

LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVES

Legislative Action
2011-2012

Town of Edisto Beach

Approved by Town Council November 10, 2010

❖ **Local Hospitality and Accommodations Fees**

The Town of Edisto Beach is strongly opposed to the recommendation by the Tax Realignment Commission (TRAC) to require Tourism Expenditure Review Committee (TERC) oversight of local government spending of local Hospitality Fees and Local Accommodations Fees and for the collection of same by the Department of Revenue. This recommendation will further erode the concept and exercise of Home Rule and reduces local government power to act in its own self-interest and the interests of local citizens and visitors.

❖ **Beach Nourishment**

The Town of Edisto Beach is the only coastal tourist destination in Colleton County and provides over 40% in tax revenues for the County. The Town is currently partnering with the Army Corps of Engineers to study the feasibility of long-term federal funding for beach nourishment to aid in storm damage prevention. The Town has shouldered the financial burden of the cost of the study although portions of the study area are state properties (Edisto Beach State Park). Beach nourishment generally is effective for ten years. The Town nourished the beach in 2006 and anticipates needing to re-nourish the beach in 2016. As federal funding is not guaranteed, the Town seeks legislative support to budget funds for this nourishment project to reduce storm damage to the beach and to ensure the continued viability of the beachfront for the economic benefit to Colleton County and the state.

❖ **ATAX Funds**

As Edisto Beach is a coastal community with less than \$900,000 in ATAX revenues, please consider local legislation or other legislation to allow Edisto Beach the same flexibility and privileges in expenditures or use of these revenues as other coastal communities with whom we compete for tourists.

❖ **Point of Sale**

Repeal the Point of Sale portion of Legislation Act 388, signed by the Governor on June 10, 2006. This legislation is “running people off of family property.” Being that Colleton County has now reassessed based on 2006 values when the real estate market was at its peak, many people will have to sell their property because they can no longer afford the taxes.

Mayor Burley L. Lyons

Councilman Pete Anderson
Councilman Larry “Babe” Hutto

Mayor Pro Tempore Susan Hornsby
Councilman Tommy Mann



❖ Infrastructure

Water Quality-The Town of Edisto Beach obtains its water from groundwater wells. The water quality is poor at best and is anticipated to become further degraded by saltwater intrusion. The Town needs good quality potable water, whether through purification processes, new deep wells or acquisition from nearby water supply authorities. Upgrades and maintenance of aging and degrading infrastructure is also needed.

Wastewater-All of the beachfront homes on Edisto Beach are on septic systems because funding is not available to upgrade the wastewater treatment plant and bring sewer lines down Palmetto Boulevard. This poses a serious pollution problem when the Town is impacted by storms. Septic systems become exposed and leach sewage onto the beach and Atlantic Ocean causing serious health hazards.

Roads and Sidewalks-Because of the Town's susceptibility to storm damage, the Town anticipates substantial costs to repair street and sidewalks damaged by storms.

Scott Creek-The Town has been working with the Department of Natural Resources to re-establish the tidal flow of Scott Creek where SC 174 intersects the creek by replacing the road with a bridge. We had hoped to obtain stimulus funds for this project. We would like to be considered for additional stimulus funding if such funds become available.

Drainage-The Town appreciates the opportunity to work with the Department of Transportation to correct street, sidewalk and limited drainage repairs. The Town would appreciate any future assistance that could be provided so extensive drainage and street flooding problems can be addressed.

❖ Visibility

The Town of Edisto Beach would like to invite you to visit our community. We realize you are extremely busy and would like to extend an "open" invitation for you to come to Edisto to meet with the community and discuss issues that affect our community. We would be happy to work with your staff to set up a meeting anytime that is convenient with you.

Thank you for arranging time to meet with us to discuss some of the issues affecting Edisto Beach. We look forward to working with you and appreciate any assistance or support you can offer!

For an exceptional beach experience, come visit us and enjoy our hospitality!

Mayor Burley L. Lyons

Councilman Pete Anderson
Councilman Larry "Babe" Hutto

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