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Sanibel City Council  
Dana Souza, City Manager  
City of Sanibel  
800 Dunlop Rd  
Sanibel, FL 33957

Dear Sanibel City Councilmembers and City Manager Souza,

On behalf of the property owners on the Sanibel Harbours Canal, we are requesting the establishment of an Assessment District to fund the necessary dredging of the Canal.

The Canal is a vital part of our community's infrastructure and quality of life, benefiting the homeowners and dock owners who rely on it for navigation, recreation, and property access. However, periodic sedimentation has been reaching critical levels following recent hurricanes and storms, leading to significant problems including:

- **Impaired Navigation:** Low tide depths are insufficient for safe passage of many boats and barges, restricting access to open water.
- **Reduced Property Value:** The inability to fully utilize docks and waterfronts can negatively impacts the value of properties bordering the Canal. This could also impact taxable value as docks and slips are included in the Lee County tax rolls.
- **Environmental Concerns:** Stagnation and poor water circulation may negatively impact local marine life. The Canal is frequented by dolphins, manatees, and a variety of fish and birds.

We believe that the creation of an Assessment District is the most equitable and efficient mechanism to fund this essential project. We are currently estimating that the Canal will require dredging around every five years. We contacted the owners of 41 impacted properties (3 were added subsequently) and 73% responded, all of whom were in favor of this assessment.

Our community is prepared to collaborate closely with City staff to move this project forward. We believe that securing safe and reliable water access is a shared priority.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this critical infrastructure request.

Sincerely,

*Erika Steiner & Marty Harrity*