



SEA TURTLE
CONSERVANCY
S I N C E 1 9 5 9



Brevard County Planning and Zoning Board
2725 Judge Fran Jamieson Way
Viera, FL 32940

June 15, 2025

Dear board members,

We are writing on behalf of the Florida-based Sea Turtle Conservancy (STC), the oldest sea turtle conservation group in the world, to **thank the County staff, consultants, Planning and Zoning board members, and Commissioners at Brevard County for listening to our feedback** on the Brevard Barrier Island Area (BBIA) Appendix to the County's Comprehensive Plan.

The BBIA is unlike anywhere else in Florida, the United States, and perhaps the world. It supports the largest nesting aggregation of loggerhead sea turtles in the world, as well as the largest green turtle rookery in the U.S. It contains unique dunes, coastal scrub, and maritime hammock ecosystems; and encompasses the Indian River Lagoon, an important estuary. Central to the success and character of the BBIA is its low-density development and community that passionately advocates for it to stay that way. As the State of Florida faces rapid coastal development, placing reasonable limits on development to preserve the unique nature of the BBIA is more essential than ever. This is why stakeholders have weighed in on each aspect of the County's proposed BBIA Appendix – to ensure that the Guiding Principles of 380.0553, F.S. are met and to ensure the continued protection of this valuable area for wildlife, coastal recreation, and its people.

As we have detailed in previous letters, areas of chief concern for STC in the Appendix focus on language dealing with hard shoreline armoring, sea turtle lighting ordinances, upland vegetation, scenic features, and future land use. While the County has considered but not fully incorporated all of our suggestions implemented in their entirety, we are pleased with revisions to the Appendix that provide a starting point for specifics to be ironed out in subsequent ordinances.

We recognize the effort that has gone into the BBIA Appendix draft by County staff, its consultant, board members, and commissioners, and we appreciate having opportunities to share our expertise. We look forward to continuing to engage with the County to ensure that the BBIA will meet the promise of the Brevard Barrier Island Area Protection Act.

Sincerely,

David Godfrey
Executive Director

Stacey Gallagher
Policy Coordinator

