



AGENDA MEMORANDUM

*Natural Resources
Department*

Planning Commission Meeting Date: July 22, 2025
634 North Yachtman Drive, Long Form Development Permit (DPLF-2025-000267)
Item 6B

To: Planning Commission
From: Dana Dettmar, Environmental Biologist
Date: July 11, 2025

SUBJECT: LONG FORM DEVELOPMENT PERMIT FOR DREDGING AT SANIBEL MARINA

SUMMARY

The applicant has submitted a long form development permit in order to dredge around existing boat docks/slips at the Sanibel Marina. On May 21, 2025, Natural Resources staff performed a site inspection. Below are Natural Resources' findings:

The project is located within a human-made canal system and is subject to high boat traffic. The bottom sediments are comprised of organic muck and therefore, inhospitable to benthic resources (i.e. seagrasses, oysters, etc.), which prefer sandy bottom. Natural Resources did not observe any benthic resources within the proposed dredge footprint.

The northeast section of the dredge template is adjacent to a mangrove fringe (Figure 1). The engineering plans note that existing mangroves will not be disturbed. Given there is a dock platform that exists between the mangrove fringe and dredge template, Natural Resources agrees that mangroves will likely not be impacted by the project.

The applicant has received an exemption from Florida Department of Environmental Protection (0293147-010 EE -011 EE) and a Letter of Permission Permit (SAJ-2008-04607) from the Army Corps of Engineers authorizing the dredge activities. The applicant shall strictly adhere to the conditions of State and Federal permits, which include protections for marine organisms, i.e. state/federal listed species and other regulated species of fish and wildlife.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends the following conditions be included as part of the Resolution:

1. No mangrove trimming/alterations shall be authorized under the Development Permit without approval from Natural Resources. Any future trimming to maintain dock access or views of the water requires a separate annual mangrove trimming permit. If unanticipated impacts occur as a result of the project, mitigation may be assessed during the final inspection.

Sanibel is and shall remain a barrier island sanctuary



Figure 1. Area of dredge activity next to mangrove fringe