



"Broward's Shrinking Coastline: Monitoring Broward's Beach Nourishment Project" by Broward County Commissioner and Vice Mayor Ken Keechl

As many of you know, my Broward County Commission district includes most of Broward County's coastline. In fact, it stretches from North Deerfield Beach and goes south to Dania Beach. As your County Commissioner, I remain extremely concerned about our precious coastline's constant erosion.

Broward County has been working on a continuous "Beach Nourishment Project" for years. Broward County has already completed the first segment of the Project south of Dania Beach.

Segment II, which stretches from the Hillsboro Inlet south to Fort Lauderdale's Port Everglades, is next. When Segment II is completed, the rest of our district (from the north County line south to the Hillsboro Inlet) will follow shortly thereafter.

Unfortunately, Segment II was put on hold by federal and state regulatory agencies until they could conclude a period of monitoring Segments II's effects on our marine environment. Fortunately, the required monitoring is now completed. As a result, and at my constant urging, Broward County is once again aggressively pursuing the nourishment of our county district's coastline.

I will continue to follow this project closely and I have been assured by staff that permit applications for Segment II will be submitted this year, likely summer or early fall. However, even with a smooth and uneventful state and federal permit review process--and with no challenges to the permit--Broward County does not anticipate permit issuance before the fall of 2010. Once permits are received, commencement of actual construction can begin one to three months thereafter.

One additional fact of interest; The original Segment II Project proposed to widen Fort Lauderdale's beaches approximately from the pier at Commercial Boulevard to a point just south of the Bonnet House. Given the length of time that has passed since design of the original Segment II project in 2001, staff will reevaluate the coastline in this area, and, if warranted, expand the area slated to receive sand.

Lastly, staff is currently conducting an analysis of potential sand sources that could be used in the nourishment of our district's coastline. Upon completion of this sand search in spring of this year, engineering work and permitting activities for the project will resume.

Again, it is important for you to know that the Beach Nourishment Project is a high priority of mine. I am actively working with your elected officials in Tallahassee and Washington D.C. to keep the grant funding coming to Broward for this Project.

And, of course, as this Project continues, I will keep you up to date.

My best to you and your families.

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