

# Local and Federal Funding for Mainland Beach Restoration Projects

Presented by:
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Hawaii Shore and Beach Preservation Association 2014 Beach Restoration Workshop November 24, 2014









- Federal Funding
- State Funding
- Local Funding
- Conclusions

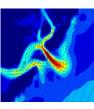














#### **Federal Funding**

- United States Army Corps of Engineers
- Water Resources Reform and Development Act
- Planning, Design, and Construction
- National Competition















# **United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)**

- Federal entity responsible for restoration and maintenance of sandy beaches in U.S.
- USACE authority to assist states and local communities with beach erosion projects is provided by Water Resources Reform and Development Act (WRRDA)
- Congress can grant USACE authority to study, design, and construct a shore protection project
- Federal assistance provided when interest is "justified"
  - Reconnaissance and feasibility investigations
  - Detailed design
  - Initial construction and periodic nourishment















# Water Resources Reform and Development Act (WRRDA)

- Federal statute generally reenacted every 2 years
- Funds appropriated annually through the Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act
- Congressional Authorization
  - Individual Project
  - Continuing Authorities Program
- Authorization Requirements
  - Non-Federal sponsor
  - Clear public benefit with sufficient access
  - Economically justifiable

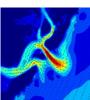














#### Planning, Design, and Construction

- Problem Perception
- Request for Federal Action (study authorization)
- Reconnaissance Study (12 to 18 months @ \$100K)
  - Congress authorizes and provides funds
  - Identify if federal interest is justified
- Feasibility Study (24 to 36 months @ \$2M)
  - Cost shared 50/50
  - Identify/recommend whether project should be considered
- Congressional Authorization
  - Congress chooses whether to authorize
- Project Implementation/Construction

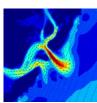
















### **National Competition**

- Increasing substantially
- Long and difficult process (>5 years)
- New applications
- Current economic status
- Reimbursement
  - Congressional line items --> General Funds
- Funding capped at 65%
  - Beach < ¼ mile from public access</li>

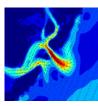














#### **State Funding**

- Florida Beach Management Funding Assistance
   Program
- Program Eligibility
- Funding Process
- Competition

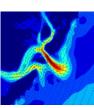














# Florida Beach Management Funding Assistance Program (Beach Erosion Control Program)

- Recognizes the benefits of beaches since 1964
- Design, construction, maintenance
- Funded by Ad Valorem Taxes
- Administered by FDEP Water Resources Management
- Up to 75% of project costs
- Eligible activities
  - Beach restoration and nourishment
  - Project design and engineering studies
  - Environmental studies and monitoring
  - Beach, inlet, and sediment management planning
  - Activities consistent with Strategic Beach Management Plan

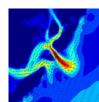
















#### **Program Eligibility**

- Local sponsor
- Sandy shoreline
- Critically Eroded
- Public Access
- Strategic BeachManagement Plan
- Budget Plan
- Cost-savings
- Regional Coordination

- Optimize sediment management and project performance
- Protect environment
- Long-term solution
- Appropriate feasibility studies and analysis
- Avoids or minimizes adverse impacts
- Cost effective

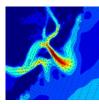
















#### **Funding Process**

- Application
- Staff review and project rankings
  - Project assessment
- Inclusion in FDEP Strategic Budget Plan
  - Prioritized list (\$30M annually)
  - Alternative list
- Legislative Appropriation
  - May accept, reject, modify list
- Execution of Project Agreement
  - Establish ECL to delineate private/public lands

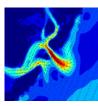














# **Competition and Ranking Criteria (10% Funded)**

- Severity of erosion
- Threat to upland structures
- Recreational and economic benefits
- Availability of Federal funds
- Local sponsor commitment
- Previous state commitment
- Project performance
- Mitigation of inlet effects
- Innovative technologies
- Enhance sea turtle nesting
- Regionalization
- Significance

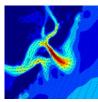
















## **Funding Cap**

- Generally limited to 50%
- Beach access and funding
  - Primary Access
    - 100 public parking spaces
    - Restroom
    - ½ mile funding
  - Secondary Access
    - Has public amenities
    - ¼ mile funding

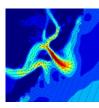
















# **Local Funding**

- Funding Requirements
- Factors to Consider
- County General Revenue
- Municipal Services Taxing Unit
- Municipal Services Benefit Unit
- Tourist Development Tax
- Bonds and Leveraging
- Loans
- Repair

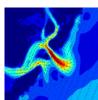














### **Funding Requirements**

- Federal and state programs require local cost share
- Federal assistance limited to 65% of total project
- State assistance generally limited to 50% of local government project costs

## **Primary Factors to Consider**

- Mechanism is necessary to assess and disburse funds collected from property owners.
- Cost apportionment plan is necessary to prorate total cost among property owners.















#### **County General Revenue**

- Generated from ad valorem taxes, real and property taxes, and user fees with supplements from state and federal sources
- Beach Nourishment Funding Sources
  - County has authority to allocate funds to categories within their budget approval authority subject to restrictions – can use for beach preservation projects
  - Local community can petition to levy separate ad valorem tax or increase millage rate on existing revenues
    - Benefits approach tax proportional to property benefits
    - General revenue approach tax proportional to assessed property value

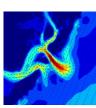














# **Municipal Services Taxing Unit (MSTU)**

- Special taxing district that relies on the imposition of special ad valorem taxes to meet specifically authorized and established purposes in a defined area
  - Erosion prevention district or shore preservation district
- More than one benefit zone may be appropriate to reflect beneficiaries within the improvement area to reflect different property owner benefits realized by the improvement.
  - Oceanfront vs Non-oceanfront

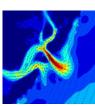














## Municipal Services Benefit Unit (MSBU)

- Special assessment district to provide for improvements and/or services to a specifically defined area of the county and financed by a special assessment to only those citizens receiving the benefits of those improvements or services
- Assessments remain fixed for duration of MSBU
- Requires detailed cost/benefit studies, public hearings, and property owner notifications
- Beach nourishment benefits vary (location, frontage value)

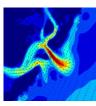














# **Tourist Development Tax**

- Additional tax on short term rentals "Bed Tax"
  - Revenues used for capital construction of tourist-related facilities, tourist promotion, and shoreline maintenance
- Local option sales tax
- Beach parking fees

#### **Bonding**

- Coastal communities may authorize the sale of bonds or other long term financial instruments to fund project
- Bonds usually retired with local matching revenues

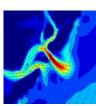
















## **Private Funding**

- Donations
- Private Lenders (5 yrs)
- USDA Rural Development Loan (11 yrs)

#### **Project Repair**

- FEMA may pay for sand lost
- Designed project with proper monitoring

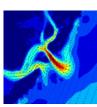














# Local Funding

	ALTERNATIVE	DESCRIPTION	ESTABLISHMENT	PROS	CONS
1.	Ad Valorem Tax	Uniform Property Tax	Budgetary Process	Existing authority	No continuous source; poor management; competition
3.	Independent Special Taxing Districts	Independent Gov't established by Legislature to collect property tax for special purpose	By act of Legislature	Continuous source of funds	New government added - not favored by Legislature; voter dependent
4.	Dependent Special Taxing District	Ad Valorem tax collected and administered by the County for a special purpose	By act of Legislature	Ability to fund projects	Limited by total County capital subject to political climate
7.	Erosion Prevention Districts	A dependent taxing district collecting property taxes	Established by County ordinance	Existing authorization; benefit zones can be taxed differently	Included in total County millage cap; politically affected
5.	Municipal Service Taxing Unit (MSTU)	Property tax of a specific area for service	By petition of property owners; local authority	Existing authorization; not project limited	Taxes only in improved area, adjacent property
6.	Municipal Service Benefit Unit (MSBU)	Special assessments of benefitted properties	Petitions of majority of property owners	Existing authority; no competition with others	Project limited; difficult to establish
2.	Bonding	Selling bonds to create revenue - bond retired by Ad Valorem Tax	Referendum	New revenue covers large initial costs	Non-continuous source; time delays; confined to specific projects; poor tool for management /planning
8.	Private Funding	Donations	By mutual agreement	Addresses needs of private property	Not practical for countywide funding
9.	Parking Meters and Park Feed	User Fees	Locally initiated	User benefits = pay	Private benefit is not assessed; limited funding
10.	Beach Management Districts (Regional)	Larger government spanning a number of Counties with property taxing authority	State Legislature	Stable funding source; larger tax base; not politically motivated	Funds may be disproportionately used

A World of **Solutions** 



- Beach nourishment is costly
- Funding can come from federal, state, and local sources
- Programs need to be appropriately structured
- Funding selection is at discretion of governing entity

What meets community "needs" and is considered "fair and reasonable" by the community?

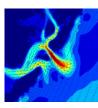














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