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April 7, 2017

Mr. Edward Belk
Chief, Programs Integration
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Headquarters
441 G Street NW
Washington, DC 20314-1000

Dear Mr. Belk,

Thank you for taking the time this week to meet to discuss the construction of the Pinellas County Shore Protection Project. As you know, this is my highest Corps of Engineers priority and its full construction via the Fiscal Year (FY) 2017 Work Plan is critically important to my community.

As we discussed, the Pinellas County project is composed of three segments: Sand Key, Long Key, and Treasure Island. Due to the outstanding work of the Jacksonville District and others in the Corps, the Sand Key segment is fully funded to repair impacts from Hurricane Hermine. Thank you for Headquarters' role in that effort.

However, the Long Key and Treasure Island segments require an estimated \$7.1 million via the FY 2017 Work Plan to be constructed along with the Sand Key segment this summer. It makes economic sense to award all three projects at the same time, thereby saving taxpayers' money and appropriately protecting Pinellas County's infrastructure before the next storm season arrives.

I also want to reiterate my thanks for the Jacksonville District's efforts to initiate a Section 1037 study of Treasure Island to extend its period of federal participation for up to an additional 15 years. I look forward to working with you as the study progresses, as we may need additional congressional authorization in the future.

We greatly appreciate all you do for our nation and for Pinellas County. I look forward to working with you and your team on this and hopefully many more projects in the future.

Sincerely,



Charlie Crist
UNITED STATES CONGRESSMAN

CC: Colonel Jason Kirk, Jacksonville District Commander