

**INDIAN RIVER COUNTY, FLORIDA
BOARD MEMORANDUM**

CONSENT

TO: Board of County Commissioners

THROUGH: John A. Titkanich, Jr., County Administrator

THROUGH: Richard B. Szyrka, P.E., Public Works Director

PREPARED BY: Eric Charest, Natural Resources Manager

SUBJECT: FDEP Grant Agreement 23IR2 (Indian River County 2022 Hurricane Ian and Nicole Recovery Project)

DATE: June 6, 2023

DESCRIPTION AND CONDITIONS

Much of the State of Florida's shoreline sustained beach and dune erosion from Hurricane Ian (category 4 storm in late September 2022) and Hurricane Nicole (category 1 storm in November 2022). Based on significant erosional damage, on December 16, 2022 Governor Ron DeSantis signed into law Senate Bill 4A, which allocated \$100 million dollars to support beach nourishment projects within 16 counties most impacted by the hurricanes, of which Indian River County was identified. With information submitted by Indian River County, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's (FDEP) Office of Resilience and Coastal Protection issued the *Hurricanes Ian and Nicole Recovery Plan for Florida's Beach and Dune System* (December 9, 2022) which was used as the basis for allocating the funding approved by the Governor's office.

Laws of Florida Chapter 2022-272 Senate Bill 4A, authorized the FDEP to waive match requirements for local governments and provided non-recurring funds for damages related to Hurricane Ian and Hurricane Nicole for beach erosion projects as identified in Section 161.101 (22) Florida Statutes (F.S.). The FDEP has granted \$4,080,388.00 to the beaches within Indian River County. As beach management Sectors 1 and 2 within the County are managed by the Sebastian Inlet District (SID) under a Memorandum of Understanding, the funds associated with Sectors 1 and 2 (\$334,696.59) have been assigned to SID under a separate grant. Indian River County has been allocated \$3,745,691.41 of the available funding under Local Government Funding Request Grant (LGFR) 23IR2 to be used for Hurricane Ian and Hurricane Nicole beach erosion projects consistent with the FDEP's recovery plan identified above.

The attached agreement commits the FDEP to providing up to \$3,745,691.41 of State funding to cover non-federal Project costs for the specific projects identified in the Grant. It should be noted; this Grant is based on reimbursement and the County would be responsible for the up-front costs associated with construction. Reimbursement would take place at a later date once all of the County's costs are deemed eligible per the Grant standards. The County continues to work with representatives from the Florida Division of Emergency Management (FDEM) and the Federal Emergency Management Act (FEMA), to secure Federal funding for these projects, and the federal share shall not affect the cost sharing percentage of the non-federal share.

Eligible costs for which the grant can be used are included in the LGFR 23IR2 Grant Work Plan and include work performed and costs incurred associated with the placement of fill material. The agreement identifies Indian River County as the Local Sponsor, Natural Resources Manager, Eric Charest, as the Project Manager, and 23IR2 identifies a project completion timeline requiring all deliverables received by the FDEP by 6/30/2025 with an expiration date for the grant of 12/31/2025.

Task #	Eligible Project Task	DEP Cost Share (%)	Federal Estimated Project Costs	DEP Cost Share	Local Cost Share	Total
1.1	Construction – Sector 3 Beach	100%	\$0.00	\$1,288,727.40	\$0.00	\$1,288,727.40
1.2	Construction – Sector 4 Dunes	100%	\$0.00	\$1,152,520.43	\$0.00	\$1,152,520.43
1.3	Construction – Sector 5 Beach	100%	\$0.00	\$429,575.80	\$0.00	\$429,575.80
1.4	Construction – Sector 7 Beach	100%	\$0.00	\$874,867.78	\$0.00	\$874,867.78
Total			\$0.00	\$3,745,691.41	\$0.00	\$3,745,691.41

Should any of the Sectors identified in the Grant move forward with beach or dune construction related activities, such as those identified in the Grant Work plan, the costs above and beyond the Grant funding per Sector would come from potential FEMA Project Worksheets, the County’s Beach Restoration Fund or the County’s Optional Sales Tax Fund.

FUNDING

As the local match funding has been waived under Senate Bill 4A, County funding is not required to accept the grant funds.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends the Board approve FDEP Grant Agreement No. 23IR2 for up to \$3,745,691.41 and authorize the Chairman to sign the Agreement on behalf of the County. Following Board approval, the County will transmit the partially executed Agreement to the State for final signatures. Upon receipt of the fully executed original FDEP Grant Agreement 23IR2 from the State, staff will transmit to the Clerk to the Board of County Commissioners for filing.

ATTACHMENTS

1. FDEP Grant Agreement 23IR2
2. Indian River County Grant Form No. 23IR2
3. FDEP Hurricane Ian and Nicole Recovery Plan

APPROVED AGENDA ITEM FOR: JUNE 20, 2023