



City of Marco Island

August 21, 2023

Katherine Perdue
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
803 Front Street
Norfolk, VA 23510

Via email: Kathy.s.perdue@usace.army.mil

Dear Ms. Perdue,

You and your staff have been working closely with members of the Marco Island City staff as part of the continuing Collier County Coastal Storm Risk Feasibility Study. The USACE report in 2020 recognized Marco Island as a low-lying barrier island with public beaches along the Gulf of Mexico. At that time, the Marco Island City Council voiced two main concerns: 1) the need for a full beach berm and dune renourishment, and 2) structural measures to protect Marco Island. City staff and its consultant have also more recently proposed a natural and nature-based feature through formation of a vegetated sandy barrier key island immediately south of Caxambas Pass to protect the Marco Island south exposure. Unfortunately, it appears that as work on the feasibility study continues, all these options have been omitted, leaving the bulk of Marco Island out of the discussion.

City staff and members of the Marco Island City Council have invested a significant amount of time attending virtual meetings, charettes and public meetings to represent the needs of Marco Island regarding storm risk management, yet virtually every request we have made has been dismissed from further consideration. As a barrier island in one of the most vulnerable locations on the Florida coast it is outrageous that Marco Island would be left behind in favor of other locations that are in some way "easier" to address. This letter serves to formally notify you that the City of Marco Island strongly objects to the current approach and direction of the USACE feasibility study. Specially, we object to removing full beach berm and dune renourishment, and other possible natural measures from the feasibility study as they relate to the City of Marco Island. We ask that as this study continues you will re-examine and include these or other potential courses of action affecting Marco Island.

On behalf of the City of Marco Island I look forward to our meaningful participation as the study moves forward.

Sincerely,

Greg Folley, Chairman
Marco Island City Council

cc: Senator Rick Scott
Senator Marco Rubio
Congressman Byron Donalds

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