



THE CITY OF KEY WEST  
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## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

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**Date:** October 20, 2020

**To:** Gregory W. Veliz, City Manager

**From:** Johnnie Yongue, P.E., Project Manager

**Cc:** Mark Finigan, Finance Director  
Steve McAlearney, Engineering Director

**Subject:** Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) Beach Management Funding Assistance for Beach Maintenance and Monitoring.

### **Action Statement**

Approve a resolution supporting an application to the FDEP Beach Management Funding Assistance Program for reimbursement of Smathers, South, Simonton and Dog Beach maintenance and monitoring costs.

### **Background**

In May of 2019, the City nourished Smathers, South, Simonton and Dog beaches at a cost of \$1.2 million. Although nourishment is complete, these beaches remain on FDEP's Critically Eroded Beaches Report and are eligible for funding from FDEP's Beach Management Funding Assistance Program. The program provides and manages grants to local governments for planning and implementing beach and inlet management projects along designated critically eroded beaches.

Many of the designated critically eroded beaches have been restored through the placement of beach and dune fill material. The shorelines where these beach restoration projects have taken place have improved compared to their pre-project condition when they were designated as being critically eroded.

Sand placement may result in reduced seagrass volumes. Per Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary requirements, the City must monitor beach erosion and seagrass bed condition for a period of five years post project, which is an eligible expense for beach management funding. Since the design and completion of the 2019 nourishment totaling \$1.4 million, the City has spent \$190,000 on monitoring with an anticipated cost of \$152,000 in the coming years. In September 2020, City staff submitted a grant application to FDEP for 50% reimbursement of the \$1.7 million in beach maintenance and monitoring costs.

## **Purpose and Justification**

Although these beach management projects and their subsequent maintenance have mitigated the original critical erosion conditions, these shorelines retain their critical erosion designation in order to retain their state of Florida funding eligibility for long term management and beach project maintenance and monitoring.

The project supported the Key West Strategic Plan, *Environment*, goal #1 “*A natural environment that enhances the ‘Key West experience’ for residents and visitors alike.*”

## **Financial Issues**

If awarded, the grant could provide the City over \$800,000 in reimbursement for costs associated with the 2019 nourishment, allowing the City to be reimbursed for design, placement of sand and past monitoring costs as well as future monitoring costs saving the City 50% of the costs.

## **Recommendation**

Staff recommends approving a resolution supporting a City application to the FDEP Beach Management Funding Assistance Program for reimbursement of beach maintenance and monitoring costs.