



## CITY OF MADEIRA BEACH, JOHN'S PASS SAND ISSUES – DREDGING REQUEST

The City of Madeira Beach has been requesting Federal and State of Florida assistance to continue to enhance our economic vitality and tourism-related activities specifically in and around the John's Pass Boardwalk and Village dining and entertainment district:

1. **DREDGING OF JOHN'S PASS** – remove sand constantly accumulating and clogging the north side of the John's Pass inlet and the northern shoal and utilize the removed sand for beach renourishment along other Pinellas beaches.

The unwanted addition of a significant amount of sand at the inlet has led to localized flooding damaging infrastructure, threatening public safety, and costing the City of Madeira Beach valuable tourism dollars. Additionally, the same amount of water traveling through a narrower inlet has increased the threats from the increased power of the currents posing significant public risks to recreational swimmers and commercial boaters.

Over the years, other nearby beach communities have received millions in county, state, and federal funds for beach renourishment/restoration and maintenance, while Madeira Beach has not. The City of Madeira Beach respectfully requests equal funding opportunities and distribution to allow for the much-needed dredging.



*Images of Sand accumulation along northern edge of the John's Pass inlet.*

Additional images enclosed in the following pages as well as historical letters to various State and Federal agencies/governments. Thank you very much for your attention and assistance. Please contact me with any questions.

WITH WARM PERSONAL REGARDS,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Robin I. Gomez".

Robin I. Gomez, Madeira Beach City Manager

727.580.8014

City of Madeira Beach  
300 Municipal Dr  
Madeira Beach FL 33708

[rgomez@madeirabeachfl.gov](mailto:rgomez@madeirabeachfl.gov)







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March 25, 2022

Office of Governor Ron DeSantis  
Stat of Florida  
The Capitol  
400 S Monroe St  
Tallahassee, FL 32399

**RE: CITY OF MADEIRA BEACH – JOHN'S PASS SAND ISSUES, APPROPRIATION REQUEST**

Dear Governor DeSantis,

The City of Madeira Beach respectfully requests your assistance with the funding request adopted by the Florida Legislature during this 2022 session to dredge the John's Pass inlet within the City of Madeira Beach.

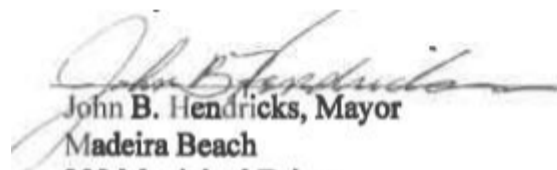
Early on in its existence, Madeira Beach had the foresight to install strategically placed beach groins to help mitigate the movement of sand and resulting beach erosion that has plagued other beach communities. Now, time and mother nature have taken their toll on these vital barriers to the point where more sand has flowed south and is slowly choking off the inlet to John's Pass.

These increasingly clogged stormwater outfalls now result in localized flooding that damages infrastructure, threatens public safety, and costs the City of Madeira Beach valuable business and tourism dollars. Additionally, the same amount of water traveling through a narrower inlet has caused the ever-increasing currents to pose a significant public safety risk.

Over the years, other nearby beach communities have received millions in county, state, and federal funds for beach renourishment/restoration and maintenance, while Madeira Beach has not. The City of Madeira Beach respectfully requests equal funding opportunities and distribution to allow for the much-needed dredging to continue to allow for the prosperity of the nearly 100 businesses that benefit from their location on the John's Pass Boardwalk/Village in the City of Madeira Beach.

The City of Madeira Beach greatly appreciates your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,

  
John B. Hendricks, Mayor  
Madeira Beach  
300 Municipal Drive  
Madeira Beach, FL 33708



March 25, 2022

Office of Governor Ron DeSantis  
Stat of Florida  
The Capitol  
400 S Monroe St  
Tallahassee, FL 32399

**RE: CITY OF MADEIRA BEACH – JOHN'S PASS SAND ISSUES, APPROPRIATIONS REQUEST**

Honorable Governor DeSantis,

Thank you very much for your continued daily service ensuring Floridians retain a very high quality of life. Your over-all work for our state is very much appreciated, particularly for and by the City of Madeira Beach residents, businesses, and visitors.

The City of Madeira Beach respectfully requests your assistance with the funding request adopted by the Florida Legislature during this 2022 session:

1. **DREDGING OF JOHN'S PASS** – remove sand constantly accumulating and clogging the north side of the John's Pass inlet and the northern shoal and utilize the removed sand for beach renourishment along other Pinellas beaches.

Over the years, other nearby beach communities have received millions in county, state, and federal funds for beach renourishment/restoration and maintenance, while Madeira Beach has not. The City of Madeira Beach respectfully requests equal funding opportunities and distribution to allow for the much-needed dredging to continue to allow for the prosperity of the nearly 100 businesses that benefit from their location on the John's Pass Boardwalk/Village in the City of Madeira Beach.

Thank you very much for your attention and assistance. Please contact me with any questions.

WITH WARM PERSONAL REGARDS,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Robin I. Gomez".

Robin I. Gomez, Madeira Beach City Manager





January 27, 2022

Honorable Charlie Crist  
United States Congressman  
215 Cannon HOB  
Washington, DC 20515

**RE: CITY OF MADEIRA BEACH – JOHN'S PASS SAND ISSUES, APPROPRIATIONS REQUEST**

Dear Congressman Crist,

Thank you very much for your continued daily service ensuring Floridians retain a very high quality of life. Your work representing our District 13 area is very much appreciated, particularly for and by the City of Madeira Beach residents, businesses, and visitors.

The City of Madeira Beach respectfully requests your assistance in obtaining directed appropriations to be placed on a regular schedule with the US Army Corps of Engineers for dredging and beach groins replacement, more specifically:

1. **DREDGING OF JOHN'S PASS** – remove sand constantly accumulating and clogging the north side of the John's Pass inlet and the northern shoal and utilize the removed sand for beach renourishment along other Pinellas beaches.
2. **BEACH GROINS REPLACEMENT** – obtain federal funding to assist with the replacement of approximately 25 beach groins on the Madeira Beach sand that have saved our beach from erosion since 1957.

Over the years, other nearby beach communities have received millions in county, state, and federal funds for beach renourishment/restoration and maintenance, while Madeira Beach has not. The City of Madeira Beach respectfully requests equal funding opportunities and distribution to allow for the much needed dredging and groins replacement. Please place this request in appropriations to be included in the regular US Army Corps of Engineers schedule for the listed periodic dredging and beach groins replacement.

Thank you very much for your attention and assistance. Please contact me with any questions.

WITH WARM PERSONAL REGARDS,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Robin I. Gomez".

Robin I. Gomez, Madeira Beach City Manager



Friday, July 10, 2020

District Engineer  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Tampa Permits Section  
ATTN: Planning, Programs and Project Management Division, Planning Branch  
10117 Princess Palm Avenue, Suite 120  
Tampa, Florida 33610-8302

Dear Sir or Madam:

This letter is to seek the assistance from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in stopping the accretion of sand at the John's Pass inlet from the Gulf of Mexico located in the City of Madeira Beach, Florida . This project will have two main goals:

1. Understanding the cause of the sedimentation along the north side of the channel and developing optimal mitigation strategies.
2. Ensure the sustainability of future dredging project.

Early on in its existence, Madeira Beach had the foresight to install strategically placed beach groins to help mitigate the movement of sand and resulting beach erosion that has plagued other beach communities. Now, time and mother nature have taken their toll on these vital barriers to the point where more sand has flowed south and is slowly choking off the inlet to John's Pass.

These increasingly clogged stormwater outfalls now result in localized flooding that damages infrastructure, threatens public safety and costs the City of Madeira Beach valuable tourism dollars. In addition, with the same amount of water traveling through a narrower inlet, the ever-increasing currents are posing a significant public safety risk.

The unwanted addition of sand at the inlet has led to people using this area as a recreational beach destination for swimming. This poses two significant risks; swimmers being forced against concrete bridge support structures and swimmers being pulled out into the Gulf of Mexico by the increased power of the currents. We have received several reports of children having to be rescued after being caught in these currents.

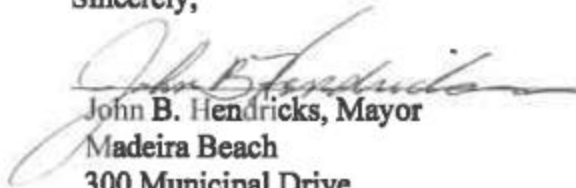
The importance of these issues are outlined in the Florida DEP/Pinellas County inlet management study of John's Pass performed by the University of South Florida Coastal Research Laboratory in 2015. They can be further verified by reviewing the Florida DEP's Final Order Adopting the John's Pass Inlet Management Plan issued in January, 2018.

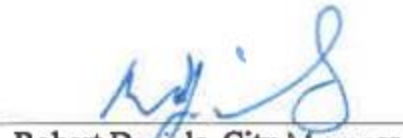




**We appreciate your consideration of our request. Please contact Bob Daniels, City Manager for further information.**

**Sincerely,**

  
**John B. Hendricks, Mayor**  
**Madeira Beach**  
**300 Municipal Drive**  
**Madeira Beach, FL 33708**

  
**Robert Daniels, City Manager**  
**Madeira Beach**  
**300 Municipal Drive**  
**Madeira Beach, FL 33708**

**Cc: Rep. Charlie Crist, Sen. Rick Scott**

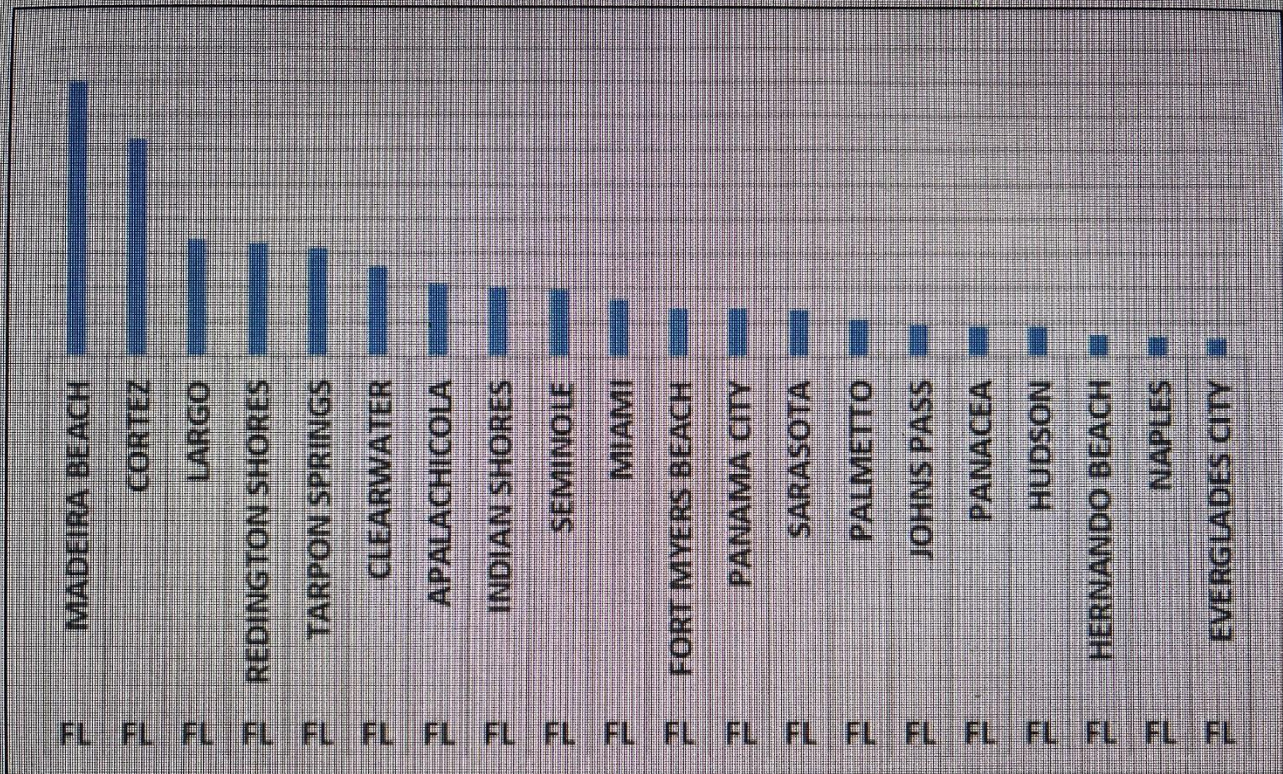
To whom it may concern,

Johns Pass has been the home to a large fishing fleet since the late 1940s and today our fishing fleet and tourism area has grown exponentially. Johns Pass village is one of the top tourism destinations in our county which is the most densely populated county in the state that has on average over 15 million visitors annually. While Johns Pass village averages over 1 million visitors annually. These Johns Pass village visitor numbers do not include the many more that utilize John's pass water ways to access the Gulf of Mexico annually from other areas. Johns Pass is the last bascule bridge left in our county allowing access to the Gulf of Mexico and its channel is closing in with sand.

Federally permitted for hire vessels take countless private recreational anglers fishing annually. Our business alone averages between 110,000 to 120,000 passengers annually. However, we only represent 5 of the federal permits around our local area. According to the Gulf of Mexico fishery management council briefing book documents for the January council meeting there are a total of 15 federal permits in Madeira beach and 21 in St Pete and all the Madeira beach permits transverse Johns Pass and most of the St. Pete permits also use Johns Pass for Gulf of Mexico access.

Commercially, nearly half of the red grouper landed in the Gulf of Mexico is harvested out of Johns pass with three of the top five home ports all using Johns Pass main channel for their access to this Gulf of Mexico fishery. Madeira beach, Redington shores and largo vessels all travel south to utilize the fish houses along the intercostal and then transverse Johns Pass to access the Gulf of Mexico. (see table below figure 3.5.1.2 \*\*from Gulf of Mexico fishery management council\*\*)





**Figure 3.5.1.2. Red grouper regional quotient by top 20 homeport communities.**  
Source: IFQ database accessed 2/20/2020 NOAA Fisheries, NMFS, SERO.

## Commercial fishing engagement

During 2019 out of the 15.2 million visitors to Pinellas over 30% of the guests visited Madeira beach community (VSPC 2019 annual report

[https://partners.visitstpeteclearwater.com/sites/default/files/2019\\_annual\\_visitor\\_profile.pdf](https://partners.visitstpeteclearwater.com/sites/default/files/2019_annual_visitor_profile.pdf) )

The city of Madeira Beach derives nearly 70% of their tax income from Johns Pass village parking fees and other business driven income to the city. Just one of these waterfront businesses represents nearly a little more than 10% of those Johns Pass visitors annually. If the waterfront is lost due to water access being restricted the City of Madeira beach would be severely impacted in it's ability to collect revenue.

During 2019 Madeira beach was in the top 3 destinations either 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> for every visitor profile outside those who visited the county for arts and culture. Johns pass village is by far the premier visitor destination in our City. (VSPC 2019 annual report [https://partners.visitstpeteclearwater.com/sites/default/files/2019\\_annual\\_visitor\\_profile.pdf](https://partners.visitstpeteclearwater.com/sites/default/files/2019_annual_visitor_profile.pdf) )

Boating represents 21% of Top activities for visitors to our county who stated their primary motivation for visiting our area was visiting our beaches (VSPC 2019 annual report

[https://partners.visitstpeteclearwater.com/sites/default/files/2019\\_annual\\_visitor\\_profile.pdf](https://partners.visitstpeteclearwater.com/sites/default/files/2019_annual_visitor_profile.pdf) )

There are a total of 1164 commercial vessels registered in Pinellas County; 56,695 boats overall and Johns Pass is the ONLY bascule bridge allowing access to the gulf of Mexico. (Pinellas county website fun facts about Pinellas county <http://www.pinellascounty.org/facts.htm>)



Out of the 8.7 million lbs of grouper landings in 2014 nearly 5.2 million lbs were landed in Pinellas county a majority of this if not all comes through Johns Pass (<https://gulfcouncil.org/wp-content/uploads/Community-Analysis-II.pdf>)

Petition to Save Johns Pass has over 10,000 signatures - <https://www.change.org/SaveJohnsPass>

For more information, the bottom of this page has multiple local news stories on this issue there were over 9 news stories in the last two weeks of October 2020 on this issue - <https://www.hubbardsmarina.com/savejohnspass/>