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Lee Commissioners accept matching grant to add sand to beach at Lovers Key State Park

Fort Myers, FL, Nov. 2, 2021 – The Lee Board of County Commissioners voted Tuesday to accept a nearly \$12 million grant agreement with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) for a project to add sand to 1.1 miles of beach within Lovers Key State Park.

The grant includes nearly \$10 million in funding from FDEP and about \$2 million in local funding from Tourist Development Tax receipts on short-term lodging.

The beach at Lovers Key State Park consistently ranks among Florida's best according to prominent travel publications.

However, the project area has been designated by FDEP as critically eroded. The most recent nourishment was completed successfully in December 2014. Monitoring indicates that the project continues to provide storm protection, environmental benefits such as sea turtle nesting and recreational opportunities, but is eroding over time as anticipated. Construction is anticipated for late 2022 or 2023 pending completion of permitting and bidding.

For more information about Lee County Natural Resources beach projects, visit:

www.leegov.com/naturalresources/marine/beachmgmnt