

TOWN OF EDISTO BEACH

Monthly Highlights



Issue 1 June 2021



Save the Sea Turtles

All streetlights along Palmetto Boulevard and Point Street have been replaced with amber turtle friendly lights. This was funded by a \$50,000 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Grant.

<https://www.townofedistobeach.com/projects/sea-turtle-protection-project>

Sewer Moratorium News

A moratorium on new sewer connections to the Town's wastewater system was enacted due to overload alarms at many of the distribution lift stations located on the beach. The majority of the beach is not connected to the sewer system. The distribution system was designed for only a portion of the community with constraints on septic systems. The current distribution system is past its capacity. An engineering study by American Engineering has offer a two phased solution to increase the distribution capacity to handle the current volume of wastewater with a small amount of room for growth.

Project Cost Phase 1-\$860,000

Colleton County approved \$112,000 in funding to pay for engineering and permitting of Phase 1 to the collection system problems.

Notice to proceed was issued May 17, 2021 to American Engineering to design and permit the upgrades to the pumps at Lift Stations A and B. This phase's cost is \$112,000 to be paid by Colleton County.

Q-Are sewer improvements going to increase my water rates?

A: The Town is seeking \$500,000 in grant funding from the US Rural Infrastructure Authority to fund construction.

Q: When will the moratorium be lifted?

A: The Town is diligently working to obtain grant funding. If you have specific questions, please contact the Town.

<https://www.townofedistobeach.com/projects/upgrades-lift-station-pumps-and-b>

DUNE STABILIZATION

The Town has contracted to have 5,000 sea oat plants installed on the new dunes located between Beach Accesses 1 and 4, and Beach Access 28. Each planting will be cordoned off and signage installed to allow the plants to survive. Sea Oats provide stabilization and capture wind-blown sand building dunes.



Periodic scraping will be done in the nourished area to remove (escarpments) eroded areas. Complaints about the sand quality have been addressed by the Coastal engineer.

https://www.townofedistobeach.com/sites/default/files/uploads/post_construction_letter_002.pdf

SHORT -TERM RENTALS



Anyone who rents property or rooms short term is required to obtain a business license from the Town and is subject to State and local accommodations taxes. The Town has joined a lawsuit with other lowcountry governments against online platforms that rent in our community but remit no local accommodations tax.

What is Accommodations Tax?

- The rental of transient accommodations is subject to a 2% accommodations tax in addition to the 5% sales tax, and 2% local tax.
- If you rent out rooms or spaces at hotels, campgrounds, boarding houses, mobile home parks, etc., you are required to obtain a retail license. Rentals of the same room to the same person for at least 90 continuous days are not subject to the tax.
- If you rent a room in the house in which you live and the house has less than six bedrooms, you are exempt from the tax.

- If you rent transient accommodations for no more than one week each calendar quarter, you are not required to obtain a retail license, but you still must report and pay the tax annually.
- Not sure if you need to file? Check out our [Accommodations Tax Handout](#).
- **Rates:** South Carolina Sales Tax Rate on Accommodations by Municipality ([ST-575](#))

https://www.townofedistobeach.com/sites/default/files/uploads/local_accommodations_tax_form.pdf

INTERIOR LAGOONS



The Town is systematically working on the interior lagoons (Dorothy to Mary) to improve flow. A service request has been submitted to SCDOT to clean all state maintained road rights of way at each crossing so the Town can visually assess whether water is flowing. SCDOT has a lead time of 6-8 weeks.

Stay Tuned, more to come...