



Gulf County Beach Nourishment Project Will Go Before Voters

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A proposed beach nourishment project in the Cape San Blas area of Gulf County has residents deeply divided about the funding options for this multi-million dollar project.

This subject has been an ongoing battle for gulfside residents and bay front residents for quite some time.

A good portion of homes along the gulf in Cape San Blas were severely damaged or destroyed by the past two devastating hurricane seasons.

Tuesday night, Gulf County Commissioners voted 4-1, to put three MSTU's or municipal service taxing units on a referendum next year to let voters decide. Commissioner Chairman Peters dissented.

Tonight's decision was a partial victory for some and a major let down for other Gulf County residents.

Here's a look at what will be on the referendum:

- * A Gulfside MSTU with a maximum 6 millage annual increase
- * A Gulfside Interior MSTU with a maximum 4 millage annual increase
- * A Bay Front MSTU with a maximum 2 millage annual increase

The commission will have to approve the ballot language before it goes to a vote, the referendum could go before voters as early as March 2006.

The MSTU is a back-up source of funding. A beach advisory committee is hoping for local, state and federal funding to pay for most of the project on the St. Joe Peninsula.

This story can be found at: http://www.wmbb.com/servlet/Satellite?pagename=WMBB/MGArticle/MBB_BasicArticle&c=MGArticle&cid=1128768706468

[Go Back](#)