

**INDIAN RIVER COUNTY, FLORIDA  
BOARD MEMORANDUM**

**CONSENT**

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**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:** Grant Application for Funding Assistance from the State of Florida  
Beach Erosion Control Program – FY 2024/2025

**DATE:** June 29, 2023

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**DESCRIPTION AND CONDITIONS**

On June 1, 2023, the County received notification from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) that the Beach Management Funding Assistance Program was accepting applications for the FY 2024-2025 Local Government Funding Requests (LGFR). LGFR Grants make available State cost share funds to assist governmental entities, such as Indian River County, in sharing expenses for approved activities associated with beach nourishment projects that include; project design, engineering studies, environmental studies, construction activities and monitoring costs consistent with the FDEP's Strategic Beach Management Plan.

The County's Sector 3 Beaches suffered significant sand losses from the Hurricanes in 2022 (Hurricane Ian and Hurricane Nicole). As a result of those impacts, the County has been working with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the FDEP on securing federal and state funds for future dune and beach repair efforts within Sector 3. The County has been notified of receiving \$2,656,800.00 in state legislatively approved reimbursement funds under LGFR Grant 23IR2 in which the County's match has been waived. Preliminary information available indicates that quantifiable sand losses within Sector 3 according to FEMA standards amount to 92,800 cubic yards (cy), making Sector 3 eligible for Category G public assistance funding. FEMA has not yet issued a Project Worksheet (PW) committing funds, but preliminary discussions point to FEMA providing federal funding assistance in the amount of 75% of the costs associated with the 92,800 cy volume they deem as sand losses from Hurricanes Ian and Nicole.

As identified in the FDEP's *Hurricanes Ian and Nicole Recovery Plan for Florida's Beach and Dune System*, the County's estimate of sand losses within Sector 3 was far greater than the FEMA determination. Post-storm losses to the dry beach system were estimated by staff to be 246,000 cy, which has been further supported by surveyed data showing that 277,700 cy of sand was lost from the dry beach. The dry beach is the area from the crest of the dune to the mean high water line, while FEMA considers sand in the system from the crest of the dune to the fill depth of closure (or approximately -12 feet underwater). Hurricanes Ian and Nicole impacted the Sector 3 beach by moving sand from the dune and dry beach and depositing it just offshore. Since the sand 'in the system' is not expected to rebuild the dune, the County's estimate of 246,000 cy loss

more closely reflects the storms impacts to the dry beach, as opposed to the 92,800 cy loss determination made by FEMA to the system.

With FEMA anticipated to commit federal assistance for 75% of the 92,800 cy amount, and with state approved funding identified in LGFR Grant 23IR2 in the amount of \$2,656,800.00 in non-match funds, a potential Sector 3 project to address dry beach losses from Hurricanes Ian and Nicole would not be fully funded.

Engineer's estimates for a 92,800 cy repair project would cost \$7,555,948.10, with FEMA providing financial assistance for 75% of that cost, or approximately \$5,666,961.08. Adding to that the existing LGFR 23IR2 funding for Sector 3 and estimated current funding available for Sector 3 would be \$8,323,761.08. Sector 3 dry beach losses have been estimated to be 246,000 cy as identified in the FDEP Recovery Plan. Using the same costs as presented in the Engineer's estimate for a Sector 3 FEMA project, an estimated cost for a 246,000 cy dry beach repair project to address observed impacts from Hurricanes Ian and Nicole would be approximately \$15,422,768.10. As current estimated funding available is \$8,323,761.08, a 246,000 cy repair project would require the County cover approximately \$7,099,007.02 of the project.

Seeking additional cost state funds through the current Beach Management Funding Assistance Program LGFR process would potentially reduce expenses for the County should the larger volume of sand be placed within Sector 3. A proposed grant application would identify \$7,099,007.02 in needed funds, with the County looking to cost share that expense with the state under the LGFR program. With the 50/50 state/local cost share, the County would seek \$3,549,503.51 in cost share funds, reducing the County's participation in the project to \$3,549,503.51.

Sector 3 does meet the basic requirements for being able to request funds under the LGFR process, with its' critically eroded shoreline designation and numerous public access points. Historically Indian River County has applied for and received LGFR grants that have been used for prior beach nourishment projects within Sector 3. Although funds have been received previously, there is no guarantee that an application submitted by the County for a Hurricane Ian and Hurricane Nicole repair project would be awarded funding. As part of the application process however, the County is required to provide a funding resolution from the Local Sponsor indicating the County's ability to provide the full cost local share and identification of the funding source.

The purpose of this agenda is to request Board approval of the County funding resolution as related to the Local Government Funding Request grant application. The Resolution does not specify a specific dollar amount and does not commit the County to perform the higher volume sand project. However, the Resolution enables the Department to consider the County's LGFR for Fiscal Years 2024/2025.

## **FUNDING**

Local funding of Beach Restoration would include a portion of the Local Option Tourist Tax Revenue. It is expected that FEMA Project Worksheets and existing FDEP LGFR 23IR2 Grant

funding made available for the project will assist in reducing County expenses, in addition to a potential LGFR award per the application process referenced in this agenda. Funding for construction of the Sector 3 Hurricanes Ian and Nicole Beach and Dune Repair project would be made available in the Beach Restoration/CIP/Hurricane Ian – Sector 3 account, number 12814472-066514-22601, at 22% of the total cost with the remaining 78% coming from the Beach Restoration/CIP/Storm Nicole – Sector 3 account, number 12814472-066514-23007.

**RECOMMENDATION**

Staff recommends Board approval of the funding resolution.

**ATTACHMENTS**

Sector 3 LGFR FY24-25 Funding Resolution

**APPROVED AGENDA ITEM FOR JULY 11, 2023**