



Town of Pawleys Island

321 Myrtle Avenue
Pawleys Island, SC 29585

William L. Otis, Jr., Mayor

December 16, 2015

The Honorable Nikki R. Haley
Office of the Governor
1205 Pendleton Street
Columbia SC 29201

Dear Governor Haley,

On behalf of our residents, property owners and tourists we are joining in the request that DHEC/OCRM alter its permitting procedures and establish supportive working relations with USACE and FEMA to address the significant beach and dune system damage resulting from Hurricane Joaquin.

The Robert T Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (Stafford Act), 42 U.S.C. 5121-5206, as amended, Sections 403 and 406; and 44 CFR 206.226, Restoration of damaged facilities, authorizes FEMA's Public Assistance (PA) Program to fund replacement of sand on damaged beaches. FEMA's Category G Project Worksheet provides grants for the repair, restoration, reconstruction, or replacement of public facilities on the basis of their design as they existed immediately prior to the disaster. In accordance with 44 CFR 206.226(j)(2), a beach may be considered an eligible facility. Also, according to FEMA Disaster Assistance Fact Sheet 9580.8, beaches are described as "facilities", not "engineered" beaches.

We are informed that the Governor of South Carolina can request that DHEC/OCRM issue a temporary permit to coastal communities affected by the Presidential Disaster Declaration of Hurricane Joaquin in response to the conditions resulting from beach erosion, storm damage, and beach and dune sand loss. The situation that has been created by Hurricane Joaquin has resulted in an unacceptable hazard to public health and safety as well as a further potential loss to improved property as a result of the coming winter storms. There is also an immediate, unforeseen, and significant economic hardship and potential loss of tourism dollars to the communities and the State, if corrective action requiring a permit is not undertaken within a time period which is less than the normal time needed to process applications under standard procedures.

Occasionally a storm causes such dramatic changes in the tides, currents, and wave actions affecting a beach that sand is moved outside of the beach profile. It is moved so far on-shore, off-

shore, or along shore such that it is not recoverable by natural processes or sand scraping. In this case the beach is considered damaged by the storm beyond temporary measures.

In this case the Governor's request to DHEC/OCRM would be to expedite the permitting process so that sand lost during Hurricane Joaquin could be replaced to prevent further risks to the health of its coast, to prevent further damage to improved property, and to relieve the economic burden placed on coastal communities and beach driven tourism as a result of the disaster event. This temporary permit would allow affected communities and Counties to re-establish their public facilities (beach) to pre disaster condition by means of permanent sand replacement. This action could involve off shore or near shore dredging, therefore also requiring expedited permitting by the USACE. This temporary permitting request by the Governor would only be available to disaster designated communities and be limited in time.

Governor Haley, we coastal communities with beach damage are trying to recover from Hurricane Joaquin, but must also take into account the annual winter storms that could further damage our communities and economy, and the challenging time frame for work because of turtle nesting season. Many coastal communities, such as the Town of Pawleys Island are small and don't have the staff to keep up with all the moving parts of the restoration process. We need all the help we can get!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'William L. Otis, Jr.', with a stylized, cursive script.

William L. Otis, Jr.

Mayor

Cc: Council

Administrator Ryan Fabbri

County Administrator Sel Hemmingway

Nicole Elco, Executive Director

South Carolina Beaches.org