as an eligible recipient of LATF.

Why $50M? The miles of critically eroded beaches have increased since 1998 from 317 to 416 and are growing with recent storm events. **Miles of beaches participating in the program have increased over 50%.** We now have almost **200 miles of critically-eroded beaches not part of any solution.** A $50M dedicated, recurring annual allocation for beaches is needed to repair the growing backlog of eroded beaches, maintain the 229 miles of projects already part of the program, and begin to address the most eroded segments of beach not part of any shore protection project.

Fort Lauderdale

Why Repair and Maintain Florida's Beaches

Florida's iconic sun, sea, and sand help to attract over a hundred million visitors to the state every year, and beaches are at the top of the list as our #1 tourist attraction. Inarguably, the economic benefits to property values, tourism, and jobs of maintaining healthy beaches far outweigh the investment needed to combat beach erosion.

Beaches are a Worthy State Investment

The Office of Economic & Demographic Research's 2015 study concluded that beaches are the most important feature of Florida's brand and are the **#1 tourist attraction,** with an **ROI of 5.4 to 1**. An annual state investment of $44M increased state revenues by $237.9M and increased the GDP by $2.4B per year.

Intergovernmental Partnership

Consistent dedicated state funding is vital to match local and federal funding for beach and inlet projects. Requiring equal cost-sharing, the state has partnered with local government project sponsors to manage over 60 projects (229 miles). Of those, 26 projects (134 miles or 59% of total project miles) are Federally authorized and average a 62% Federal cost share (replacement of post-storm sand losses is 100%).

Healthy Beaches Drive Our Economy

Healthy beaches grow state revenues by increasing coastal property values, associated doc stamp revenues, and tourism-related sales tax revenues. Without healthy beaches, visitors will travel elsewhere and upland development will be more vulnerable to beach erosion.

Nourished and Maintained Beaches Reduce Storm Damage

During Hurricanes Matthew and Irma, beaches with nourishment projects did an outstanding job absorbing storm impacts and protecting upland development from beach erosion and coastal flooding. They worked and reminded us of the importance of maintaining dunes! Florida's beach program can maximize its cost-effectiveness by making state funds available post-storm to match Federal and local government dollars to replace sand losses and reestablish the project's nourishment interval before the next major storm event.

"Experience shows the most cost-effective, socially and environmentally suitable way to reduce storm damages and coastal flooding on most open coast sites occurs through beach nourishment."
(ASCE, 2016 Report Card)