MEMORANDUM

Date: September 3, 2026

To: Honorable Mayor and Commissioners

Via: Brian L. Barroso
City Manager

CC: Christina Bervaldi
Director of Finance

From: Carolyn Sheldon
Senior Grants Administrator

Subject: **File ID 26-5742 Authorizing a Local Government Funding Request to the FDEP Beach Management Funding Assistance Program funding for Higgs Beach Restoration and Nourishment**

Introduction

The City Manager's Office requests authorization of the submission of a Local Government Funding Request to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) Beach Management Funding Assistance Program for Fiscal Year 2027-2028 in the amount of $500,000.00 State cost share with a $500,000.00 City Match ($1,000,000.00 Total Project Cost) for the Higgs Beach Restoration and Nourishment Project.

Background

The Clarence S. Higgs Memorial Beach is designated as critically eroded in the FDEP's Critically Eroded Beaches in Florida Report making it eligible for FDEP Beach Management Funding Assistance Program funding. The last restoration project at Higgs Beach was completed in December 2021 by the then owner, Monroe County. Ownership was transferred to the City of Key West in April 2026. The proposed restoration and nourishment project will restore sand volume and reestablish the beach profile to address ongoing erosion, following stabilization of the Higgs Beach seawall.

To maximize scoring potential for this competitive grant, a signed resolution from the governing board of the local sponsor must include support from the local sponsor for the project, willingness to serve as the local sponsor, the ability to provide the full local cost share, and the identification of the funding source (Fort Taylor Fund).

Procurement

Project expenses will be budgeted in Account 1031900-5194600. Grant revenue will be budgeted in Account 1030000-3349000.

Recommendation

The City Manager's Office recommends the City Commission authorize the submission of a Local Government Funding Request to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) Beach Management Funding Assistance Program for Fiscal Year 2027-2028 for the Higgs Beach Restoration and Nourishment Project.