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August 11, 2020

Mr. Howard Tipton, County Administrator
2300 Virginia Avenue
Fort Pierce, FL 34982

Re: So. SLC Beach Project – PPA and Funding

Dear Mr. Tipton,

For an August meeting of the Commissioners, we urge the staff to prepare an authorization to execute the PPA with the USACE, so that the beginning date for the federal funds under the program is established. Thus, possibly before the next named storm the area beaches might be “covered” under the federal program, or at least strengthen the case for coverage.

Concerning the funding of the local share, we ask the Commissioners, in their upcoming budget deliberations, to appropriate at least \$2.5MM from the Erosion District and/or other county-wide sources, as its contribution to the “local” funding for the “Initial Start”, administered by the USACE. This is an amount previously mentioned only months ago by some staff. At only about 1/3 of the total estimated required “local share”, this is far less than the 100% initially advocated for. It is important to beachfront owners, but it is much more than just the protection of their beachfront property given the project’s significant and broad positive economic impact and recreational benefits to the **county as a whole**. Also, those taxpayers already contribute far more than that each year as part of their county-wide taxes. This project, with approximately 2/3 of the cost covered by state and federal funds, contributes significantly to a much larger and overarching Resiliency Plan and merits the County financial commitment.

For over 20 years this program has been sought after, lobbied for and is now pending. We remain committed to the successful completion of the Initial Start and full participation within the federal 50-year program.

Yours truly,

President's Council of Hutchinson Island

cc: SLC Board of County Commissioners
Mr. Alphonso Jefferson, Mr. Glenn Henderson, Mr. Joshua Revord