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Governor
D. REID WILSON
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Director



CRC-25-46
Information Item

TO: Coastal Resources Commission

FROM: Rachel Love-Adrick, Planning & Resiliency Section Chief

SUBJECT: Non-Competitive Use of Public Beach and Coastal Waterfront Access Funds,
Topsail South End Tract

DATE: January 29, 2026

The Division of Coastal Management (DCM) administers the Public Beach and Coastal Waterfront Access Program, which provides grants to local governments to create or improve pedestrian access to public beaches and public trust waters in North Carolina's 20 coastal counties. Eligible projects include land acquisition and site improvements such as beach mats, dune crossovers, boardwalks, piers, parking areas, and restrooms.

Pursuant to [15A NCAC 07M .0307\(b\)](#), DCM is authorized to use Access Program funds on a non-competitive basis. However, prior to expending such funds, the rule requires a 60-day public comment period and a public meeting or hearing at a regularly scheduled meeting of the Coastal Resources Commission.

DCM proposes to use up to \$50,000 in Public Beach and Coastal Waterfront Access funds on a non-competitive basis to cover closing costs related to the State's acquisition of a 96.07-acre parcel in Topsail Beach, commonly referred to as the Topsail South End Tract.

The property was acquired by the North Carolina Coastal Land Trust for \$7.5 million and will be donated to the State of North Carolina. Upon transfer, DCM will manage and preserve the property for public benefit, including the protection of coastal resources and the support of current and future public access to coastal waters.

The State is responsible for closing costs associated with the transfer, including deed preparation and recording fees and, if obtained, title insurance. While the exact amount of these costs will be determined at the time of closing based on applicable legal, recording, and administrative requirements, they are estimated to be approximately \$50,000.



North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality | Division of Coastal Management
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A public hearing will be held to solicit public input on the proposed non-competitive use of Access Program at your February 2026 meeting. The formal public comment period opened on January 30, 2026, and will remain open until April 1, 2026. Notice of the public comment period was posted on DEQ public notices page and sent to DCM's Interested Parties list and the CRC's proposed rulemaking list on January 30, 2026.



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