



Tim Goodwin, Chair
Mayor, Folly Beach
Marilyn Hatley, Vice-Chair
Mayor, North Myrtle Beach
Blanche Brown, Secretary
GM, Debordieu Colony Comm. Assn.
Will Connor, Treasurer
MR&R, Kiawah Island Comm. Assn.

Bill Otis
Mayor, Pawley's Island
Iris Hill
Administrator, Edisto Beach
Linda Lovvorn Tucker
Administrator, Isle of Palms
Randy Pierce
Administrator, Seabrook Island
Ray Rhodes
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October 18, 2016

The Honorable Nikki Haley
Governor, State of South Carolina
Office of the Governor
1205 Pendleton St.
Columbia, SC 29201

RE: South Carolina Beach Damage due to Hurricane Matthew

Dear Governor Haley:

The beach communities of South Carolina thank you for recognizing the severity of Hurricane Matthew and commend you for your foresight in evacuations and initializing a state of emergency declaration. The state's response to last year's Hurricane Joaquin proved that South Carolina is committed to its beaches, and we urge you to continue that commitment by facilitating the restoration of SC beaches and enabling mitigation of future crises.

Individual beach communities are assessing and quantifying damages. We will keep you informed as to the volume of sand loss and the estimates needed for restoration. Due to the severity of this storm, it is anticipated that a similar, if not more substantial, state appropriation as the post-Joaquin \$30M will be requested.

During the storm, South Carolina beaches eroded, dunes collapsed, sand washed into roads, dune walkovers were displaced, pools were damaged, some houses were flooded, and tragically, fires destroyed some oceanfront houses in North Myrtle Beach. Pawleys Island breached in a number of locations and the Town Hall is a total loss. Edisto Beach, has become a national headline, suffering significant damages. But for the most part, lives were not lost and South Carolina beachfront infrastructure remains intact. These are all signs that our beaches did their jobs. Sand was sacrificed during the storm, but the majority of beach infrastructure, homes, and most importantly lives, were not.

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South Carolina beaches protect infrastructure while generating billions in tourism revenues for the state economy. We must continue to invest in this valuable asset and restore our beach and dune systems.

We would like to commend the S.C. DHEC OCRM for implementing prompt, short-term emergency orders for sand scraping, minor renourishment, sand bagging, and debris removal. This was a significant improvement over the post-Joaquin response and has eased the minds of the beach managers, allowing for immediate response to the hardest hit areas.

We acknowledge that the State's plate is very full with storm and flooding recovery efforts, but please help us to make sure the State does not lose sight of the needs and importance of healthy beaches and the healing such beaches can offer during traumatic times. The State must give preservation of the beaches the time, attention and funding deserved relative to their importance.

Finally, please keep in mind that large-scale beach nourishment projects are nearly impossible to fund at the local level without state or federal assistance. Other coastal states have annually dedicated State funding sources for cost sharing beach preservation projects. This is desperately needed in South Carolina.

We ask that you continue the State commitment to invest in the beaches of South Carolina, to preserve them as economic engines and for future generations.

Respectfully,



Mayor Tim Goodwin, City of Folly Beach
Chair, South Carolina Beach Advocates

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cc: Mayor Marilyn Hatley, City of North Myrtle Beach, Vice Chair
Will Connor, Kiawah Island Community Association, Treasurer
Blanche Brown, DeBordieu Colony Community Association, Secretary
Mayor Bill Otis, Town of Pawley's Island
Iris Hill, Town of Edisto Beach
Linda Lovvorn Tucker, City of Isle of Palms
Randy Pierce, Town of Seabrook Island
Ray Rhodes, Research Professor, College of Charleston
Sen. Tim Scott, U.S. Senate
Sen. Lindsey Graham, U.S. Senate
Mayor John Rhodes, City of Myrtle Beach
Duane Parrish, Director, South Carolina Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism
Senator Greg Hembree, District 28
Senator Luke Rankin, District 33
Senator Raymond Cleary, District 34
Senator Paul Thurmond, District 41
Senator Chip Campsen, District 43
Senator Paul Campbell, District 44
Senator Tom Davis, District 46
Senator Margie Bright Matthews, District 45
Rep. Gregory Duckworth, District 104
Rep. Alan Clemmons, District 107
Rep. Russell Fry, District 106
Rep. Stephen Goldfinch, District 108
Rep. Chip Limehouse, District 110
Rep. Mike Sottile, District 112
Rep. Peter McCoy, District 115
Rep. Leon Stavrinakis, District 119
Rep. Kenneth Hodges, District 121
Rep. Robert Brown, District 116
Rep. Shannon Erickson, District 124
Rep. Jeff Bradley, District 123
Rep. Bill Bowers, District 122