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possesses approximately 70 miles of high-energy sandy beaches along the Atlantic Ocean. These natural sandy beaches are an important component of the dynamic beach-dune system, which plays a significant role in the economic, scientific, recreational, cultural and vital well-being of the inhabitants of the county. The integrity of this beach-dune system is dependent upon its ability to resist the natural forces of the ocean, such as tides, waves, winds and storm floods.

The board of county commissioners recognizes that the beach-dune system constitutes a first line of defense against the attack of storms and also acts as a sand bank for the county's beaches. Rigid coastal and shore protection structures, such as seawalls, bulkheads and other structures, block the movement of sand from the dunes to the beach, thereby preventing the natural renourishment of the beach with sand. The loss of sand, coupled with the historical rise in relative sea level, could cause the loss of the natural sandy beaches, if allowed to continue. The construction of beachfront structures, significantly impacts upon the beach-dune system. The construction of such structures remove sand from the system. Impervious surfaces created through the construction of such structures prevent sand from assuming its proper role in the dynamics of the beach-dune system. Structures located near the dunes deprive the beach-dune system of the equilibrium necessary for the beach-dune system to function in its capacity as the first line of defense from ocean forces. The loss of the capacity of the beach-dune system during a severe storm event or hurricane could result in substantial loss of property and the loss of a limited number of evacuation routes from the coastal barrier, congested roadway network, and the resulting impediment to the evacuation of barrier inhabitants during such an emergency.

In view of the findings mentioned in subsections (a) through (c) of this section, the board of county commissioners finds and declares it to be in the public interest to preserve and protect the county's coastal barrier beach-dune system from imprudent construction, which would destroy the beach-dune system, accelerate erosion, provide inadequate protection to upland structures and endanger adjacent property. The public health, safety and welfare of the inhabitants of the county require the establishment of special construction regulations for the beach-dune system to maintain its equilibrium, so as to buffer persons and property from devastation by ocean forces, and the board hereby requires that structures located on oceanfront property be set back sufficiently and constructed in accordance with the useful life thereof, considering the perils of storm and sea.