



# MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** November 17, 2006

**TO:** Sanibel City Councilmembers

**FROM:** Judie Zimomra, City Manager

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Judie Zimomra".

\*Signed electronically to not delay distribution

**SUBJECT:** Supplemental Material for November 21<sup>st</sup> Council Meeting

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Please find attached the following supplemental material for the November 21<sup>st</sup>, 2006 Council Meeting:

- Agenda Item 10(a)1b - Status of Beach Clean-Up Pilot Project

Thank you.

JAZ/cjm

Xc: Pamela Smith, City Clerk  
Kenneth Cuyler, City Attorney





# MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** November 14, 2006

**TO:** Sanibel City Council

**FROM:** Judie Zimomra, City Manager

**SUBJECT:** Status of Beach Clean-up Pilot Project

At the last City Council meeting, Council directed staff to pursue four (4) specific steps in regards to a "Pilot- Project" to clean-up algae from Sanibel beaches. The four (4) Council directed steps were:

- To apply to the State of Florida Department of Environmental Protection Agency for a Beaches and Coastal Systems Program permit
- To secure a contractor to perform the work
- To pursue funding for the project to test the algae for bacteria
- To test the algae for bacteria

The purpose of this memorandum is to update you on the status of the above. Additionally, the Staff has prepared a draft policy for City Council's consideration establishing criteria to trigger any such clean-ups. The City currently operates under an objective standard of one dead fish per foot as the trigger for collection and removal of dead fish on the Beaches.

The status of each of the above 4 directives are as follows:

- **To apply to the State of Florida Department of Environmental Protection Agency for a Beaches and Coastal Systems Program permit**

The City of Sanibel has applied and received verbal approval from the State of Florida Department of Environmental Protection Agency (DEP). We are pursuing written confirmation from the DEP.

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- **To secure a contractor to perform the work**

The City's Emergency Debris Removal Contractor, Crowder-Gulf is available under our pre-existing bid contact with one week's notice for mobilization. Crowder-Gulf is currently in negotiations with Lee County regarding if disposal will occur at the Landfill or Incinerator. By the end of business today, Crowder-Gulf is to submit to the City a quote for their mobilization cost. If on Tuesday City Council chooses not to pursue the Pilot project we will be obligated to pay the mobilization costs.

- **To pursue funding for the project**

The Tourism Development Council has agreed, and confirmed in writing, that they will reimburse the City for all expenses associated with the Pilot Project. They do have requirements, such as that we submit weekly written progress reports, including cost expended and anticipated to expended the following week.

- **To test the algae for bacteria**

Algae samples were delivered to the contractual laboratory last week. The test results are anticipated to be received by Monday, November 20, 2006. It is critical that the algae test results are received to be certain workers handling the material are equipped with the proper protective wear. The length of time to process the algae samples is governed by the length of time required to develop a bacteria culture.

The draft of standards Staff has prepared for City Council's consideration establishing criteria to trigger any such algae clean-ups is attached for consideration at the Tuesday, November 21, 2006.

JAZ/cjm

Xc: Executive Staff

## City of Sanibel Draft Policy on Algae Clean-up of Sanibel Beaches

The algae or other similar decomposing matter must have the following characteristics in order to trigger a City authorized clean-up:

Consist of piles averaging at least 1' in depth over three 30' long transects measured perpendicular to the shoreline approximately 300' apart. The algae must be a significantly severe event covering at least 1000 linear feet of beach. For example, if the algae averaged 2' deep in a 15' wide swath along 1000' or more of beach and all other conditions were met it would qualify for clean-up.

Has to be in decomposing condition and producing a noxious odor

Has to have been present on the same stretch of beach for at least 10 days to allow for the potential of natural removal by currents, winds and tides

Has to have little or no current value to foraging shorebirds as determined by the Natural Resources Department

No clean-ups or equipment on the beach are authorized during sea turtle nesting season April to October or during snowy plover/shorebird nesting season February to August; ie: clean-up authorized October – January only

All clean-up work must be done per DEP specifications with a valid DEP Beaches and Coastal Systems Program permit.

### Required Technique:

Work will be done by tractor towed rakes between the existing beach waterline and the upper (landward) edge of the algae wrack line. To the greatest extent possible, algae only, not sand or shell will be raked into piles located between the waterward edge of the vegetated dune line and the upper storm wrack line. The piled algae will then be hauled away by truck to the nearest beach vehicle access point and from thence off the island to a licensed landfill or incinerator. Trucks, tractors and loaders will only be allowed to travel along the beach between the waterward edge of the vegetated dune and the upper storm wrack line. No debris of any kind will be buried on the beach.

