



## Florida Shore & Beach Preservation Association **2017 Legislative Priorities**

### ***Support increased state funding for beach nourishment and inlet management projects to preserve our beaches and protect Florida's brand***

- Replace historical documentary stamp tax allocation with a minimum of \$50M annually from a dedicated, predictable funding source
- Revisit project ranking criteria for beach and inlet projects to ensure funding is used for projects in greatest need and to better capture the economic and storm damage reduction benefits of each project
- Assist local governments with Hurricanes Matthew and Hermine storm damage recovery needs, assessments and funding (USACE, FEMA, and State)

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

Since Amendment 1, beaches have received state funding of just over \$30M/year, roughly equivalent to the Legislature's 1998 doc stamp allocation for beach repair. Since then, there have been 30% more miles added to the critically eroded beaches list, miles participating in the program have increased 50%, and still 184 miles of beaches are not part of any solution. Hurricane Matthew pinpointed exactly where the neglected miles are located. For current year, the amount of state funding totaled just 1/3 of the requested funds by local governments, leaving a growing backlog of eroded beaches needing repair.

## **HEALTHY BEACHES GROW REVENUES**

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 development will be vulnerable to beach erosion.

## **INVEST IN BEACHES – 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, beach management funding increased state revenues by \$237.9M with just a \$44M investment by the State.

## **TAKE ADVANTAGE OF MATCHING DOLLARS**

Consistent dedicated state funding is vital to match local and federal funding for beach nourishment and inlet management projects. Requiring equal cost-sharing, the state has partnered with local government project sponsors to manage over 60 projects (227 mi.); 26 projects (137 mi.) are Federally authorized and average a 62% Federal cost share.

## **NOURISHED BEACHES REDUCE STORM DAMAGE**

During Hurricane Matthew, beaches with nourishment projects did an outstanding job and protected upland development from beach erosion and coastal flooding.

"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."(American Society of Civil Engineers, 2016 Report Card for Florida's Infrastructure)