

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

**Recommend Approval of \$30,000 for permit engineering and studies required to obtain a FDEP Coastal Construction Control Line Permit to remove vegetation and restore beach access in the area between the Tigertail beach access and the main Marco Island beach.**

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**OBJECTIVE:** Fund studies and engineering required to obtain a FDEP CCCL permit to remove vegetation and restore access to the public beach located in front of South Seas Condominium on Marco Island Beach.

**CONSIDERATIONS:** In 1991, Sand Dollar Island was north of its current position, it was a true island and not connected to the beach and the residents of South Seas Condo had unencumbered Gulf access. Collier County residents who used this public beach had access at Tigertail Beach just to the north.

Over the years, Sand Dollar Island grew and attached itself to the beach in front of South Seas Condo. The residents who once had ocean front beach now have lagoon front beach that is rapidly being covered over by vegetation. The original beach has narrowed rather significantly over the years. In 2002, the beach width was 161 feet and in 2005 it had narrowed to 48 feet. It is even less today. At the current rate of vegetation growth, no beach will be without a vegetation cover in a few years in this area. Narrowing of this beach encumbers public access from Tigertail beach to the rest of the Marco public beaches.

Beach raking is limited by FDEP permit to within 15 feet in front of the vegetation to encourage healthy dunes and prevent beach erosion. The vegetation however keeps growing. Consequently, the raking moves back to stay within that 15 foot buffer and the beach on the lagoon side continues to shrink. Left alone, there will be no beach in several years. The vegetation is healthy and this area is protected by the lagoon and the dunes/vegetation on the Gulf of Mexico. The grasses are predominantly Salt Spike, a native Florida grass.

This rapid vegetation growth is a beach access and maintenance issue. We propose to push back the growth of vegetation by widening the beach to 100 feet. This is significantly less that it was in 2002. Our policy would then be to maintain it at this width and also maintain the vegetation on Tigertail lagoon at its current position. There will be no "filling-in" of the lagoon but only tilling east of the lagoon to remove the vegetation. The Gulf side beaches, their dunes and gulf vegetation and lagoon vegetation remain untouched. Building structures continue to remain protected.

