



Municipal Service District of Ponte Vedra Beach

May 12, 2021

Commissioner Jeremiah Blocker, Chairman
St. Johns County Board of County Commissioners
500 San Sebastian View
St. Augustine, FL 32084

RE: New Public Beach Access & Parking Options;
(Olsen Associates, Inc. report dated March 18, 2021)

Dear Commissioner Blocker:

Thank you for sharing the draft Olsen Associates public beach access inventory and potential improvement options necessary to meet Federal Coastal Storm Risk Management Project (FCSRMP) guidelines for the prospective U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) project in Ponte Vedra Beach. At the May 10, 2021 public meeting, the Trustees of the Ponte Vedra Beach Municipal Service District (MSD) reviewed these preliminary documents and recommendations. In response, the Trustees voted unanimously to reaffirm our position, as stated in the October 16, 2019 letter the MSD sent to Jason Harrah, Project Manager with the ACOE and Michael Wanchick, County Administrator, about increased public parking related to Federal funding for sand replenishment/beach renourishment. Additionally, the Trustees voted unanimously to send this letter in opposition to the following alternatives in the MSD as identified in the March 18, 2021 Olsen Associates report:

- 1) Additional public parking within existing property or public right-of-way,
- 2) Bus/shuttle service and stops to serve existing or potential beach access points along Ponte Vedra Boulevard,
- 3) Acquisition of private property for increased public parking.

The Trustees do not oppose beach renourishment, sand replenishment, coastal armoring or the like in the MSD. The addition of public parking within rights-of-way, bus/shuttle service and acquisition of private property as presented in the report could not be supported by the Trustees based on the information on hand and without additional public outreach and overwhelming community support. Many of the proposed improvement options would alter the character, safety and welfare of the MSD by overburdening the limited resources and infrastructure.

As the County moves forward on this matter, the Trustees would like to assist in public outreach and communication within the MSD. Prior to you sharing these documents the MSD had not been consulted regarding the FCSRMP guideline issues or preliminary report findings and we are not aware of public outreach within the MSD. The MSD's residents, as well as the Trustees, must have the opportunity to be informed of the options presented by Olsen Associates and weigh their impacts to the MSD as they relate to local, State and/or Federal funding. Our goal is for MSD residents and stakeholders to have all information necessary to provide constructive feedback for

the Trustees and the County. The Trustees acknowledge and can support viable options to accommodate a ACOE project in Ponte Vedra Beach without the aforementioned increased public parking and bus/shuttle service throughout the MSD.

The MSD provides specialized services and functions to the public of the District independent of, as well as supplemental to, the services provided by St. Johns County. A few of those services directly related to this access and parking matter include authorization and empowerment for parking restrictions and traffic control, beautification and recreation. The MSD is an independent special district established by Florida's Legislature and comprised of seven (7) Trustees that are elected by the voters of the MSD.

More specifically, and in cooperation with the County and residents of the MSD, the Trustees assist with the management, maintenance, status information, and improvements of 75% of the beach access points, including Micklers Landing, described in the Olsen Associates report, as they are located within the MSD. The Trustees are stewards and advocates of beach access as we maintain locational and way-finding signage and poles, provide beautification and landscape maintenance, paver walkways and more efficient accessibility, safety and police patrols, as well as many other elements related to beach access within the MSD. The Trustees consistently lobby, coordinate the design and construction, and help fund sidewalk projects which provide access to the beach.

The Trustees appreciate the cooperative partner relationship it has had with St. Johns County on many issues over the years to maintain a safe and high-quality lifestyle in keeping with the character and values historically known in the MSD.

Respectfully,



Brad Wester, Chairman
MSD Board of Trustees

Cc: Jason Harrah, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Hunter Conrad, St. Johns County Administrator
St. Johns County Board of County Commissioners