



Community Meeting Notes

Don Pedro Knight Island – Beach Renourishment

Date: 04/07/2026

Attendees: 15 Residents, 2 Fiscal staff, 5 Public Works staff

Overview

County staff introduced themselves and explained that the purpose of the meeting was to receive resident feedback regarding the current status of the project and to present information previously discussed at the March 17 Board workshop.

Staff reviewed a combined PowerPoint presentation that included both the consultant's work and materials previously presented to the Board.

The following questions and comments were raised by residents and are organized by subject area.

Residents in attendance indicated they were aware of and had participated in the previous assessment.

Project Start Date

Resident has brought up concerns on the expected start date and the location of where it will begin. Staff stated that the November start date – historically work has begun on Manasota Key because of the smaller working timeframe compared to DPKI which is not as affected by the sea turtle nesting. The more details and times that are given to contactors has typically brought a higher price point for the project.

Budget + Assessment Numbers

A resident asked for clarification on whether the rate shown was per year or spread over the 8-year period. Staff clarified that the amount is per year over the full 8-year period and that the current numbers reflect a worst-case scenario. Meeting notices will be sent in June to include parcel specific numbers for the July 22 or July 23 Initial Assessment Resolution Public Hearing.

Staff stated that the County has applied for FEMA reimbursement; 1.64 million has been obligated. There is approximately \$6.74 million anticipated, but it has not yet been awarded. A resident asked when the County expects to receive a final decision on these

funds. Staff explained that FEMA previously followed a more structured timeline, but timelines have become less predictable due to the increased impact of storms over the past two decades.

Staff also shared that in a recent similar project, work on Don Pedro/Knight Islands (DPKI) began about one and a half months after work started on Manasota Key. Additional clarification was given that there are only a limited number of contractors capable of performing this type of work. It was also noted that this project was brought before the Board last year, and factors such as bid rates and ongoing hurricane recovery have impacted timing.

A resident asked about whether upcoming bids are expected to be similar to last year's or lower like previous projects. Staff stated that this cannot be determined at this time, as it depends on market conditions.

Clarity on work being done

A resident asked about the contractor who will complete the work. Staff explained that no contractor has been selected yet and that the project is expected to go out for bid around August.

Fund/Cost Distribution among residents

A resident raised concerns about the rate comparison shown on slide 12. Staff clarified that the methodology differs between commercial recreation (nearshore benefit) and residential recreation, which is why the rates appear different. Residents were also informed that the consultant's full presentation is available for review and includes more detailed information about how the rates were developed.

Hurricane affects to current and active renourishment projects

A resident asked if the County knows how much sand will need to be replaced. Staff shared that Coastal Engineering completed a survey estimating approximately 395,000 cubic yards of sand, not including dune systems. The beach fill template is similar to what was used in 2020, and dune renourishment plans are expected to follow a similar approach to the work completed in 2001.