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CITY OF TYBEE ISLAND
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

PRESS RELEASE:
For immediate release

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Army Corps of Engineers Beach Study Results

Tybee Island, Ga. – (September 14, 2007) This afternoon, the United States Army Corps of Engineers - Savannah District released the long-awaited preliminary results of the Savannah River Channel Impact Study. The results of this study validate what officials with the City of Tybee have been arguing for some time now — that the dredging, widening and deepening of the Savannah River Channel is having a negative impact on the shoreline of Tybee Island.

Tybee Island Mayor Jason Buelterman noted that, "We feel strongly that the only way to truly mitigate for the loss of sand is through federal funding for periodic renourishment of Tybee's beach. The positive results of this study should greatly enhance our efforts at securing a long-term funding stream for renourishments."

"Thanks to the efforts of Congressman Jack Kingston, this study finally received the necessary funding to move forward, and the results cannot be more clear: seventy to eighty percent of the loss of sand on Tybee's beaches is a direct result of the man-made Savannah River Channel. This study will, we hope, provide the necessary justification at the federal, state, and local levels to provide for mitigation through a consistent funding stream designed to renourish Tybee's beaches at regular intervals."

The City of Tybee is moving forward with a planned renourishment in 2008 despite the fact that the federal government has not fully funded the project. Tybee continues to seek assistance from other entities which benefit from the channel and from the continued growth of tourism in the Savannah area.

More information can be found under "Island News" on the City's home page at www.cityoftybee.org.

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