

Discussion of support for the Army Corps “Tentatively Selected Plan Milestone” to reauthorize the Treasure Island and Long Key Storm Damage Reduction Projects for an additional 50 years.

- The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) is completing a Coastal Storm Management Study to reauthorize the Treasure Island and Long Key Storm Damage Reduction Projects for an additional 50 years.
- Recently, USACE presented a series of alternatives that maximize the protection of coastal infrastructure while minimizing cost.
- Those alternatives with the highest cost to benefit ratio are characterized by large dune systems 10 feet high by 20 feet wide with a narrow beach berm west of the dune system.
- USACE requested a notice of support from the County and cities to move forward with the Tentatively Selected Plan Milestone alternatives public comment period by May 8, 2020.
- County and city staff have numerous concerns with the alternatives; however, support for the next phase is needed to continue the reauthorization process. Once reauthorized, the County and cities can negotiate with USACE on the final design templates.
- The support email below was sent on May 8, 2020.

Staff at Pinellas County and the City of Treasure Island support moving forward with the Coastal Storm Risk Management Study and the continued development and further refinement of the Tentatively Selected Plan. The staff at the County and the City; however, have concerns about the validity and possible outcome of the approach that include:

- the overall accuracy and applicability of the Beach-fx model for the Pinellas beaches;
- that estimated damages don't include the economic impact of a reduced recreational beach;
- that any constructed project will not significantly diminish the public's historical recreational use of the beach;
- that the environmental habitat loss by a reduced dry beach for sea turtles and shorebirds is not factored into the alternatives considered;
- the ability to nourish other areas, if needed, in the next 50 years (e.g. Sunshine Beach);
- the ability for residents to have beach access paths through the dune;
- the assurance that the final report will allow for flexibility in high-scoring alternatives and project cycles; and
- the possible lack of public support attributed to the concerns listed above.

We anticipate the City of St. Pete Beach following up with USACE after their City Council meeting on May 12, 2020.