

# **TOWN OF PALM BEACH**

Information for Town Council Meeting on: May 12, 2025

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TO: Mayor and Town Council

VIA: Kirk W. Blouin, Town Manager

FROM: H. Paul Brazil, P.E., Director of Public Works

RE: Status Update Regarding Riviera Beach Mooring Permit

DATE: May 6, 2025

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## **STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

Staff are providing an update on Riviera Beach's South Mooring Field, which is proposed within the municipal limits of the Town of Palm Beach in the Lake Worth Lagoon.

## **GENERAL INFORMATION**

The City of Riviera Beach is proposing three managed mooring fields within Lake Worth Lagoon. One of the proposed mooring fields is located within the municipal limits of the Town of Palm Beach, south of Peanut Island and east of the Intracoastal Waterway. Vessels currently anchor in this area and are not managed.

The proposed project will remove all existing chains and anchors and will install 100 mooring balls to create a 129.21-acre, public mooring field that will be managed by the Riviera Beach Municipal Marina. All mooring balls are proposed to be tethered by an anchor line to a helical anchor. The moorings will be engineered to secure a typical vessel 60 feet in length or less up to a Category 3 Hurricane event. The limits of the proposed mooring field area will be delineated using boundary buoys and all mooring within the mooring field will be restricted to the designated mooring balls. Each mooring ball will support a single vessel. Enforcement within the mooring field is proposed to be provided by the City of Riviera Beach's Marine Law Enforcement. The City has provided a Mooring Field Management Plan, which includes all rules and regulations for enforcement of the mooring slips, including pump-out procedures, fueling, storm preparedness, noise, and waste management.

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) issued General Permit (50-0415270-005-EG) on May 1, 2025. The Department has begun processing an application to lease sovereign submerged lands from the state. The Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) is processing a Standard Permit (SAJ-2022-00331) for the mooring field. Since the FDEP has issued their permit which includes Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) concurrence, the ACOE consultation with the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) is progressing. USFWS concurrence is the only pending item for the ACOE permit. Riviera Beach has also submitted an application to expand their marina, which includes dredging and impacts to seagrass, and is being processed separately from the mooring fields. Consultations have not been initiated for the marina yet. The public noticing period for both projects is complete. The Town has submitted formal objection letters of the mooring field to the ACOE on June 30, 2022 and July 19, 2022. Objections voiced concerns of impacts to quality of life and safety of residents, lack of Town approval to perform work within its municipal boundary, and proximity to dredging staging areas.

## **FUNDING/FISCAL IMPACT**

Additional cost to the Town is not anticipated for the proposed activities.

## **Attachments**

Mooring Field Maps

South Mooring Field Management Plan

cc: Jason Debrincat, P.E., Assistant Director of Public Works  
Patricia Strayer, P.E., Town Engineer  
Sara Gutekunst, Coastal Coordinator  
Joanne O'Connor, Town Attorney, Jones Foster