

**INDIAN RIVER COUNTY, FLORIDA  
BOARD MEMORANDUM**

**CONSENT AGENDA**

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**TO:** Jason E. Brown  
County Administrator

**THROUGH:** Richard B. Szpyrka, P.E.  
Public Works Director

**FROM:** James D. Gray, Jr.  
Natural Resources Manager

**SUBJECT:** **Request assistance from the Town of Indian River Shores – Sector 4 Beaches**

**DATE:** February 2, 2018

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**BACKGROUND**

On January 29, 2018, the County received a letter from Indian River Shores Town Manager, Robert Stabe, Jr., requesting the County's support and help in petitioning to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) that the shoreline within the Town (Sector 4) be reclassified as critically eroded.

The Sector 4 shoreline is entirely within the Town of Indian River Shores jurisdiction and extends from John's Island south to Surf Lane. As highlighted in the County's Beach Preservation Plan (BPP) (2015), the Sector 4 beach condition from 1972 to present has changed from stable to accretional to the current erosional condition. Unlike other County managed, FDEP designated critically eroded shorelines (Sectors 1,2,3,5, and 7), FDEP does not list the Sector 4 beach condition as a critically eroded shoreline. As such, Sector 4 beaches currently do not have large scale beach/dune nourishment projects planned. However, the Sector 4 shoreline is routinely surveyed and monitored for sea turtle nesting as part of the County's annual monitoring programs.

Pursuant to rule 62B-36.002(5), Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.), "critically eroded shoreline" is defined as:

*"a segment of the shoreline where natural processes or human activity have caused or contributed to erosion and recession of the beach or dune system to such a degree that upland development, recreational interests, wildlife habitat, or important cultural resources are threatened or lost. Critically eroded shorelines may also include peripheral segments or gaps between identified critically eroded areas which, although they may be stable or slightly erosional now, their inclusion is necessary for continuity of management of the coastal system or for the design integrity of adjacent beach management projects."*

Based on rule, FDEP does not consider segments of beach that have not been designated critically eroded shoreline eligible for cost share in beach/dune restoration activities.

Concerned that the Sector 4 beach condition has progressed enough to potentially threaten upland property and important sea-turtle wildlife habitat, the Town has requested assistance from the County regarding this matter.

### **DESCRIPTION AND CONDITIONS**

Based on recent conversations with FDEP staff, the Department requires a letter from the local sponsor requesting that Department staff evaluate the shoreline condition and provide a determination whether the shoreline meets rule 62B-36.002(5), F.A.C. The Department will also consider and review additional supporting beach condition data and documentation of a loss of wildlife habitat that local sponsor may have. The County will assume the local sponsor responsibilities for Sector 4.

If Department staff determines that the Sector 4 shoreline is critically eroded, it will be included in the State Critically Eroded Beaches Report, published normally in June of each year.

The current state of the Sector 4 beaches have been a common discussion point during several County Beach and Shore Advisory Committee (Beach Committee) meetings. On January 22, 2018, the Beach Committee voted unanimously to approve moving forward with the County working with Indian River Shores on updating the designation of Sector 4 to eroding.

As a result of the Beach Committee motion and follow-up letter from the Town, staff has prepared a letter to FDEP for the Board's consideration and approval.

### **FUNDING**

At this time, no funding is required for this item. However, the Town of Indian River Shores has offered the possibility of funding in the event additional Sector 4 studies and/or beach monitoring are required by the Department.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

The recommendation of staff is for the Board to approve the letter to FDEP and authorize staff to sign on behalf of the County.

### **ATTACHMENT**

1. January 29, 2018 letter from Town of Indian River Shores
2. Sector 4 Critically Eroded Shoreline Letter to Florida Department of Environmental Protection.

**APPROVED AGENDA ITEM FOR: FEBRUARY 13, 2018**