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Subject: Economic Recovery & Resiliency Project: Flamingo Drainage
Date: Friday, February 7, 2025 10:06:09 AM
Attachments: [EDA Save the Date Workshop - flyer.pdf](#)
[SWFRPC-EDA Agenda wZoom.pdf](#)
[EXHIBIT C Hurricane Economic Recovery Resiliency Project Summary Work Sheet.pdf](#)

Dear City of Venice officials,

The Congress of the United States has approved funding to aid areas impacted by natural disasters in 2024. The City of Venice experienced grave damage from 2 natural disasters: Hurricanes Helene and Milton.

Specifically, the American Relief Act of 2025 has \$1.5 billion of grants to areas impacted by natural disasters in 2023 and 2024. Per Cristina Killingsworth (Acting U.S. Assistant Secretary of Commerce), "*This necessary funding enables EDA to continue to aid areas that received a major disaster declaration in 2023 and 2024 — including communities affected by Hurricanes Helene and Milton, major flooding...*" etc. (<https://www.eda.gov/news/press-release/2024/12/22/us-economic-development-administrations-statement-signing-american>)

Locally, on Wednesday, February 19th, there is a "Federal Economic Recovery & Resiliency Workshop." The workshop is sponsored by the Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council and is being held in Punta Gorda. The purpose of this workshop is to explore potential natural disaster recovery projects with both state and federal partners.

Flooding of the "Flamingo Ditch" caused (and will continue to cause) major economic, health, and safety damages to the citizens of Venice. These were particularly evident in the Hurricane Helene and Milton disasters of 2024.

The Board of Directors of Golden Beach Associates, Inc. requests that the City of Venice participate in the above workshop by sending a senior level representative. We ask that the City complete and present the attached Economic Recovery & Resiliency Project Summary Work Sheet.

The form does not require a finalized project plan or total costs. Rather, it is a vision statement for the plan to be undertaken. The current Flamingo Ditch drainage study by Coastal Project Engineering will result in a project requiring funding. This is an opportunity to qualify for that funding.

Although actual costs remain indeterminate until the City receives a formal proposal from Coastal Protection Engineering, we suggest an initial place-holder estimate of no less than \$10M.

Attached please find documents regarding the upcoming workshop.

Best regards,

Steve Oglethorpe, Vice President, Golden Beach Associates Inc.

cc: Golden Beach Associates Inc. Board of Directors; Venice City Council; Editor, Venice

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