



AGENDA REPORT
March 6, 2018

SUBJECT:

Authorization to send letters to Governor Rick Scott and Brevard's legislative delegation, requesting additional appropriation for Hurricane Irma waterway debris and derelict vessel cleanup

FISCAL IMPACT:

None

DEPT/OFFICE:

Emergency Management

REQUESTED ACTION:

It is requested that the Board of County Commissioners authorize the Chair to send letters to Governor Rick Scott and Brevard's state legislative delegation, requesting that the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and the Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission receive additional appropriation so that Hurricane Irma waterway debris collection and derelict vessel removal can be completed.

SUMMARY EXPLANATION and BACKGROUND:

In September 2017, Hurricane Irma impacted Brevard County, resulting in costs to the County of more than \$41 million in damages and response activities, as well as more than \$12 million in debris collection. Brevard County received a federal disaster declaration for Public Assistance and Individual Assistance, and is complying with FEMA requirements in efforts to obtain 75% reimbursement for those costs.

As the County was responsible for land-based debris collection, that has been completed. However, navigable waterways – including the Indian River Lagoon and Banana River – are the jurisdiction and responsibility of the State of Florida, and approximately 20% of the debris generated, as well as 50% of the vessels which became derelict, remains in those waterways.

Following the hurricane, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection employed contractors to collect the waterway debris that was generated. As of earlier this month, the waterway debris collection project has reached the end of its funding, with 80% of Brevard's debris collected, and a cost of \$2.3 million estimated to complete the project. FDEP worked with the Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission and contractors to have approximately 50% of the derelict vessels that were caused by Hurricane Irma removed from those waterways, but that funding has also ended, with 50% of the derelict vessels remaining, and an estimated cost of \$200,000 to complete that project.

The Governor has the authority to direct that sufficient funds be made available, as needed, by transferring and expending moneys appropriated for other purposes, moneys from unappropriated surplus funds, or from the Budget Stabilization Fund.

A similar request to contact our legislative delegation and the governor regarding these same issues following Hurricane Matthew was at least partially successful, in ensuring the additional State dollars were allocated to address waterway issues, and to ensure that a plan was in place when Hurricane Irma approached.

The State is also eligible for 75% FEMA reimbursement, so the majority of costs incurred would be on a temporary basis.

CLERK TO THE BOARD INSTRUCTIONS:

Have original letter signed by the Chair mailed to the Governor with copies sent to Brevard's legislative delegation.

ATTACHMENTS:

Description

- 0 **Irma waterway letter to Governor**

REVIEWERS:

Department
Emergency Management
County Manager

Reviewer
Prosser, Kimberly
Abbate, Frank



Tammy Rowe, Clerk to the Board, 400 South Street • P.O. Box 999, Titusville, Florida 32781-0999

Telephone: (321) 637-2001
Fax: (321) 264-6972
Tammy.Rowe@brevardclerk.us

March 7, 2018

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Frank Abbate, County Manager

RE: Item VI.E.1., Authorization to Send Letters to Governor Rick Scott and Brevard Legislative Delegation to Request Additional Appropriation for Hurricane Irma Waterway Debris and Derelict Vessel Cleanup

The Board of County Commissioners, in regular session on March 6, 2018, executed and authorized the Chair to send letters to Governor Rick Scott and Brevard Legislative Delegation requesting the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission receive additional appropriation for the Hurricane Irma waterway debris collection and derelict vessel removal completion. Enclosed is a copy of the letter, and the original letter was given to the Chair in regular session.

Your continued cooperation is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
SCOTT ELLIS, CLERK

Tammy Rowe, Deputy Clerk

/ds

Encl. (1)

cc: Each Commissioner
Emergency Management Office Director



Rita Pritchett, District 1 Commissioner
2000 South Washington Avenue, Ste. 2
Titusville, FL 32780
(321) 607-6901
D1.commissioner@brevardfl.gov

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

March 6, 2018

Office of Governor Rick Scott
State of Florida
The Capitol
400 S. Monroe St.
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0001

Dear Governor Scott:

In September 2017, Hurricane Irma severely impacted Brevard County, resulting in costs to the County of more than \$41 million in damages and response activities, as well as more than \$12 million in debris collection. Brevard County received a federal disaster declaration for Public Assistance and Individual Assistance, and is complying with FEMA requirements in efforts to obtain 75% reimbursement for those costs.

As the County was responsible for land-based debris collection, that has been completed. However, navigable waterways – including the Indian River Lagoon and Banana River – are the jurisdiction and responsibility of the State of Florida, and a great deal of debris, mostly construction materials due to destroyed docks, remains in those waterways.

Following the hurricane, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection contracted with Crowder-Gulf to provide waterway debris collection services throughout the state, including the navigable waterways within Brevard County. That contractor was mobilized and has currently completed approximately 80% of that work. The County greatly appreciates the State's pre-planning and implementation of this effort, yet is concerned that the allotted funding for the project has been totally expended prior to the completion of the project, with an estimated \$2.3 million worth of work remaining.

If the remaining portions of the State-owned navigable waterways within Brevard do not receive debris removal, this will leave significant public health, safety and welfare issues for the residents and visitors of Brevard County.

In addition, neither the FDEP nor the Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission has sufficient funding to effect the removal of the 50-plus derelict vessels that remain in these waterways due to Hurricane Irma, although contractors have collected nearly that number already. It is estimated that another \$200,000 is required to complete this second project.

I hereby respectfully request that you direct funds from other State sources, and/or request appropriation from the Legislative Budget Commission for additional dollars for FDEP and FWC for this project, as the jurisdiction and authority for this lies with those two State agencies.

Since the State of Florida is eligible for 75% reimbursement of declared disaster public assistance costs from FEMA, the funding requested is a temporary measure to allow completion of this project. Please exercise your authority and provide the opportunity for our waterways to return to their natural state.

We appreciate all your support during and after the storm, including the Executive Order as well as your continuing support for the Indian River Lagoon over the years.

In Your Service,

Rita Pritchett
Chair, Brevard County Commission

/csm