



NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

ORGANIZATIONAL PLAN FOR "SAVE AMERICA'S BEACHES"

A national coalition of local, state and national organizations dedicated to the preservation and enhancement of America's beaches and coastal environment.

THE SITUATION LEADING TO THE CREATION OF THE COALITION

In this FY1996 budget proposal to Congress, President Clinton announced his intention to sponsor legislation this year to eliminate federal funding and management for beach preservation projects in the U.S. Currently, the federal government pays an average of 65% of project costs. Under the President's proposal, the over-all mission of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers would be drastically reduced.

The proposed cuts include matching funds for:

- Beach restoration and periodic renourishment.
- Hurricane and storm damage protection.
- Beach erosion control structures.

Related programs that would be eliminated include:

- Flood control projects.
- "Small projects" for navigation maintenance including inlet sand bypassing for feeder beaches.
- Maintenance of an estimated 500 small harbors.

These proposed cutbacks would seriously impact beach preservation in the U.S.

- The federal matching share of these projects is 65%. This would have to be picked up by state and local interests.
- The Corps of Engineers currently does virtually all of the technical work on beach projects from feasibility and environmental studies to project design and construction supervision. State and local interests would have to recruit and train technical staffs to replace Corps' staff and expertise.

I. Immediate Purpose of the Coalition

To oppose the President's bill to drastically curtail the historical role of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in water resources management and protection.

Specifically, we oppose elements of the bill that would:

- A. Eliminate federal funding for all beach preservation projects including:
 - Beach erosion control projects.
 - Hurricane and storm protection projects.
 - Beach restoration and renourishment.
 - Inlet sand bypassing to create feeder beaches.
- B. Eliminate federal funding for flood control projects that protect lives and property against storms and hurricanes.
- C. Eliminate federal funding for "small" navigation projects which maintain ports and inlets vital to recreational boating and commerce.

II. Organization

- A. CHAIRMAN: Greg Woodell, President, American Shore & Beach Preservation Association, Los Angeles, CA
 HONORARY CHAIRMAN: Orville Magoon, Past President, American Shore & Beach Preservation Association, Middletown, CA
 COORDINATOR: Stan Tait, President, Florida Shore & Beach Preservation Association, Tallahassee, FL
- B. STATE COORDINATORS:
 - CALIFORNIA: Reinhard Flick, President, California Shore & Beach Association, LaJolla, CA
 - TEXAS: Sally Davenport, Director, Coastal Division, Texas General Land Office, Austin, TX
 - LOUISIANA: TBA
 - MISSISSIPPI: TBA
 - ALABAMA: TBA
 - FLORIDA: Stan Tait, President, Florida Shore & Beach Preservation Association, Tallahassee, FL
 - GEORGIA: TBA
 - SOUTH CAROLINA: TBA

NORTH CAROLINA: Paul Denison, P.E., Century/Von Oesen Engineers, Wilmington, NC

VIRGINIA: TBA

DELAWARE: Bob Henry, Program Administrator, Shoreline and Waterways, Virginia Soil and Water Conservation

NEW JERSEY: Ken Smith, President, New Jersey Shore & Beach Preservation Association

NEW YORK: Gerry Stoddard, President, Long Island Coastal Alliance, New York, NY

III. Membership in the Coalition

Members of the Save America's Beaches coalition are organizations or individuals who support continuation of the existing federal role in beach preservation, navigation and flood control.

Organizations wishing to join the coalition are asked to submit their request in writing either by letter or by copy of a formal resolution, e.g., a resolution approved by a board of county commissioners.

An individual member may join by a signed letter on his/her stationery.

There is no membership fee to join the coalition.

The intent of the coalition is to publicly list those organizations and individuals who support the purposes of the coalition in communications with members of Congress, the media and others.

We envision several categories of members who have a strong interest in beach preservation and erosion control.

A. Beach-related

- American Shore & Beach Preservation Association and similar state associations.
- Other organizations concerned with beach and coastal issues such as the Long Island Coastal Alliance.

B. Government

- State DNR's or agencies responsible for beach and navigation.
- Local government project sponsors, e.g., Dade County, Florida and Los Angeles County Department of Beaches and Harbors.
- National and state leagues of cities and counties.

C. Related Associations

- National and state engineering societies.
- American Dredging Association.

- National and state ports councils.
- National and state boating associations.
- National and state hotel and tourist associations.

D. Beach-related Businesses

- Beachfront hotels and resorts.
- Chambers of commerce.

IV. Activities of the Coalition

1. Coordinate lobbying of Congress.
2. Develop fact sheets, statements and publicity.
3. Serve as a clearing house for information for coalition members.
4. Coordinate recruitment of coalition members.
5. Assist coalition efforts in the various states.
6. Help schedule testimony before Congress.
7. Maintain tabulation on Congressmen contacted and results.

V. Responsibilities of State Coordinators

1. Recruit coalition members/endorsers in your state. Notify national headquarters of their names and addresses.
2. Write fact sheets, statements and publicity tailored to the situation in your state. (National office will prepare samples.)
3. Ask local government project sponsors in your state, e.g., city and county commissions, to pass formal resolutions opposing the President's legislation. (National will provide sample.)
4. Organize a letter-writing campaign to members of your Congressional delegation.
5. Arrange for "heavy-hitters" in your state to make personal contacts with members of your Congressional delegation.
6. Keep the national coordinator's office advised of progress, e.g., resolutions, contacts made with Congressmen and Senators etc.

For More Information

Organizations and/or individuals who want to participate in this coalition or to get more information about it should call or fax:

Stan Tait, Coordinator
Save America's Beaches
864 East Park Avenue
Tallahassee, FL 32301
(904) 222-7677 (phone)
(904) 561-1172 (fax)

WHY FLORIDIANS OPPOSE PRESIDENT CLINTON'S PROPOSAL TO DROP FEDERAL MATCHING FUNDS TO PRESERVE AMERICA'S BEACHES

A fact sheet prepared by the Florida Shore & Beach Preservation Association, a Florida "league of cities and counties" on beach and coastal issues.

The Issue:

In his FY1996 budget proposal to Congress, President Clinton announced his intention to sponsor legislation this year to eliminate federal funding and management for beach preservation projects in the U.S.

Congress authorized this program in 1930. Since then, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has been the lead agency in erosion control in Florida and the U.S.

The proposed cuts include matching funds for:

- Beach Restoration and periodic renourishment.
- Hurricane and storm damage protection.
- Inlet maintenance and sand by-passing to downdrift beaches.
- Beach erosion control structures.

Impact on Florida

The federal government currently contributes about 50% of the cost of beach preservation in Florida—between \$10 million and \$20 million annually.

State and local governments pay the remaining 50%.

Enactment of President Clinton's bill would, at a minimum:

- Double state and local costs for beach preservation overnight.
- Require the state DEP to hire a staff of up to 50 professionals and support people to replace the current staff of the Corps' Jacksonville District who do the bulk of the technical work on Florida beach and navigation projects.
- Contribute to further coastal erosion because of the shut down of federally-assisted inlet sand bypassing.
- Substantially slow Florida's comprehensive beach management program which is already well behind schedule.
- Cause a number of local governments to drop plans for erosion control projects because of the added cost (local matching funds are required for federal beach projects).

A \$479 Million Long-term Impact on Florida

A 1994 report by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers shows the following anticipated long-term spending on authorized beach preservation projects in Florida.

| | |
|--|---------------|
| Projects authorized/awaiting start of construction | \$179,875,000 |
| Projects in Preconstruction Engineering Design phase | \$557,859,000 |
| Total | \$737,734,000 |
| FEDERAL SHARE OF TOTAL (65%) | \$479,505,000 |

The President's Bill Will Affect Other Types of Projects

Beach preservation isn't the only target of this bill. Other important projects that would be eliminated include:

- Flood control
- Small harbors
- Navigation maintenance except at large ports

This would cost Floridians millions more each year. For example, the President's FY1996 budget request, which would be the last for flood control and small navigation, includes:

- Florida small navigation \$16.5 million
- Florida flood control \$14.9 million

Economic Importance of Our Beaches

Beaches are the #1 attraction for tourists coming to Florida.

- 21.6 million tourists visit our beaches each year.
- They spend \$7.9 billion.
- The "ripple effect" to the economy is \$15.4 billion.
- Jobs created are 359,450.

Badly Eroded Beaches Turn Tourists Away

In the late 1970's the beaches at Miami Beach were eroded almost to non-existence. The number of tourists plummeted. The local economy was depressed.

Then a project was undertaken to renourish the entire 12-mile stretch of beach to a width of 200 to 300 feet.

The result: Beach attendance, based on life-

guard counts and aerial surveys, increased from 8 million in 1978 to 21 million in 1983.

Balance of Trade Implications

Travel and tourism is one of the world's fastest growing industries.

In 1992, international tourists spent \$17 billion in the U.S. Only agriculture brought in a larger balance of trade surplus for the U.S. International visitors to Florida contribute more than one-fifth of this revenue surplus.

- 7 million of Florida's 40 million tourists come from other countries.
- The 2.3 million Canadian tourists stay in Florida an average of 21 days each . . . spend a total of \$1.6 billion.

Recreational Benefits of America's Beaches

Excluding Alaska, the U.S. has 37,000 miles of ocean, estuarine and Great Lakes shoreline with 2,700 miles experiencing critical erosion.

Beaches are America's greatest "national park" . . . our most important outdoors recreational facility.

They are enjoyed annually by more people than all our national parks together.

The federal government spends \$1.5 billion annually to support our fine national park system but less than \$50 million annually on beach preservation.

Now the President wants to eliminate funding for the nation's largest and most-utilized public "park"—our beaches.

The unintended consequence of the President's proposal will be a further decline in the health of the nation's beach system.

Florida's Beaches: A Resource for All Americans

The rationale to eliminate federal funding for beaches is that beaches are not a national "concern."

The fact is that Americans from all 50 states—we call them tourists—travel to Florida each year to use our beaches.

Beaches, whether they are in Florida, California or New York really "belong" to all Americans.

Congress has a Long-term Commitment on Beach Projects

Federal beach restoration projects include a 50-year commitment to maintain those projects.

State and local project sponsors must sign a

contract to guarantee matching funds for the life of the project.

Congress has an obligation to pay its share for the life of these agreements.

Beach Erosion is Truly an Interstate Problem

Beach systems, like rivers, know no political boundaries.

Much of the sand that makes up Florida's beaches today came from the Appalachian Mountains and the coastal lowlands.

Federal navigation projects in Georgia have an impact on beach erosion in Florida.

That's why it makes sense for the federal government to be directly involved in beach preservation projects on a nationwide basis.

Six More Examples Proving that Our Beaches and Coastal Zone Constitute a Nationwide, Interconnected System

Navigation projects impact beaches.

Beaches provide storm and flood protection.

Most coastal structures need beaches for full functionality.

Beach sediments affect navigation channels.

Barrier islands (beaches) shelter intracoastal navigation, marshes and wetlands.

Coastal processes and impacts cross political and watershed boundaries.

Further Cost Implications

Since 1930, the Army Corps of Engineers has been the primary agency of beach preservation in Florida and the U.S.

The Corps does the initial feasibility study, the engineering design and construction supervision of most beach projects. To carry out this highly-technical responsibility, the Corps has assembled a staff of experienced professionals in its Jacksonville and Mobile districts.

The Jacksonville District alone has assigned a staff of 50 professionals and support people to plan and implement beach and navigation projects in Florida. The staff includes coastal engineers, planners, biologists, geologists and economists. They are involved in such functions as:

- Coastal surveys and sand search studies
- Reconnaissance studies
- Environmental studies
- Feasibility planning
- Engineering design

- Construction supervision
- Post project monitoring

If the Corps is suddenly out of the picture, Florida DEP would have to recruit and train a similar staff of experts at considerable added cost.

Who Will Take Up the Slack on Coastal Research?

Most of the applied research and design tools for shore protection in the United States is done by the Corps' Coastal Engineering Research Center.

This vital research is aimed at discovering better and cheaper ways to cope with beach erosion, flooding and other water-related problems.

The CERC facility at Vicksburg, MS has a staff of 160 scientists and professionals.

If the Corps is stripped of its beach preservation mission, who will assume the responsibility for this vital research?

Neither Florida nor any other state can afford to duplicate the research done by CERC.

This Bill Will Increase our Vulnerability to Hurricanes

More people have been killed by hurricanes in the U.S. than all other natural disasters combined. Hurricanes are also the leading cause of property damage from disasters.

Yet the President's bill proposes to end two of

the most important public works programs aimed at reducing deaths from coastal flooding—flood control projects and beach shore protection projects.

The federal government is the major provider of emergency relief funds. If coastal flooding is not prevented, the federal government pays. It's a case of "pay a little now for protection or lot later in disaster relief."

Inevitably, the greater risk to life and property in coastal states will mean higher insurance costs for public and private property.

This Bill Will Hurt Sea Turtle Protection

Florida's beaches are the nation's largest nesting ground for threatened and endangered sea turtles.

Sea turtles require wide sandy beaches to lay their eggs.

Any reduction in beach preservation programs will make it more difficult for sea turtles to survive.

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