

TOURIST DEVELOPMENT CATEGORY “A” FUNDING POLICY

(Approved by Board of County Commissioners 11-1-05)

1. Use of TDC Category “A” funds. To finance beach park facilities or beach improvement, maintenance, renourishment, restoration and erosion control, including pass and inlet maintenance, shoreline protection, enhancement, cleanup or restoration of inland lakes and rivers to which there is public access, as these relate to the physical preservation of the beach, shoreline or inland lake or river. (Code of Ordinances, Division 3. Sec. 126-83.)

2. Source of other funds. Federal or State funds are desirable and should be diligently pursued.

3. Mandatory annual budget allocation of funds and maintenance of reserves.

- a. Catastrophe reserves shall be accumulated in the budget with \$1M in 2004 plus \$0.5M per year thereafter (up to a maximum of \$10M). In the event of a catastrophe requiring the expenditure of all or part of these reserves, \$0.5M will continue to be set aside.
- b. Major renourishment reserves shall be accumulated in the budget with \$2M per year after the completion of the major renourishment project currently in planning and permitting (as of September 2005; projected to start setting aside funds in FY 2007).
- c. Beach park facilities (including beach access property acquisition) shall be funded annually in an amount equal to one-third of the TDC Category “A” revenues.
- d. Remaining funds may be used for eligible grant applications as outlined in the policy below.

4. Eligibility. Eligible beach areas qualify for Category “A” funding. An “eligible beach area” is:

- a. Accessible to the public; and
- b. No more than one-half mile from a public beach park facility, public access point, hotel or motel and if at least 80% of a beach area is classified as eligible, otherwise ineligible gaps will be deemed eligible.

5. Ineligible beach areas:

- a. Beach areas not meeting the criteria for eligibility of paragraph 4. above, are not eligible for Category “A” funding. Renourishment or maintenance of these beach areas are the responsibility of adjacent property owners.
- b. An area of an ineligible beach that is subject to high erosion, with the recommendation of the Coastal Advisory Committee and determination by the Board of County Commissioners as being in the public interest, may have erosion control structures installed, with Category “A” funding.

6. *Inlet Sand Bypassing.* The bypassing of sand across inlets may be funded by Tourist Development Tax Category “A” funding provided the Inlet Management Plan recommends the bypassing, the dredging of the pass or inlet is recommended by the Coastal Advisory Committee, meets the inlet funding policy criteria and is approved by the Board of County Commissioners as being in the in the public interest. No TDC Category “A” funding will be approved for dredging non-beach compatible material except when encountered during an approved realignment or modification to an existing approved pass/inlet dredging project and then only when recommended by the Coastal Advisory Committee, Tourist Development Council and approved by the Board of County Commissioners as being in the public interest.

7. *Shore protection structures and project sponsorship.* Projects, including construction and maintenance of shore protection structures (groins, jetties, breakwaters, etc.), may be funded by Category “A” funding for eligible beaches. However, ‘ownership’ responsibilities must rest with an entity other than “Tourist Development Taxes” – i.e. there must be a project sponsor (private interests, taxing districts, municipalities or County Departments other than those funded with Tourist Development Taxes).

8. *Grant Application Review.* The Coastal Advisory Committee and the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board will prepare and maintain a proposed prioritized annual spending plan for the use of Tourist Development Tax Category "A" funds, with a ten year projection. The proposed plans will be submitted to the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) for their consideration and approval, via the TDC. These submissions will coincide with the annual Collier County budget cycle. The Coastal Advisory Committee will review all requests for Tourist Development Tax Category "A" funds, with the exception of County maintained beach park facilities that will be handled by the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board. Both advisory boards will make recommendations for approval, denial or modification to the BCC, via the TDC, consistent with the BCC established policy for use of these funds.