

RESOLUTION NO. 96-55

*A RESOLUTION OF THE NASSAU COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS REQUESTING THE 1996 FLORIDA LEGISLATURE TO PROVIDE ADEQUATE FUNDING FOR THE PRESERVATION AND REPAIR OF THE STATE'S BEACHES, TO RECOGNIZE THE NEED FOR FUNDING NON-FEDERAL PROJECTS, AND TO IDENTIFY A LONG-TERM DEDICATED FUNDING SOURCE.*

WHEREAS, Florida's beaches are an important part of the quality of life of this community, providing aesthetic, environmental, hurricane mitigation and recreational benefits for our residents and tourists; and

WHEREAS, beaches continue to be Florida's number one tourist attraction and are thus vital to our economic well-being, generating over \$9 billion in beach-related sales annually and contributing to a ripple effect to the Florida economy of over \$16 billion; and

WHEREAS, the Nassau County Board of County Commissioners recognizes that severe beach erosion continues to be a major problem in Florida, with coastal development threatening this important natural resource; and

WHEREAS, federal funding for beach and inlet projects is declining, resulting in delays in implementing needed erosion projects and putting more pressure on state and local sources; and

WHEREAS, since navigation inlets cause some 80% of beach erosion in Florida, the most cost-effective way to reduce erosion is to recapture sand from inlets and place it on the eroded downdrift beaches; and

WHEREAS, as a matter of long-standing policy, the Legislature has given priority to funding those beach and inlet projects which have substantial federal matching money; and

WHEREAS, the State Legislature has historically demonstrated a commitment to the preservation of Florida's beaches, and now must recognize the critical environmental and economic need to maintain or repair our beaches, with or without the financial assistance of the federal government.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE NASSAU COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. The Nassau County Board of County Commissioners requests that the State Legislature provide adequate annual funding to carry out a statewide comprehensive beach management program to protect Florida's remaining pristine beaches and repair those that are severely damaged, and consider the Department of Environmental Protection, 1996-97 budget request of \$36.8 million.

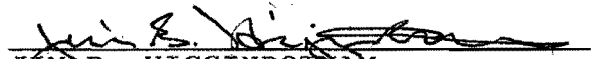
Section 2. The Nassau County Board of County Commissioners further requests that since navigation inlets are the primary cause of beach erosion in Florida that the Legislature, in its beach management funding strategy, give equal priority to inlet sand bypassing as it does to traditional beach nourishment projects.

Section 3. The Nassau County Board of County Commissioners further requests that in cases where the federal government has not yet appropriated matching funds for projects, and where local governments are willing to "loan" the federal share in order to deal quickly with an urgent erosion problem, the Legislature, as a matter of policy, will consider such "loans" by local governments to be the equivalent of the federal matching share for the project.


Section 4. The Nassau County Board of County Commissioners finally requests that the State Legislature give serious consideration to identification of and dedication of a fair and stable source of long-term funding to fully implement a statewide beach management program for preserving and restoring Florida's threatened sandy beaches.

DONE AND ADOPTED this 11th day of March, 1996.

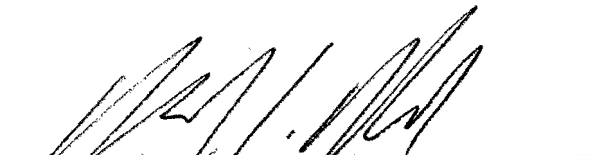
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
NASSAU COUNTY, FLORIDA

  
JIM B. HIGGINBOTHAM  
Its: Chairman

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
T.J. "JERRY" GREESON  
Its: Ex-officio Clerk

Approved as to form by the  
Nassau County Attorney:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
MICHAEL S. MULLIN