

Town of Edisto Beach

W. Crawford Moore, Jr., Mayor

Administration

Mark D. Aakhus, Town Administrator
Donna Iskra, Municipal Clerk



Council Members

Jerome W. Kizer
Robert Renner
James R. Watts II
Joey Bagwell

TO: Town of Edisto Beach Residents and Others
RE: United States Army Corps of Engineers Edisto Beach Coastal Storm Risk Management Project/Informational Session on November 8, 5:30 p.m.

On February 27, 2023, the Town of Edisto Beach signed a Project Partnership Agreement (PPA) with the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Charleston District for the construction of the Edisto Beach Coastal Storm Risk Management Project. The project includes a vegetated dune and berm, which were designed to maximize risk reduction for the relative cost. This project will reduce the risk of coastal storm damage and will reduce the risk of damage to life and structures behind the dunes, which means beachfront homes, as well as the entire community, will benefit from this project.

Initial construction of this fifty-year project is expected to occur in 2025 and take approximately three months to complete. Additional benefits of the PPA include sharing the cost of beach nourishment with the federal government; eligibility for repairs after declared disasters; and an attractive and usable beach for both residents and visitors.

As part of this project the Town must obtain easements along sections of the beachfront properties. The easement area will be located from the landward toe of the existing vegetated dune and will extend seaward. These easements will allow the Corps' contractor to build the dune and berm designed to reduce risk of damage by coastal storms. Having the easements in place allows the Corps to conduct periodic nourishments, for which costs are shared by the federal government, and allows the Town to be eligible for post-storm repairs to the beach if a natural disaster has been declared. The easements will be held by the Town of Edisto Beach, not the US Army Corps of Engineers. If for any reason, the Town decides to terminate its agreement with the Army Corps and leave the project, the easements would likewise be terminated.

We know this project affects all Town of Edisto Beach residents, and visitors and others who may be interested in this project. There is a great deal of information to share with you. In an effort to share this essential information and answer questions, we invite you to an informational meeting on November 8 at 5:30 pm at the Edisto Beach Civic Center located at 42 Station Court, Edisto Island, SC 29438, so you can hear directly from the USACE, Mayor and Town Council, and the Town Administrator. We want to ensure all interested individuals are aware of the aspects of this project, how homes can be protected by this beach renourishment, and the long-term benefits to homeowners and for our precious beach, which is highly erosional.

We encourage you to join us on November 8 at 5:30 pm so you can receive important information regarding this project and ask questions.

Sincerely,
Mark D. Aakhus
Town Administrator