

RESOLUTION NO. 17 - 2420

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF SURFSIDE, FLORIDA SUPPORTING UNITED STATES CONGRESSIONAL BILLS S. 279 AND H.B. 833 TO AMEND SECTION 935 OF THE WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 1986 TO FACILITATE THE USE OF FOREIGN OFFSHORE SAND IN BEACH NOURISHMENT PROJECTS; URGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO EXPEDITE AND FUND THE STUDY TO ALLOW FOREIGN SAND TO BE USED IN BEACH NOURISHMENT PROJECTS IN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY; DIRECTING THE TOWN CLERK TO TRANSMIT A COPY OF THIS RESOLUTION TO THE OFFICIALS STATED HEREIN; PROVIDING FOR AUTHORIZATION AND IMPLEMENTATION; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the Town of Surfside (“Town”) adopted Resolution No. 15-2320 on September 8, 2015 expressing support for the Dade County Beach Erosion Control and Hurricane Protection Project, and urging Miami-Dade County, the State of Florida and the United States Army Corps of Engineers (Army Corps) to provide recurring appropriations to advance beach renourishment in Surfside and Miami-Dade County on or ahead of schedule; and

WHEREAS, beaches and dunes serve as a vital buffer between coastal infrastructure and the destructive forces of ocean waves and surge during storm events; and

WHEREAS, beach renourishment adds sand to the coastal system, helps keep the erosive power of strong waves from reaching dunes and structures, and buffers against the effects of sea level rise and climate change, thereby protecting coastal properties and the coastal environment; and

WHEREAS, beach renourishment has been an ongoing practice in southeast Florida since the late 1970s, as part of the Dade County Beach Erosion Control and Hurricane Protection Project providing essential economic, environmental and recreational benefit to coastal communities; and

WHEREAS, throughout the region, twenty-four federal and nonfederal beach nourishment projects provide storm damage reduction to infrastructure as well as incidental recreational opportunities; and

WHEREAS, as part of the Dade County Beach Erosion Control and Hurricane Protection Project, the Surfside beach is on schedule to be renourished in 2018; and

WHEREAS, Miami-Dade County, the State of Florida and the Federal government are cost-sharing partners in the Dade County Beach Erosion Control and Hurricane Protection Project; and

WHEREAS, Miami-Dade County is running out of dependable, economical, and environmentally practicable sand sources; and

WHEREAS, Section 935 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 (“WRDA 1986”) states that the Army Corps can only use domestic sources of sand for renourishment of this project, unless the Secretary of the Army provides written certification that domestic sources are not available for environmental or economic reasons; and

WHEREAS, in March 2016 the Army Corps completed a Limited Reevaluation Report and Environmental Assessment with a Finding of No Significant Impact with updated economics to justify potential alternative sand sources for future renourishment projects to utilize new sand sources, which include Bahamas sand; and

WHEREAS, the option to import offshore sand from the Bahamas to expedite beach nourishment projects in Surfside and throughout Miami-Dade County is important because the sand may be closer to the quality of the sand on Miami’s beaches than some of the alternatives listed by the Army Corps; and

WHEREAS, foreign offshore sources may have a lower cost to import than purchasing sand from approved upland sources, and there may be fewer impacts on roads, such as reduced quality of life impacts resulting from truck traffic and fewer carbon emission from trucks hauling the sand; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Surfside, Florida supports a recent decision by the federal government to study the benefits of replenishing Florida beaches with foreign sand; and

WHEREAS, on February 2, 2017, United States Senator Marco Rubio introduced S.279 and United States Congresswoman Lois Frankel introduced companion bill H.B. 833 to amend WRDA 1986 with respect to the acquisition of beach fill to eliminate the restriction against offshore sand; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the Town to support S.279 and H.B. 833 to eliminate the restriction against offshore sand, and to urge the United States Congress to expedite and fund the study to expedite and fund the study to evaluate the benefits of replenishing Florida beaches with foreign sand.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN OF TOWN OF SURFSIDE, FLORIDA, AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Recitals Adopted. That each of the above stated recitals are hereby adopted, confirmed, and incorporated herein.

Section 2. Support by the Town of Surfside Town Commission for United States Congressional Bills S. 279 and H.B. 833 to Amend the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 and Urging Members of the Florida Congressional Delegation to Expedite Efforts to Allow Foreign Sources of Sand be Utilized in Beach Nourishment Projects in Miami-Dade County. The Town of Surfside supports S. 279 and H.B. 833 to amend Section 935 of the WRDA 1986 to eliminate the Restriction promulgated by Section 935 of the WRDA 1986 in order to facilitate the use of foreign offshore sand in Beach Nourishment Projects. The Town urges the United States Congress to expedite and fund the study to evaluate the benefits of replenishing Florida beaches with foreign sand.

Section 3. Direction to the Town Clerk. The Town Clerk is hereby directed to send a copy of this Resolution to sponsoring legislators, United States Senator Marco Rubio and Congresswoman Lois Frankel, and United States Senator Bill Nelson, the Members of the Florida Congressional Delegation, the Secretary of the Army, the Governor of Florida, and Mayors of Coastal Communities throughout Miami-Dade, Broward, Monroe, Palm Beach, Martin and St. Lucie Counties.

Section 4. Authorization and Implementation. The Town Manager is hereby authorized to take any and all action necessary to implement this Resolution.

Section 5. Effective Date. This Resolution shall become effective immediately upon its adoption.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 16th day of February 2017.

Motion by Commissioner Karukin,

Second by Commissioner Paul.

FINAL VOTE ON ADOPTION

Commissioner Daniel Gielchinsky
Commissioner Michael Karukin
Commissioner Tina Paul
Vice Mayor Barry Cohen
Mayor Daniel Dietch

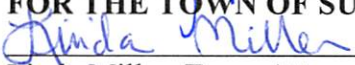
yes
yes
yes
yes
yes



Daniel Dietch, Mayor

ATTEST:


Sandra Novoa, MMC, Town Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGAL SUFFICIENCY FOR THE TOWN OF SURFSIDE ONLY:


Linda Miller, Town Attorney