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Response to Final CPE Presentation of Flamingo Ditch Feasibility Study
October 28, 2025

I would like to thank the City Engineers, Steven Berens and Jonothan Kramer for their work with Coastal Protection Engineers (CPE) and I would also like to thank City Council members for making the Flamingo Ditch a priority.

The Flamingo Ditch Steering Committee reviewed CPE's final presentation and have identified the following questions and concerns that hopefully will be addressed during CPE's presentation or addressed by City Engineers before City Council.

- We would like to see thorough documentation of maintenance SOP's for the entire stormwater drainage system (retrenching of swales and clearing RCP pipes of sediment) in addition to the SOP for the Flamingo Ditch.
- Diverting almost ½ of stormwater from the eastern Flamingo Ditch Drainage Basin with the "Harbor Drive Stormwater Pipe" to Deertown Gully would significantly reduce the drainage load on Outfall No. 5. – **the City should investigate this thoroughly.** We would like to see hydrological and ecological studies that predict the impacts to both the Flamingo Ditch and Deertown Gully.
- Raising Flamingo Drive and Gardenia/Villas Drive roadway segments (see slide 11) +5 ft has generated concerns that stormwater will drain onto private properties, increasing localized flooding of the homes adjoining those roadways.
- Acquiring the perpetual maintenance easement of "Lot 2" from the Campbells will give the City an ideal location to install the real-time, web-based water level monitoring system. What are other details on how the City will utilize this drainage easement? Is this a dry "spill-over" detention, buffer with rip-rap? Or will it be excavated to increase the "capacity" of the existing lagoon?
- Increasing the Flamingo Drive pipe one size from 15" to 18" – since the most significant part of the cost is the labor, why not go up two sizes? Elliptical? We expect that it will be beneficial in increasing drainage with these improvements.
- We would like to see a status update on grant applications. Which grants have been submitted? What are the timelines? Are there other grant applications being considered?
- Has the US Army Corps of Engineers already been approached with this project? Are there any firm commitments or status updates? What are the timelines?

As I attempted to point out by reviewing historical engineering reports in previous City Council meetings and workshops, these historical reports identify a **very important gap that must not be overlooked** – the tidal interface from the Flamingo Ditch to the Gulf. A significant challenge is controlling sand blockages at this tidal interface. **It is imperative that City pursue a permanent solution in partnership with the US Army Corp of Engineers!**

Figure 1: Flamingo Ditch Tidal Interface (sand berm). Courtesy: Lueanne Wood, photo taken 10/24/2025

Figure 2: Flamingo Ditch with drainage flowing. Courtesy: Lueanne Wood, photo taken 7/3/2025

REFERENCE

Year	Recommendation	Action Taken
2024	Flamingo Ditch Feasibility Study is conducted	TBD
2012	Erickson Consulting Engineers (ECE): "Blockage of the training wall structure is a significant concern, and all design must prevent sand blockage. With a nourishment project scheduled within the next year, the situation will worsen."[1]	The City removes the training wall structure around August of 2018. Note: this report did not explicitly recommend the removal of the training wall.
2011	ECE: a 30% design for replacing the existing 12" PVC pipe and training wall structure with a deep-water discharge and water quality treatment pumping station is proposed. "This phase of the Flamingo Ditch Improvements well (will) help restore historic flow capacity to the Gulf that was previously restrained due to the 2005 beach nourishment project."[2]	Despite the extensive work and cost that went into the plan, the City decides to abandon further work on design and opts to dredge out the Flamingo Ditch basin in the Fall of 2013.
2004	Applied Technology and Management (ATM): "The flood modeling efforts identified potentially thirty-six (36) flooded structures and fourteen (14) street segments that do not meet the selected FPLOS criterial."[3] This study also provides preliminary engineering recommendations to mitigate issues caused by sand blockages at the tidal interface.	Nothing was done. Note: presumably this study was completed in preparation for the scheduled 2005 beach renourishment.
1994	ATM: "The placement of additional sand on the beach will cause more frequent interruptions of the outfall. To offset this, increased maintenance will be required." ... "Installation of training walls or some other flow focusing system will help reduce the maintenance requirements and increase the reliability of the drainage system."[4]	A 5ft wide" training wall" with 12" PVC pipe and "flapper valve" is installed. Outfall No. 6 is rerouted north for discharge into the Flamingo Ditch via RCP along Golden Beach Drive.

Footnotes:

1. Erickson Consulting Engineers Report—TS Debby 2012
2. Erickson Consulting Engineers Report, *Flamingo Ditch and Deertown Gully Outfall Improvement Projects, 30% Design, December 2011*, p. 43.
3. *Island of Venice Study Update*, c. 2004-2005, Applied Technology and Management, p. 4-3.
4. *Beach Restoration Project, Alternative Stormwater Outfall Plan for the City of Venice :Appendix I of Stormwater Management Plan Final Report (Draft), January 1994*, Applied Technology and Management, pp. 294-298.

Good morning, Mayor Pachota, City Council Members, and fellow residents.

My name is Peggy Parys, and I am the President of Golden Beach Associates (GBAI). Golden Beach consists of over 320 homes in our area. I want to begin by thanking you, Mayor, and the City Council for your ongoing attention to our stormwater drainage issues.. We truly appreciate the efforts made to hire consultants to find a sustainable solution.

While we acknowledge the progress made, we still have several questions and concerns, and we hope the presentation today will help address many of them. In particular, we continue to have concerns about the overall health and maintenance of the entire Outfall No. 5 stormwater drainage system, not just the Flamingo Ditch.

Several members of our association have voiced concerns about the lack of routine maintenance of the open swales, reinforced concrete drainage pipes, and the presence of various blockages within the Flamingo Ditch. I have a few photographs that illustrate some of these issues, showing areas in need of attention.

Residents have reached out to the City on multiple occasions requesting the clearing of these blockages, the maintenance of open swales that have significant sediment buildup, and the retrenching of swales to correct their profiles—work that has not been done in years. In addition, the closed concrete drainage pipes have accumulated several inches of sediment, which also need to be addressed to restore the full capacity of the drainage system.

Given these ongoing concerns, I would like to ask: Is there an updated Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) that outlines the routine, preventative maintenance procedures for the stormwater system? If so, would it be possible to share that with the public so that residents can be assured of the maintenance plan moving forward?

Once again, thank you, Mayor and Council members, for your dedication and attention to this important issue. We are hopeful that with continued collaboration and a focus on both maintenance and long-term solutions, we can improve some of these stormwater challenges for the benefit of all residents.

We look forward to seeing the proposed solutions and are optimistic about the positive changes to come. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Figure 7: NW Corner behind 600 Flamingo Drive

Figure 8: NW Corner behind 600 Flamingo Drive. Photo looking east.

Figure 1: Vegetation blockages at "neck" of Flamingo Ditch. Photo facing east, just south of Island Shores

Figure 2: Vegetation blockages at "neck" of Flamingo Ditch. Photo facing east, just south of Island Shores (on left)

Figure 3: Overgrown blockage behind 600 Flamingo Drive. Photo facing north (Island Shores on left)

Figure 4: Overgrown blockage behind 600 Flamingo Drive. Photo facing north (Island Shores on left)

Figure 5: NW Corner behind 600 Flamingo Drive

Figure 6: NW Corner behind 600 Flamingo Drive

Figure 9: Retrenched swale in foreground, untrenched swale downstream at 397 Flamingo Drive. Facing south.

Figure 10: Swale at 397 Flamingo Drive in need of retrenching. Photo facing east.

Figure 11: Swale needing retrenching at 593 Flamingo Drive. Photo facing west.

Figure 12: Untrenched swale at "Lot 2"

Figure 13: Floating debris behind 392 Flamingo Drive. Photo facing east.

Figure 14: Unhealthy east end of Flamingo Ditch behind 380 Flamingo Drive. Photo facing east.

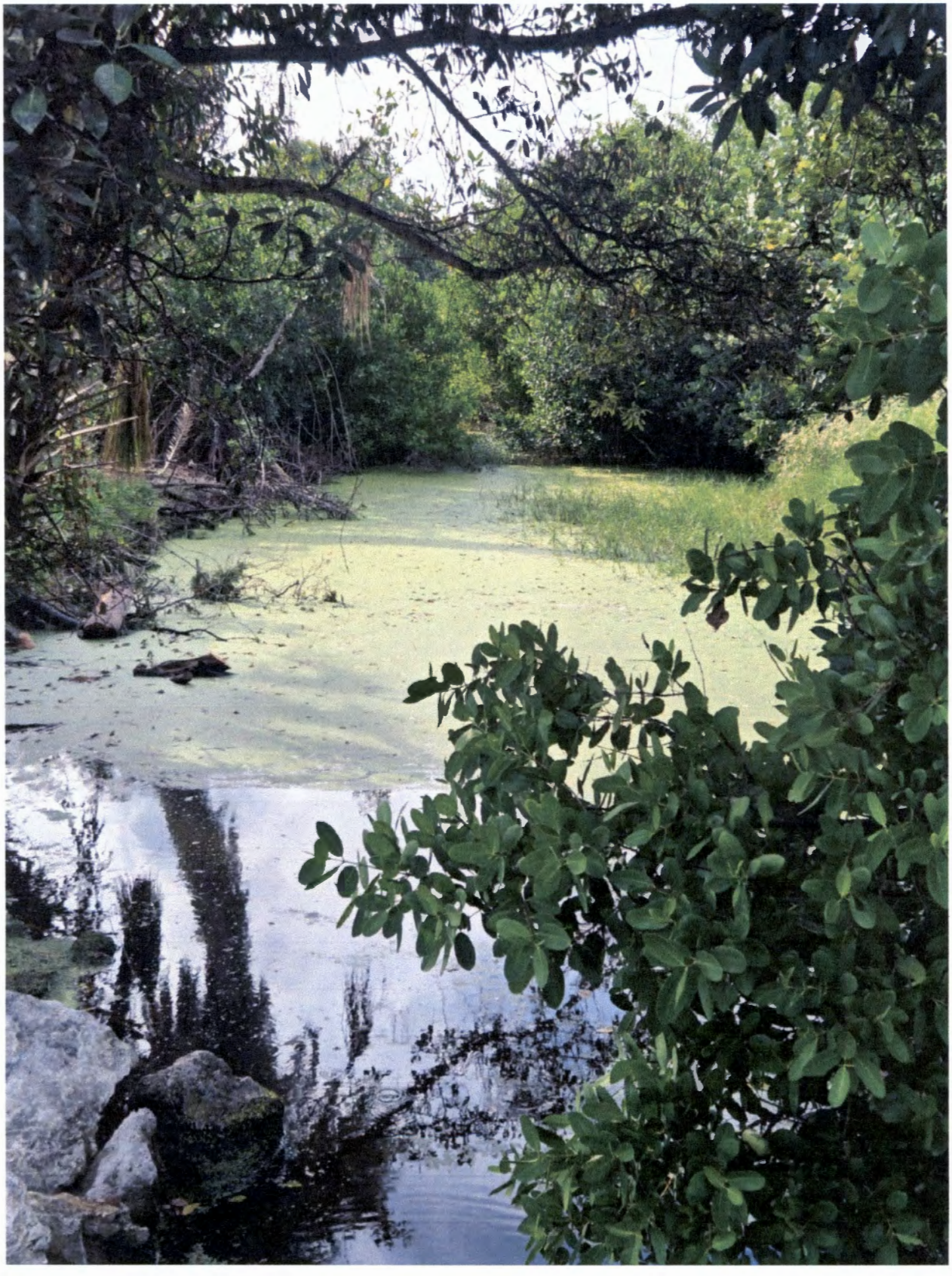

Figure 15: Unhealthy east end of Flamingo Ditch behind 380 Flamingo Drive. Photo facing west from Gardenia.