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**Date:** 12/11/2015 4:02:02 PM  
**Subject:** FW: Horry County Beaches

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**From:** Powell, Justin [mailto:powellj@horrycounty.org]  
**Sent:** Friday, December 11, 2015 3:37 PM  
**To:** Veldran, Katherine  
**Cc:** Senator Greg Hembree; Luke Rankin; Eldridge, Chris; Mark Lazarus  
**Subject:** Horry County Beaches

Katherine:

It was a pleasure speaking with you in regards to efforts being undertaken by Congressman Rice to assist Horry County, the City of Myrtle Beach, the City of North Myrtle Beach, and the Town of Surfside Beach in the Omnibus Bill being negotiated this weekend on Capitol Hill. We respectfully request the support of the Governor's Office to help Horry County and its municipalities recover from the devastating floods that occurred in October.

The majority of Horry County's beaches are covered by the Myrtle Beach Shore Protection Project which is a federally-funded Army Corps of Engineers project. The project was initiated in 1996 and is part of a 50-year agreement to provide flood protection and periodic beach renourishment. It covers three sections: Reach 1 (the City of North Myrtle Beach), Reach 2 (the City of Myrtle Beach), and Reach 3 (the Town of Surfside Beach and the Garden City sections of unincorporated Horry and Georgetown Counties).

#### Sand Loss

The flood caused significant damage to the beaches, damage significant enough to negatively impact the core of the state's tourism industry. The estimated loss of sand for the Myrtle Beach Shore Protection project was 691,000 cubic yards. By reach, it was:

Reach 1 (North Myrtle Beach): 242,000 cubic yards lost

Reach 2 (Myrtle Beach): 117,000 cubic yards lost

Reach 3 (Garden City): 332,000 cubic yards lost

#### Cost

The estimated cost to repair the beaches to where they were before the Joaquin floods is \$17-22 million, 100% funded by the Federal government.

The beaches are anticipated to have a full renourishment in 2018 as part of the 50-year agreement with the Corps. The incremental cost to renourish beyond the emergency repairs is \$35-40 million. This cost would be allocated in the following split: 65% federal, 17.5% local, and 17.5% state. Because of the disruption to commerce, the limited availability of dredges and to save money, it makes the most sense to accelerate the periodic renourishment to the same time as the emergency repairs.

The total estimated cost to do the emergency repairs to the beaches and do the periodic renourishment at the same time are \$52 to \$62 million. The costs would be allocated as follows:

Federal government: \$39,750,000 to \$48,000,000

State government: \$6,125,000 to \$7,000,000

Local governments:     \$6,125,000 to \$7,000,000

The five participating local governments have been setting aside funds from accommodations and hospitality taxes for the renourishment and have indicated they can provide their match in the very near future. The state has historically funded this through DHEC's budget as part of the agreement with the Army Corps of Engineers.

Thank you for the Governor's continued leadership in helping South Carolina recover from the floods. Please do not hesitate to let me know if you have any further questions or need additional information. I can be reached at 843-855-3455.

Justin

Justin P. Powell | Assistant County Administrator

**Horry County Government**

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