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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

City approves partnership with U.S. Geological Survey for Coastal Monitoring

Marathon, FL, 8/14/25 - The City Council approved **Resolution 2025-75** on 8/12/25, authorizing an agreement with the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), to install water pressure sensors at Coco Plum Beach as part of an expanded coastal forecasting program.

The program aims to collect observations of waves, water levels and beach elevations throughout the Florida Keys to verify new forecasts for reef-protected areas.

The USGS St. Petersburg Coastal and Marine Science Center operates a forecasting system that predicts coastal hazards days in advance for sandy beaches. They will deploy monitoring equipment at Coco Plum to improve hurricane and storm surge predictions for coral reef-protected communities in the Florida Keys.

The equipment includes water pressure sensors at Coco Plum Beach and an offshore Spotter buoy manufactured by Sofar Ocean. The basketball-sized buoy will collect real-time data on waves, wind, sea surface temperature and barometric pressure can connect to a Smart Mooring device with underwater sensors near the seafloor.

The city will not pay for installation or maintenance of the equipment. USGS researchers will operate the monitoring system in partnership with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and National Weather Service.

The forecasting tool is publicly available at
coastal.er.usgs.gov/hurricanes/research/skewsurv/



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