

RESOLUTION NO. 2017-08

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF OCEAN RIDGE, FLORIDA, SUPPORTING UNITED STATES CONGRESSIONAL BILLS S. 279 AND H.B. 833 TO AMEND SECTION 935 OF THE WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 1986 TO FACILITATE THE USE OF FOREIGN OFFSHORE SAND IN BEACH NOURISHMENT PROJECTS; URGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO EXPEDITE AND FUND THE STUDY TO ALLOW FOREIGN SAND TO BE USED IN BEACH NOURISHMENT PROJECTS IN PALM BEACH COUNTY; DIRECTING THE TOWN CLERK TO TRANSMIT A COPY OF THIS RESOLUTION TO THE OFFICIALS STATED HEREIN; PROVIDING FOR AUTHORIZATION AND IMPLEMENTATION; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE

WHEREAS, beaches and dunes serve as a vital buffer between coastal infrastructure and the destructive forces of ocean waves and surge during storm events; and

WHEREAS, beach renourishment adds sand to the coastal system, helps keep the erosive power of strong waves from reaching dunes and structures, and buffers against the effects of sea level rise and climate change, thereby protecting coastal properties and the coastal environment; and

WHEREAS, beach renourishment has been an ongoing practice in southeast Florida since the late 1970s, providing essential economic, environmental and recreational benefit to coastal communities; and

WHEREAS, throughout the region, twenty-four federal and nonfederal beach nourishment projects provide storm damage reduction to infrastructure as well as incidental recreational opportunities; and

WHEREAS, Miami-Dade, Broward, Monroe, Palm Beach, Martin and St. Lucie Counties are running out of dependable, economical, and environmentally practicable sand sources; and

WHEREAS, Section 935 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 ("WRDA 1986") states that the Army Corps can only use domestic sources of sand for renourishment of this project, unless the Secretary of the Army provides written certification that domestic sources are not available for environmental or economic reasons; and

WHEREAS, in March 2016, the Army Corps completed a Limited Reevaluation Report and Environmental Assessment with a Finding of No Significant Impact with updated economics to justify potential alternative sand sources for future renourishment projects, including Bahamian sand; and

WHEREAS, having the option to import offshore sand from the Bahamas to expedite beach renourishment projects throughout Palm Beach County is important because the sand may be closer to the quality of the sand on Florida beaches than some of the alternative sources listed by the Army Corps; and

WHEREAS, foreign offshore sources may have a lower cost to import than purchasing sand from approved upland sources, and there may be fewer impacts on roads, such as reduced quality of life impacts resulting from truck traffic and fewer carbon emissions from trucks hauling the sand; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Ocean Ridge supports a recent decision by the federal government to study the benefits of replenishing Florida beaches with foreign sand; and

WHEREAS, on February 2, 2017, United States Senator Marco Rubio introduced S.279 and United States Congresswoman Lois Frankel introduced companion bill H.B.833 to amend the WRDA with respect to the acquisition of beach fill to eliminate the restriction against offshore sand; and

WHEREAS, the Town Commission has determined that it is in the best interest of the Town and its residents to support S.279 and H.B. 833 to eliminate the restriction against offshore sand, and to urge the United States Congress to expedite and fund the study to expedite and fund the study to evaluate the benefits of replenishing Florida beaches with foreign sand.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN COMMISSION OF THE TOWN OF OCEAN RIDGE, FLORIDA, AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Recitals. The above Recitals are true and correct and are incorporated herein by this reference.

Section 2. Supporting United States Congressional Bills S. 279 and H.B. 833 to Amend the Water Resources Development Act of 1986.

The Town Commission hereby expresses its support for S. 279 and H.B. 833 to amend Section 935 of the WRDA 1986 to eliminate the Restriction promulgated by Section 935 of the WRDA 1986, to facilitate the use of foreign offshore sand in Beach Nourishment Projects. The Town urges the United States Congress to expedite and fund the study to evaluate the benefits of replenishing Florida beaches with foreign sand.

Section 3. Transmittal. The Town Clerk is hereby directed to send a copy of this Resolution to sponsoring legislators, United States Senator Marco Rubio and Congresswoman Lois Frankel, and United States Senator Bill Nelson, the Members of the Florida Congressional Delegation, the Secretary of the Army, and the Governor of Florida.

Section 4. Authorization of Town Officials. The Town Manager and/or his designee are hereby authorized to take all actions necessary to implement the terms and conditions of this Resolution.

Section 5. **Effective Date.**

This Resolution shall be effective immediately upon

its adoption.

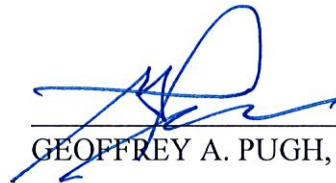
Motion to adopt by Vice Mayor Bonfiglio, second by Commissioner MaGruder.

FINAL VOTE AT ADOPTION

TOWN COMMISSION OF THE TOWN OF OCEAN RIDGE, FLORIDA:

Mayor Geoffrey Pugh	Yea
Vice-Mayor James Bonfiglio	Yea
Commissioner Gail Aaskov	Absent
Commissioner Steve Coz	Yea
Commissioner Don MaGruder	Yea

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 1ST DAY OF MAY, 2017.



GEOFFREY A. PUGH, MAYOR

ATTEST:



TRACEY L. STEVENS, TOWN CLERK

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGALITY
FOR THE USE AND BENEFIT OF
THE TOWN OF OCEAN RIDGE, FLORIDA ONLY



R. BRIAN SHUTT, TOWN ATTORNEY