

Shoreline

January 2009

Governmental Update



Let the fun begin. December committee meetings were a clear indicator that the 2009 Legislature will focus almost exclusively on significantly reducing state expenditures for the current and the next fiscal years. First, in

Special Session from January 5 thru January 16, the Legislature must close the \$2.3 billion budget gap for the current fiscal year (FY 08-09).

[Read Full Story](#)

Beach News Online

If Funds Wash Away, So Could Beach Plans

Indian River and Melbourne Beach could see thinner shores in 2009 if state tax dollars to dredge and haul beach sand continue to erode along with the housing market.

[Read Full Story on Florida Today](#)

Indian River Co. Beach Restoration Plans May Mean New Tax

VERO BEACH — On tap for 2009 could be a new county tax for a multimillion-dollar plan to pad seven miles of north county beaches with sand, starting in the fall, county officials say.

[Read Full Story on TCPalm](#)

[Palm Beach DERM Status Report](#)



Beaches: a Vital Part of Our Infrastructure

Webster's dictionary defines infrastructure as the underlying foundation on which the continuance and growth of a community depends, especially the basic installations and facilities, such as roads, schools, power plants, transportation and communication systems. These facilities receive wide use and support the population in its ...

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USACE Jacksonville District: Federal Project Status Updates

FEASIBILITY STUDIES:

- **St. Johns County** – Beach-fx economic modeling is ongoing, Results from first run are expected by Spring 2009. Bathymetric surveys of offshore borrow areas were delayed during December due to weather and mechanical issues but will be underway in January and are expected to be completed by early February. Surveys will then be used to refine borrow source delineations. Milestone of Feasibility Scoping Meeting is set for October 2009.



US Army Corps of Engineers

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[Job Opportunities](#)

Special One-Day Program for Local Elected and Administrative Officials at Beach Technology Conference

We are offering a special one-day program for local elected and general administrative officials at the National Conference on Beach Preservation Technology on Wednesday, February 18, 2009, at the TradeWinds in St. Petersburg Beach.

This special program begins at 10:30 AM with "Beaches 101: A Primer or Refresher for Non-Professionals" taught by Dr. Kevin Bodge, Olsen Associates, Inc. Afterward, officials are invited to join FSBPA Director of Governmental Affairs Debbie Flack for a working lunch to discuss the challenges of the 2009 Legislative Session and our mutual strategy on behalf of Florida's beaches. All are further welcomed to attend Wednesday's outstanding opening conference session from 1:00PM – 5:10 PM, followed by a welcome reception at 6:30. The cost is \$125.

For more information, contact David Tait at 850-906-9227.

[Click to Register](#)

Make Your Hotel Reservations by Friday, January 16 and Save!

If you plan to attend the 2009 National Conference on Beach Preservation Technology in February, but haven't yet made your reservations at the Tradewinds, please do so by January 16, 2009.

[Click to Make Hotel Reservations](#)

[CIRP Technology Transfer Workshop](#)

About Florida Shore & Beach Preservation Association

[Calendar of Events](#)

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Governmental Update

By Debbie Flack
Director of Governmental Affairs

Happy New Year!

Let the fun begin. December committee meetings were a clear indicator that the 2009 Legislature will focus almost exclusively on significantly reducing state expenditures for the current and the next fiscal years. First, in Special Session from January 5 thru January 16, the Legislature must close the \$2.3 billion budget gap for the current fiscal year (FY 08-09).

The tentative schedule has each chamber producing budget reduction bills the first week, week-end meetings for Conference committees, conference report on Member's desks by Tuesday (Jan. 13), and final consideration of the Budget Revision Bill on January 16. That's the plan, likely to see certain change. Regular interim committee meetings are scheduled for Jan 13 – Jan 15.

The Governor's recommended budget cuts for this fiscal year do not materially affect the Beach Management Program. Project dollars in the beach trust fund (the Ecosystem Management and Restoration Trust Fund) are spared in the Governor's recommendation. We will certainly let you know if the Legislature does otherwise.

It is the Regular Session's budget process leading up to passage of the 2009-10 appropriations bill that is the troubling prospect. December's legislative briefings on the "state of Florida's economy" were truly frightening. At the risk of faulty recollection, I can't seem to let go of a few of the worst statements made at the Senate meeting on December 10.

- Florida has gone from second .in the nation in real growth in 2005 to 47th by the end of 2007.
- Population growth, the engine of Florida's economic growth is now virtually 0%. We all heard clearly, "don't expect to ever see the boom again." The exceptional growth rate of the recent past of 2.6% is likely to be around 1% for the long-term future.
- Legislative economists are anticipating the longest recession since the Depression, with the turning point targeted for April 2010, with strength even then slow to return.
- FY 09-10 will be the third year of declining revenues, never before experienced in Florida.
- Overall state revenues projected for FY 09-10 will be 80% of 2005-06 peak revenues.
- The most impacted state revenue source is the real estate documentary stamp tax, the exclusive dedicated funding source for statewide beach management! (Doc stamp revenues just two years ago were \$625 million. The number predicted thru June 30 (FY 08-09) just \$172 million.)

What does this all mean? The Legislature will bring the current year's budget into balance during the Special Session by trimming government spending, using reserve balances, removing select unencumbered fixed capital outlay appropriations, again reducing savings accounts (fund reserves), and strategic delay of capital projects and land acquisitions within existing trust funds. The Governor's recommended "sweep" of environmental trust funds totals \$83 million from two separate land acquisition and management trust funds.

It really will get interesting as the 2009 Regular Session approaches, with weeks of February committee meetings and a March 3 opening day. The Legislature must then put together a balanced spending plan for 2009-10 that will require an additional roll back in state spending of at least \$3.8 billion. The rumors are rampant here in Tallahassee - - merging or eliminating state agencies and programs, slashing the prison construction budget by using modular structures, suspending land acquisition programs, furloughing state employees, eliminating optional Medicaid services, and cutting base funding for education.

Two options that have certain repercussions for beach funding are virtual certainties. First, in order to insure the ongoing credit-worthiness of the State of Florida will require permanent shifts (redirects) of money from trust funds (earmarked revenues for specific programs or projects) to General Revenue (GR). Additionally, all trust funds can expect "sweeps" perhaps going far beyond available reserve balances. Our mutual interests in the sustainability of Florida's beaches and its successful management program will keep FSBPA's focus during the 2009 session's appropriations process on these trust fund policies and impacts, specifically as they affect the beach trust fund (EMRTF).

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Our advocacy goals, no doubt overly-ambitious, will be to preserve (in law vs. real dollars) dedicated beach funding from doc stamp revenues of \$30 million or 2.2% annually for the future. Reality, based on the November Revenue Estimating Conference numbers, is only \$5.22 million in doc stamp revenues for statewide beach management in FY 09-10. This estimate may be further reduced before actual 2009 budget preparation is completed. Other non-recurring revenue sources to cover doc stamp shortages will be scarce. There may, however, be the opportunity to revert/reappropriate existing beach allocations to fund local government projects that have all their matching funds in place, permits in hand or imminent, and can be ready-to-proceed during the coming fiscal year. Obviously, the policies and severity of trust fund "sweeps" will greatly affect our mutual efforts to keep Florida's beach program moving forward. FSBPA and our local government members have the responsibility during the 2009 Legislative Session to argue that beach nourishment projects be considered a part of any economic stimulus package with an infrastructure component. In anticipation of an expected federal stimulus package benefiting Florida, it appears the Legislature will add "intergovernmental transfers" to their list of budgetary options for FY 09-10 so they can shift these stimulus dollars around as needed. This will be something that FSBPA will carefully follow during the upcoming session.

All we can do now is go to work! Our message is a good one. Simply, we must remind lawmakers of the benefits of healthy beaches to Florida's economic recovery, or conversely, the costs of not maintaining our beaches.

Remarkably, given the difficulties of the past year, Florida's beach program had a very good 2008. While the means were extremely creative, the end result was a well funded beach program for FY 08-09, and passage of much needed, perhaps even landmark, inlet management legislation. We hope you agree FSBPA's governmental affairs activities played a significant role in these achievements.

Supreme Court Update



One more bit of extremely good news to close out the year. As most of you know that have followed the challenge to Florida's beach nourishment program (Erosion Control Line establishment in Walton County) over the past few years, a motion to grant a rehearing before the Florida Supreme Court was filed on October 14 by Stop the Beach Renourishment to overturn the Supreme Court decision of September 29, 2008. A comprehensive decision that upheld the Beach and Shore Preservation Act and recognized that the Act fairly and carefully balances public and private rights and interests. The Supreme Court denied the respondent's motion for a rehearing on December 18, 2008. Hopefully, this is the final chapter. Let's not forget the support the State's beach management program and this critical judicial issue received from the Legislature, the Attorney General's Office, Governor's Office, and DEP's Secretary Mike Sole, not to mention our coastal governments and the Florida Association of Counties.

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Beaches are a Vital Part of Our Infrastructure

By William B. Stronge, Ph.D.
Senior Fellow in Economics
Catanese Center for Urban and Environmental Solutions
Florida Atlantic University

Webster's dictionary defines infrastructure as the underlying foundation on which the continuance and growth of a community depends, especially the basic installations and facilities, such as roads, schools, power plants, transportation and communication systems. These facilities receive wide use and support the population in its daily activities. It is clear that beaches are a vital part of Florida's infrastructure.

By moving the mean high water line further away, beaches help protect coastal structures from storm damage. Single family homes, condominiums, hotels, retail stores and office buildings are among the privately owned properties that are protected along Florida's coasts. Public properties on the coast also receive protection from beaches including parks, roads, bridges, and water and sewer pipes.

There was dramatic evidence of the storm protection value of the state's beaches during the 2004 and 2005 hurricane seasons. After four hurricanes struck Florida in 2004, Florida became the first state since Texas in 1886 to experience four hurricanes in one year. In 2005, three more hurricanes struck the state as well as three tropical storms. A study of 28,000 properties in eight Florida counties showed that restored beaches prevented a loss of \$1.8 billion in property values over the two year period. If this value had been lost, local government property taxes would have declined by more than \$30 million annually.



Beaches also provide recreational opportunities for Florida residents, seasonal residents and tourists. In addition to enjoying, sunning, swimming, walking, shelling, surfing, fishing, volleyball and other recreational activities on the beach, residents and tourists create jobs and incomes for Floridians as a result of their spending in connection with their beach visits. More than one in four out of state tourists enjoy the state's beaches while visiting the state and many of the state's seasonal residents live or stay on the beach. The total economic impact of spending by out of state tourists who visited the beaches was \$20 billion in 2007. This amounted to 3 percent of the state's gross domestic product. The spending by tourists who visited the beach created 400,000 jobs.

The recreational opportunities provided by the state's beaches enhance the value of properties near the beaches. These enhanced values further increase local government property tax revenues, improving the quality of their services and helping to keep tax rates low. The increased spending by tourists also results in increased state sales tax receipts. In 2007, beach tourism increased state tax revenues by about \$1 billion. Finally, the positive economic impact of beach tourism increased wages and profits in the state. These increased incomes results in increased federal income tax revenues.

Beaches are a key element of the infrastructure that supports Florida's economy. They create jobs for hundreds of thousands of the state's workers; they are important contributors to the state's gross domestic product; they generate increased tax revenues for local governments, the state and the federal government. In this time of severe economic recession, state revenues for Florida's ongoing beach programs are severely curtailed. It is entirely appropriate to use federal infrastructure dollars to maintain the state's beaches and retain their important contribution to the state's economy.

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USACE JAX:

Federal Project Status Updates

FEASIBILITY STUDIES:

• **St. Johns County** – Beach-fx economic modeling is ongoing, Results from first run are expected by Spring 2009. Bathymetric surveys of offshore borrow areas were delayed during December due to weather and mechanical issues but will be underway in January and are expected to be completed by early February. Surveys will then be used to refine borrow source delineations. Milestone of Feasibility Scoping Meeting is set for October 2009.

• **Volusia County** - on hold. No non-Federal funding.

• **St. Lucie County** – Jacksonville District will be initiating Beach-fx work during FY09. SAJ is currently completing the Review Plan (RP) which will be sent for Planning Center of Expertise (PCX) approval. The non-Federal Sponsor is conducting environmental surveys and performing assessments.

Flagler County – Beach-fx economic modeling is underway, (see above, don't write in first person) The economic model for Flagler County is expected to be ran by Spring 2009. The Notice of Intent to prepare an EIS has been mailed to all coastal residents along County Road A1A. Shoreline process data collection and modeling has begun. Painter's Hill, Beverly Beach, and Flagler Beach study reaches have lengthened corresponding to current FDEP critical erosion areas. The sponsor plans to have a draft borrow area document completed by January 2009.

OTHER MAJOR PLANNING REPORTS:

• The **Brevard County Mid-Reach General Reevaluation Report (GRR)** team has completed the draft report. The report recently received Agency Technical Review (ATR) and Legal Certification. The report is expected to be submitted to Headquarters for approval in mid January.

• The **North Boca Raton Second Periodic Renourishment Revised Final Limited Reevaluation Report (LRR)** was approved by Corps South Atlantic Division (SAD) in June 2008. SAD endorsed the Project Cooperation Agreement package for Corp's Headquarters review and approval in September 2008.

• **Jupiter/Carlin Shore Protection Project** - Palm Beach County has started a 934 report/NEPA document for Jupiter/Carlin Segment to extend Federal participation for the next renourishment. Beach-fx will be run by the sponsor for this study.

• Guidance has been requested from higher authority on the review process for the **Draft Ft. Pierce Shore Protection Project GRR** completed by the non-Federal Sponsor. The GRR seeks an additional 50-years of Federal participation in the project as well as the inclusion of groins to the project area. The Review Plan (RP) is being completed at SAJ and will go to the Planning Center of Expertise (PCX) for approval.

Broward County Shore Protection Project - Segment I (north county line to Hillsboro Inlet) - GRR and NEPA document - Initiation of preparation of the GRR and NEPA document for initial construction of this segment is awaiting non-Federal funds to be provided to the Jacksonville District. **Segment II** – GRR Addendum and NEPA document – Sponsor has initiated their GRR Addendum for the upcoming renourishment. **Segment III** – Preparation of a Design Documentation Report (DDR) by Jacksonville District was requested by the Broward County project sponsor to address the subsidence/erosion of the beach fill at the northern end of Segment III under the authority for the Shore Protection project. This location is immediately south of the south jetty at Port Everglades. Approval to initiate the DDR under the Shore Protection authority has been requested from the South Atlantic Division office in order for Jacksonville District to initiate the DDR.

The Brevard County, Florida Independent Coastal Expert (ICE) Letter Report has been revised per SAD, HQ, and Planning Center of Expertise (PCX) comments. The revised report underwent Agency Technical Review (ATR) by the PCX in September 2008. SAJ final review was completed on 17 December 2008. The final report has been sent to South Atlantic Division and Headquarters for concurrent review. Following Headquarters policy review, the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works will determine if recommended mitigation is appropriate and warrants budgetary priority.

In **Dade County** work was funded for a **Section 227 Project** at 63rd Street in Miami and was reinitiated in August 2008. A design and build contract is being evaluated in cooperation with the Department of Environmental Resources Management (DERM) and Reef Innovation, Inc. Upcoming, Genesis modeling is underway to determine the minimum structural footprint and the exact project location.

Initiation in FY09 of the **Martin County Post Authorization Change Report** will evaluate impacts to the Benefit/Cost ratio of the approved Shore Protection Project due to the use of a new borrow area. Turtle-friendly beach construction templates are being evaluated for use on this project.

Egmont Key - Draft Public Notice has been sent to South Atlantic Division for finalization.

BORROW SITE INVESTIGATIONS:

• **Martin County** and **Sarasota County** borrow area investigations are underway. Bathymetric survey field work is complete for Martin County. In addition, the Corps is beginning to evaluate borrow area alternatives offshore of Martin and St. Lucie Counties. Bathymetric surveys for Sarasota County are complete and following FDEP approval of the reconnaissance level borrow area investigation further borrow area delineation will resume at the plans and specs level.



- Hard bottom mapping for **Martin County** is completed. Work is underway on hydraulic modeling for the borrow area.
- The **Pinellas County, Sand Key** borrow area investigation is underway. Geotechnical work and surveys are complete. The sponsor will be applying to the FDEP for permits to use the borrow area.

In **Flagler County** a sand search project is currently underway. Bathymetric and seismic surveys are being completed by Halcrow in support of the current Feasibility Study.

Plans & Specs are being prepared to utilize all remaining domestic sand sources offshore of **Dade County** as directed by the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works) in his 10 December 2007 memo to the Director of Civil Works recommending a three tiered approach to meet Dade County's beach renourishment needs.

REGIONAL SEDIMENT MANAGEMENT:

Three complete regional sediment budgets for the sandy coast of Florida are available. A large push is being made to participate in the Gulf of Mexico RSM initiative, utilizing existing stakeholders to assist in a regionalization of information and technology.

The Southeast Atlantic Regional Sediment Source Study for Florida has been completed by GEC and Halcrow for SAJ. The report is currently available on: <http://planning.saj.usace.army.mil/rsm>. This Regional Sediment Management report approximates the volume of sand that remains offshore of Palm Beach, Broward and Miami-Dade Counties and compares that volume with the amount required by Federal and non-Federal nourishment projects over the next 50 years.

A RFP was issued on 16 December 2008 for completion of an **Addendum to the Dade County Letter Report** which will be titled **The Southeast Atlantic Regional Sediment Management Plan for Florida**. Work on this Plan is expected to start in February. The Regional Management Plan will expand on the previously completed Southeast Atlantic Regional Sediment Source Study (Halcrow, 2008) to evaluate sand sources currently available to St. Lucie, Martin, Palm Beach, Broward, and Miami-Dade Counties in order to address long term needs along Florida's Atlantic coast. This document will also examine the feasibility of including non-domestic sediment as an alternative source to Southeastern Florida's sediment needs.

CONSTRUCTION:

- The **Lee County, Captiva Island FCCE Rehabilitation Project** is complete.

Initial nourishment of the **Nassau County Shore Protection Project** was completed in early November 2008.

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CALENDAR

February 16-18, 2009

10th Annual CIRP Workshop
TradeWinds Island Resorts
St. Petersburg Beach, FL
<http://www.fsbpa.com/semregistration.htm>

February 18-20, 2009

National Conference on Beach Preservation Technology
TradeWinds Island Resorts
St. Petersburg Beach, FL
<http://www.fsbpa.com/semregistration.htm>

March 3-May 1, 2009

Regular Session, Florida Legislature
Tallahassee, FL

March 25-27, 2009

ASBPA National Coastal Summit
Washington Court Hotel
Washington, DC.

April 6-10, 2009

National Hurricane Conference
Austin Convention Center
Austin, TX
www.HurricaneMeeting.com

September 16-18, 2009

FSBPA Annual Meeting
Amelia Island Plantation
Amelia Island, FL

October 14-16, 2009

ASBPA National Coastal Conference
Trade Winds Island Resort
St. Petersburg Beach, FL.

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