



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

TO: Jim Liesenfelt, Interim County Manager

THRU: Tad Calkins, Assistant County Manager

FROM: Amanda Elmore, Deputy Director, Natural Resources Management Dept. AE

SUBJ: Citizen Efficiency and Effectiveness Recommendation (CEER) #2025055

CEER #2025055, titled Fish and wildlife, was received by the County from Diane Maynard.

Citizen Statement:

Stop replenishing dirt on the beach. Use taxpayer money to plant native vegetation!
No more building on the dune

Citizen Recommendation:

The homeowner should fix their sabd

Staff Analysis:

Sand placement through beach nourishment and/or dune restoration is used to maintain Brevard County beaches to support quality of life for Brevard County beachgoers and the beach-based tourism that fuels Brevard's economy. The Florida Office of Economic & Demographic Research (EDR) completed a study that determined the state's return on investment (ROI) for investing in beach restoration was a positive 5.4 to 1. This is based largely on the tax revenues generated by beach-related tourists. On average, Brevard receives approximately one dollar in State funding for each dollar Brevard spends on beaches. Therefore, Brevard's ROI is likely similar to the state's ROI. Brevard generally funds its portion of beach nourishment projects using the tourism "bed tax" paid by visiting tourists.

Beach restoration in Brevard County is used to preserve the beach and dune habitat valued by both Brevard County residents and visiting tourists. Only beach-quality sand, as approved by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection is used for beach restoration work in the county. Brevard County is already supplementing sand placement by planting native dune vegetation, typically sea oats, panic grass and other native herbaceous vegetation. Brevard is currently planting over one million native

dune plants along roughly 21 miles of Brevard's ocean shoreline. Including this current project, Brevard will have planted almost 3.9 million native dune plants over the last 20 years.

Given the rate of coastal erosion in Brevard, native plants alone cannot prevent the dunes from being lost to erosion as they are pinched between the ocean and existing development or coastal armor. Before the beginning of ongoing sand placement by Brevard County, much of the native vegetation in the dune had been lost. Beach nourishment allowed the dunes recovered.

Brevard County's current coastal development ordinance ensures that new construction is located behind the primary, and secondary, dunes in the unincorporated County. Buildings that still exist on the dune in unincorporated Brevard are structures built in the 1980's and before, prior to the adoption of coastal development regulations.



Photos above show south Cocoa Beach before and after the initial construction of the **North Reach Shore Projection** (beach nourishment) Project. Before the first nourishment of this project in 2001, the Cocoa Beach shoreline was seriously eroded and much of it had been armored with seawalls and rip-rap. After nourishment of the

North Reach, waves could no longer reach the seawalls, and this allowed dunes to develop with wind-blown sand, provided by the project, collecting around native plants.



Photos above show the Breakers Condominium before and after the initial construction of the **South Reach Shore Projection** (beach nourishment) Project. Before the first nourishment of this project in 2002-2003, the South Reach shoreline (including the towns of Indialantic and Melbourne Beach) was seriously eroded and portions of it had been armored with seawalls and rip-rap. At that time, residents of the Breakers were afraid for their building and considering a seawall that could have caused harm to the public beach sea turtle nesting habitat. After the nourishment of the South Reach, the added sand allowed dunes to develop, providing protection and habitat.

Staff Recommended Action:

It is recommended that the Board of County Commissioners reject CEER #2025055 as it does not enhance the effectiveness or efficiency of County government as required by Home Rule Charter as detailed in the staff analysis.

CC: Frank Abbate, County Manager

Horst, Rachel

From: CEER@brevardfl.gov
Sent: Wednesday, January 29, 2025 8:14 AM
To: Horst, Rachel
Subject: A new CEER Recommendation has been submitted as ID #2025055

Recommendation # 2025055

Dear CEER Administrator,

Speak Up Brevard Recommendation ID #2025055 has been submitted. Please login to the CEER Application to start the recommendation evaluation workflow.

Contact Information:

Group/Organization

Name Diane Maynard
Address 4473 COUNTRY RD, MELBOURNE FL 32934
Phone (321) 429-8201
Email Dmaynard321@gmail.com
Alternate Email

Recommendation Information:

Recommendation ID 2025055
Recommendation Title Fish and wildlife
Areas Affected Beach
Department Affected
Current problem Stop replenishing dirt on the beach. Use taxpayer money to plant native vegetation!
No more building on the dune
Recommendation The homeowner should fix their sabd
Attachments No Documents were attached.

Please do not reply to this e-mail, as it will go to an unmonitored mailbox.