

RESOLUTION 2003 - 33

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA, URGING THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE TO FULLY FUND THE DEP BEACH PROTECTION CONTROL PROJECT PRIORITY LIST FOR FY03-04 FOR \$30 MILLION AS PROVIDED FOR IN CHAPTERS 161 AND 201, FLORIDA STATUTES.

WHEREAS, Florida's number one tourist attraction is its beaches, and

WHEREAS, beach-related tourism has a \$41.6 billion impact on the state's economy, and

WHEREAS, beaches contribute over \$1 billion in tourist-related sales tax revenues annually, and

WHEREAS, 442,000 jobs are created by beach-related tourism, with an \$8 billion payroll resulting from additional spending related to Florida's beaches, and

WHEREAS, over half of Florida's 825 miles of sandy beaches are experiencing erosion, with 333 miles designated by the Department of Environmental Protection as critically-eroded, and

WHEREAS, The Florida Legislature, pursuant to Chapter 161, F.S., has declared beach erosion to be a serious threat to the economic and general welfare of the state and its residents; and has further declared it to be a necessary responsibility to preserve Florida's beaches and make provisions for beach nourishment projects, and

WHEREAS, the Florida Legislature, in 1998, pursuant to s. 161.091, and s. 201.15(11), provided that designated funding of \$30 million annually shall be deposited in the Ecosystem Management and Restoration Trust Fund, and that documentary stamp tax revenues shall be the source of that funding, and

WHEREAS, this \$30 million allocation has enabled Florida to develop a consistent, adequately-funded, priority-driven, long range management program to address critical erosion, and

WHEREAS, this program represents a cost-effective intergovernmental partnership which leverages a dollar for dollar local government match, and up to 65% of the total project cost from federal sources.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that St. Johns County strongly urges the Florida Legislature to fully fund the Department of Environmental Protection's beach erosion control project priority list for FY03-04 for \$30 million as provided for in Chapters 161 and 201, Florida Statutes, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that St. Johns County respectfully requests that the Florida Legislature oppose any legislative efforts to amend existing law which allocates \$30 million annually in certain documentary stamp tax revenues to the Ecosystem Management and Restoration Trust Fund for purposes of beach preservation and repair.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 25th day of February, 2003, by the Board of County Commissioners, St. Johns County, Florida.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA

BY James E. Bryant
James Bryant, Chairman

ATTESTED: CHERYL STRICKLAND, CLERK

BY Patricia DeGrade
Deputy Clerk

RENDITION DATE 2-27-03