

# **TOWN OF PALM BEACH**

Information for Town Council Meeting on: November 9, 2021

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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: 2021 Dune Restoration Discussion for Reaches 3, 4, 7 and 9

DATE: October 28, 2021

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## **STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

Town staff recommends that the Town use the existing regulatory authorizations, existing FEMA cost-sharing, and the contract approved by Town Council earlier this year, to perform dune restoration in Reach 4 (south end of Mid-Town) and Reach 9 (Town of South Palm Beach) using the sand stockpile created with the recent Phipps Ocean Park Beach Nourishment project.

## **GENERAL INFORMATION**

Following construction of a sand stockpile with the Phipps Ocean Park Beach Nourishment Project in early 2021, sand was truck hauled and dune restoration was performed in the Sloan's Curve area of Reach 7, Reach 8, and Reach 9 in the Town of South Palm Beach. The dune work completed in Reaches 7 and 8 were eligible for FEMA cost-sharing. Due to sea turtle nesting season, dune restoration construction efforts had to be stopped in May 2021 and sand was not placed in Reaches 3 and 4. Regulatory authorization and a contract is in place to resume the work.

### **Reach 3**

Sand placement in this area would be between Wells Road and approximately Sunset Avenue. The majority of this area includes the section of shoreline where oceanfront residents have decided against providing the Town with perpetual easements to allow the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to place sand because standard language in the agreement allows for the public to use the beach for traditional recreational purposes. Residents in this area have roped off the section of the dry beach where this sand would be placed. Police enforcement has been challenging. Town staff recommends that the Town not place sand in this area at this time. The current healthy condition of the shoreline in this area does not warrant action to be taken right now to maintain storm protection. The next planned project in Mid-Town is in 2028.

Lastly, FDEP has requested that the Town clearly mark Root Trail as a public access point in order to continue receiving applicable cost-sharing for the Mid-Town project. In order to maintain consistency with other Town's public beach accesses, Town staff is planning to install the same state-issued blue "Beach Access" signs (see attached).

#### Reach 4

The Town is looking to maximize FEMA cost-sharing for dune restoration in this reach between Hammon Avenue (South end of the municipal beach) and approximately Banyan Road. While this area is part of the current Federal Shore Protection Project (FSPP), these FEMA funds were obtained prior to the establishment of the Project Partnership Agreement with the USACE. Since the project is now Federal, FEMA funds cannot be used to nourish the beach; however, since dune restoration is not currently a component of the FSPP, the use of FEMA funds to re-establish a dune in this area is eligible. Therefore, since access through Peruvian Avenue and all easements are in place in this area, Town staff would suggest that dune be placed along this stretch of beach. The dune would be similar in dimensions to what was previously constructed so that vistas are maintained, no attractive nuisance is created, and the volume of wind-blown sand would be reduced during a storm event minimizing negative impacts to oceanfront properties.

#### Reach 7

The mild hurricane season has limited any erosion of the newly dune constructed in the Sloan's Curve area earlier this year. There is no space on the beach to add more sand in this area without creating a high potential for escarpments that would need to be remedied during sea turtle nesting season. There are no remaining FEMA cost-sharing funds available in this area. The next time this section of the shoreline is scheduled to receive sand is in 2024 with the next Phipps Ocean Park Beach Nourishment Project.

#### Reach 9

The Town of Palm Beach successfully placed 20,000 cubic yards of sand in the Town of South Palm Beach between April and May 2021. South Palm Beach reimbursed the Town for 100% of this cost. South Palm Beach is looking to again place sand available from our stockpile in order to address some of the erosion that they experienced this year. A healthier beach in Reach 9 helps stabilize the Town's beaches in Reach 8. Town staff would recommend that we continue to assist our neighbors to the south with this request. The Town of South Palm Beach will reimburse the Town of Palm Beach for the cost of placing sand.

#### Dune Planting

Town staff is developing a dune planting scope of work to solicit bids and return to Town Council for approval at a future meeting to vegetate the dunes constructed in 2020, and possibly 2021, in Reaches 4, 7, 8, and 9 before May 1, 2022.

#### **FUNDING/FISCAL IMPACT**

All dune restoration work mentioned above is to be performed within the authorization provided by Town Council in March 2021 through Resolution No. 027-2021. Sand placed in Reach 4 will be eligible for 75% FEMA reimbursement and sand placed in Reach 9 will be reimbursed 100% by the Town of South Palm Beach.

#### Attachment

cc. Patricia Strayer, P.E., Town Engineer  
Robert Weber, Coastal Program Manager