

Coastal Advisory Council
Modification Recommendation for Goal 113
Support Reasoning for Request

The Coastal Advisory Council (CAC) was authorized by Lee County Board of County Commissioner Resolution 95-12-02, and is an advisory board to both the Lee County Board of County Commissioners and the Tourist Development Council. In its advisory capacity, the CAC voted unanimously to recommend a modification to Goal 113 of the Lee Plan to identify and protect potential sand sources for beach restoration and nourishment.

Concern of potential off shore deployment of pipelines and conduits instigate the need to protect these areas. Beach quality material is becoming more difficult to locate and more expensive to obtain from aquatic locations. Proactively searching for site locations may avoid the unnecessary loss of beach quality sediment due to access restraints created by overlying materials on the Gulf floor. This can reduce project costs by allowing utilization of sites with close proximity that may otherwise be unavailable. Much of this information is currently available through studies that were required for the Gasparilla, Captiva, Sanibel, Estero Island, Lovers Key and Bonita Beach restoration projects.

Consideration of likely resource impacts may aid in determining site priority for allowing alternate uses when conflicting activities are unavoidable.

Although Lee County is not the owner of the submerged lands, it is the beach and shore preservation authority for the county. It, therefore, is the steward for beach compatible sand. It also has the authority to regulate land uses on the dry land adjacent to the coastline, which can have a significant impact on the adjacent submerged lands.

In the past several years, four things have happened that increase the concern about protecting offshore sand resources.

1. The Governor of Florida, the Florida Legislature and some members of the Florida Congressional Delegation have shown interest in developing offshore oil near Florida. Not only will there be a need for drilling platforms, but also a need for locations for pipelines from the platforms to come ashore and for the support systems necessary to operate these offshore platforms.
2. The enlarged Panama Canal will cause dramatic shifts in shipping in the Gulf of Mexico, which could have an undetermined impact on Lee County in terms of changing how materials could be delivered to the county.
3. Alternate energy sources are becoming more practical, and those located offshore will have an impact on offshore and nearshore resources that needs to be anticipated.
4. The telecommunications revolution is resulting in more conduits being laid along the sea floor – again impacting underwater resources areas.

NOAA is concerned enough about this issue that it is in the process of implementing coastal and marine spatial planning.

It is important to determine which sand resources should be protected, so the county can be a pro-active partner when conflicts arise.

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County beach and shore preservation authority; board of county commissioners.

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To carry out the beach and shore preservation program, the board of county commissioners of any county and its successors in office, as an ex officio duty, are hereby severally constituted as the beach and shore preservation authority for their county. In this capacity, any such board of county commissioners may at its own initiative take all necessary steps as soon as practicable and desirable to implement the provisions of this chapter.