



January 11, 2013

The Honorable Representative Matt Caldwell, Chairman
Lee County Legislative Delegation
15191 Homestead Road, Building A
Lehigh Acres, FL 33971

Re: Captiva Erosion Prevention District Legislative Requests

Dear Representative Caldwell,

Thank you for this opportunity to be placed on the agenda for the Lee County Legislative Delegation Meeting to be held on January 29, 2012. The Captiva Erosion Prevention District Board of Commissioners respectfully submits the following:

Legislative Priorities

1. Support of the nationally recognized Florida Beach Management Program to support strategic beach management plans and projects pursuant to Florida Statutes Chapter 161, the Florida Beach and Shore Preservation Act.
2. Maintain the current fiscal years statewide beach management funding appropriation of nearly \$22 million.

Despite difficult financial times, the Legislature has recognized the importance of beaches to Florida's economic well-being. Florida is the top travel destination in the world and Florida's # 1 attraction is the beach. We thank our beach champion legislators for their continued support.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Rooker
Administrator

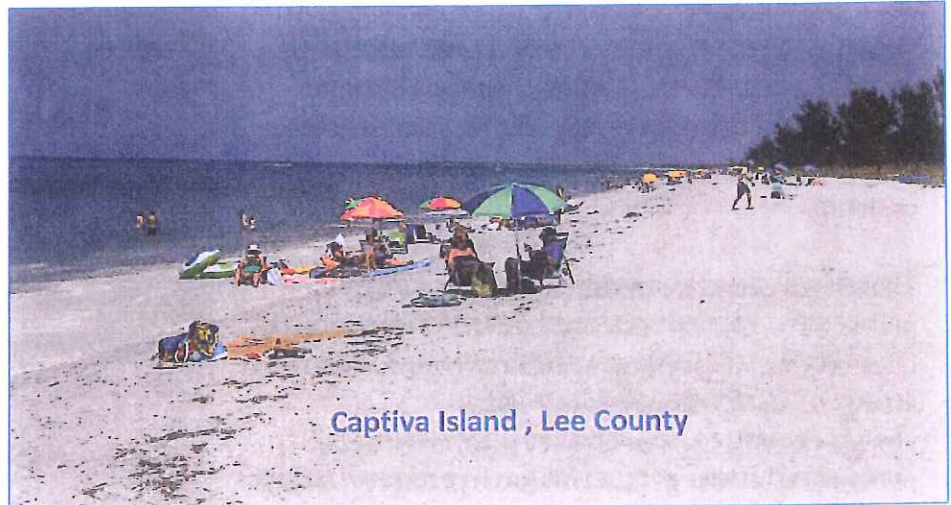
HEALTHY BEACHES ARE VITAL TO FLORIDA'S ECONOMIC RECOVERY

Florida's beaches are the primary economic engine that drives the state's coastal cities and counties. Beaches remain a top tourist attraction – **82.3 million out-of-state visitors traveled to Florida in 2010**, of which 16.5 million – 20% – were beach visitors. In addition, the **top 5 visited state parks in 2010 were all beach parks.**

Unfortunately, **399 of the State's 825 total miles of sandy beach are critically-eroded.**

Many of our beaches are starving to death, robbed of the natural flow of sand by navigation improvements at our inlets. **Over 218 critically-eroded miles are part of a "managed" erosion control project**, mostly restoration, nourishment, or inlet sand bypassing.

Over half of these miles of nourished beach are part of a federally-authorized project which enjoy up to 65% federal cost-sharing. Florida has 62 beach projects.



BEACHES – FLORIDA'S ECONOMIC ENGINE

"Tourism in Florida fell during the recent recession, but it is leading the state's economy during the recovery. Florida's beaches, the biggest attraction to out-of-state tourists, are playing a critical role in helping the state pull out of the most severe recession since the 1930s."

(William B. Stronge, Ph.D., Chair Emeritus, Economics, Florida Atlantic University)

FLORIDA

In 2010, Florida beach tourists spent \$11.7 billion and the total sales tax paid was \$352.8 million. After indirect and induced spending, **the total impact on Florida's gross state product was \$22.7 billion. This created 244,827 jobs** and resulted in \$8.4 billion in earnings.

Florida's leisure and hospitality employment recovered earlier than the rest of Florida's economy. In fact, the state's **leisure and hospitality industry has recovered 90% of the jobs it lost during the recession.** Many of these jobs are in Florida's beach communities.

Every county where leisure and hospitality jobs were lost during the recession and have since fully recovered are coastal counties that enjoy miles of beachfront – Escambia, Lee, Miami-Dade, Broward, and Palm Beach.

NATIONAL

Florida's beaches contributed \$52 billion to the US economy (2007 dollars). The United States receives \$320 in taxes from beach tourists for every \$1 it spends on beach nourishment.

FLORIDA'S BEACHES ARE CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

Infrastructure is defined as the underlying foundation on which the continuance and growth of a community depend. Clearly, beaches are a vital part of Florida's coastal infrastructure, and maintaining them is of critical importance.

Healthy beaches, many restored and nourished, are the most effective and only natural form of storm protection for private and public structures and infrastructure, especially roads, bridges, and utilities.

There was dramatic evidence of the storm protection value of restored beaches following the unprecedented 2004 and 2005 hurricane seasons. A study of 28,000 properties in eight Florida counties showed that restored beaches prevented a loss of \$1.8 billion in property values.



WHY RESTORE AND NOURISH FLORIDA'S BEACHES

When asked which activities Lee County visitors enjoyed most during their visits, **beaches consistently topped the list. The number one concern for beach tourists is eroding shorelines.**

While most revenue sources are down dramatically, this is generally not the case for the tourist development tax. **Tourist tax revenues in Lee County grew by 4% in 2010, visitation in paid accommodations grew by 5.6%, and these visitors spent nearly \$1.5 billion.**

From both a national and state perspective, **all beach nourishment projects provide far greater benefits to the economy than their cost to taxpayers:**

On average, **every state dollar spent on beaches generates \$8 in return revenues (FAU, 2003).**

Every dollar spent by the State of Florida for beach restoration and subsequent nourishment is matched by \$1 in local government funding and up to \$3 in federal dollars.

For every dollar invested in nourishing Miami Beach, the nation's economy earns \$1470 in foreign exchange (2008). Tourists now contribute \$11 billion annually (City of Miami Beach, 2007). Half of all visitors to the greater Miami area visited the beach in 2010, and 40% said **the beaches were what they liked the best about the Miami area.**

When considering whether the State can afford to spend money on its beaches please consider whether we can afford not to. We must work to maintain the beaches that make our coastal communities highly desirable to visit, work and live.

Prepared by the Florida Shore & Beach Preservation Association (revised October 31, 2011)

"Since 1957, FSBPA has served as a league of coastal cities and counties"

Captiva's Beach Visitors Bring Dollars to the Economy

- Captiva Island Beach visitors directly spent \$84.8 million on the island in 2010.
- Captiva Island Beach visitors directly spent an additional \$21 million elsewhere in Lee County.
- Captiva Island Beach visitors directly spent a total of \$105 million.
- Out of state visitors to Captiva's beach spent \$101 million during their stay in Florida.

William B. Stronge PH.D

Captiva's Beach Visitors Bring Government Tax Revenues

- Visitors to Captiva paid \$3,575,552 to Lee County's Tourist Development Council in 2011.
- Additionally, visitors to Captiva paid \$4,287,063 in Transient Tax to the State of Florida.
- Visitors to Captiva paid a total of \$6,170,178 in State Sales Tax in 2011.
- Captiva Island Property Owners paid a total of \$19,406,843 in 2010 Property Taxes on approximately 1000 parcels of property.

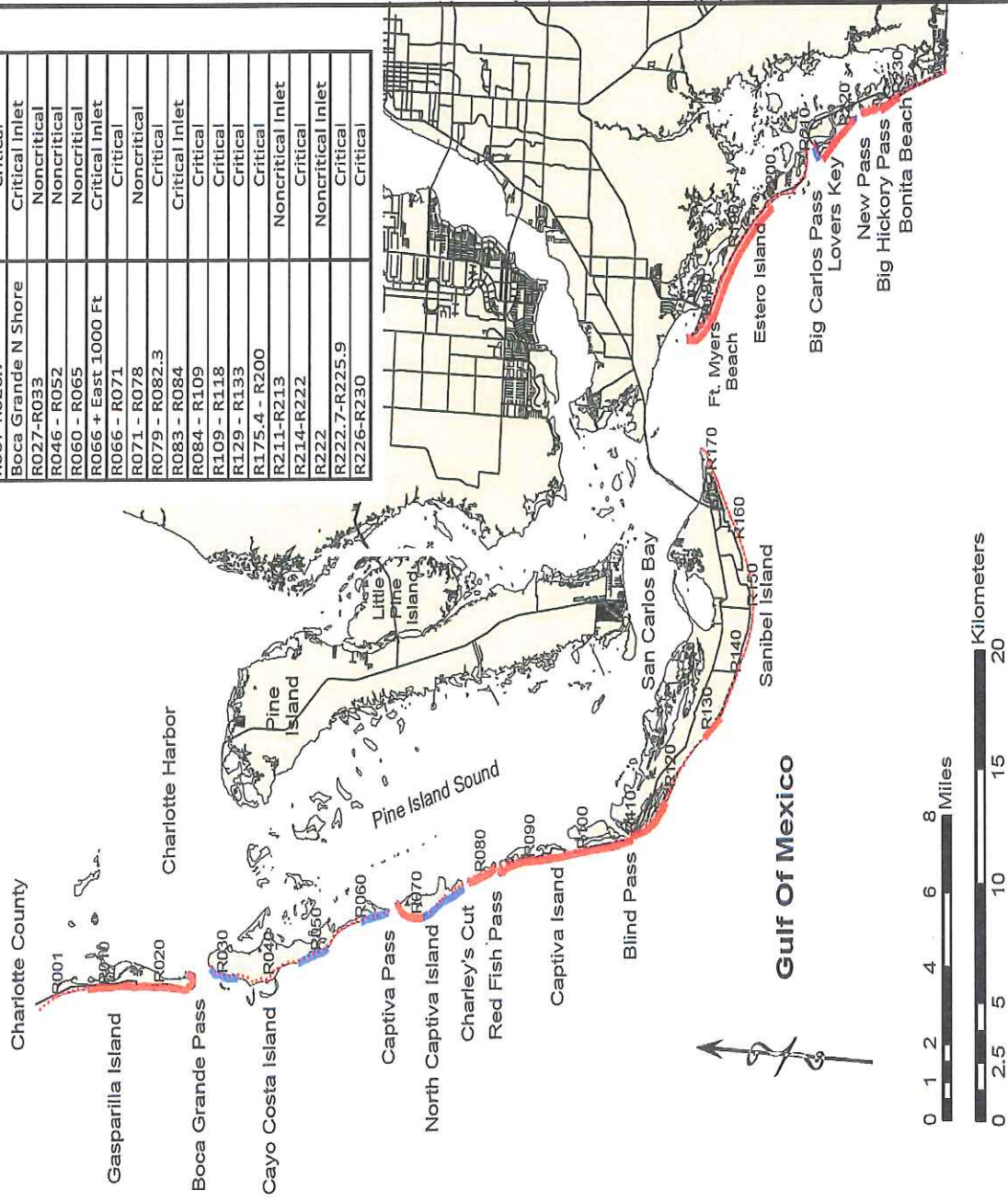


Florida's Critically Eroded Beaches

Summary of Florida Coastal Erosion Areas (miles)

<u>Area</u>	<u>Critical</u>	<u>Noncritical</u>
Total Gulf Coast	184	70
Total Atlantic Coast	204	24
Total Florida Keys	10	2
Statewide	398	96

Lee County	
Location	Classification
R007-R026.7	Critical
Boca Grande N Shore	Critical Inlet
R027-R033	Noncritical
R046 - R052	Noncritical
R060 - R065	Noncritical
R066 + East 1000 Ft	Critical Inlet
R066 - R071	Critical
R071 - R078	Noncritical
R079 - R082.3	Critical
R083 - R084	Critical Inlet
R084 - R109	Critical
R109 - R118	Critical
R129 - R133	Critical
R175.4 - R200	Critical
R211-R213	Noncritical Inlet
R214-R222	Critical
R222	Noncritical Inlet
R222.7-R225.9	Critical
R226-R230	Critical



Counties with the Greatest Total Miles of Beach

<u>County</u>	<u>Region</u>	<u>Miles</u>
1. Brevard	Central	71.5
2. Franklin	Panhandle	54.6
3. Volusia	Northeast	48.8
4. Lee	Southwest	47.3
5. Palm Beach	Southeast	45.3
6. Bay	Panhandle	41.2
7. St. Johns	Northeast	41.1
8. Escambia	Panhandle	38.9
9. Pinellas	Southwest	37.2
10. Sarasota	Southwest	34.7

Total Miles in State

825