



## **Beach Briefs - February 10, 2017**

# **Maintenance Dredging of Blind Pass and Beach Renourishment to Begin**

The following information was sent to CEPD by Lee County.

Fort Myers, FL, Feb. 10, 2017 - Preparations for a project to dredge Blind Pass, enhance the beach and help water quality in the bridge area, where Sanibel and Captiva islands meet, will begin Monday, Feb. 13.

A contractor for Lee County Department of Natural Resources will do an initial set up of a beach pipeline that will carry sand from the pass to the designated beach renourishment areas. Sections of pipe and the equipment to work on the pipeline will be moved to the beach near Sanibel-Captiva Road and Pine Avenue. The City of Sanibel reports that motorists can expect workers with signal flags directing traffic during those operations.

Maintenance dredging along the inside of Blind Pass (north side of the bridge) is expected to begin the week of Feb. 20 and end the second week of March. The dredge will then be moved to the Gulf side of the bridge and continue dredging through the middle of April. The dredged sand will be used to renourish portions of eroded beach south of Blind Pass and the north end of Bowman's Beach on Sanibel.

Additionally:

- Portions of the beach may be closed up to 500 feet near where active construction is occurring. Beachgoers are asked to respect all project signs and boundaries for the safety of the public and crews.
- Fishing from the Blind Pass Bridge may be temporarily restricted during the maintenance dredging project.
- Four of the public parking spaces at Blind Pass Beach Park will be closed to the public for the duration of the project, making this busy access point potentially congested. Beach patrons can find ample parking at Bowman's Beach Park, which is 2.3 miles south of Blind Pass on Sanibel-Captiva Road.

Project funding comes from Lee County tourist-tax revenues and a Florida Department of Environmental Protection grant.

Lee County's Blind Pass dredging project has a website where visitors and residents can find information: [www.leegov.com/naturalresources/blind-pass-2017-construction](http://www.leegov.com/naturalresources/blind-pass-2017-construction).

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