



MIAPBC is a not-for-profit organization created to promote and protect the sound growth of the marine industry in Palm Beach County for the benefit and education of its members, the community, and the environment

July, 14, 2022

VIA EMAIL

J. Carl Blow, Chair
Florida Inland Navigation District
1314 Marcinski Road,
Jupiter, FL 33477

Re: Riviera Beach Mooring Field Grant Application

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Dear Chair Blow and Commissioners:

The Marine Industries Association of Palm Beach County, Inc. (MIAPBC) provides this letter of support for the Riviera Beach Mooring Field grant application. As many of you know, MIAPBC is a trade association whose several hundred members include local marine businesses and professionals in marine industries, businesses associated with the marine industries and boater members. Our association supports water access and good stewardship of our waterways. Our industry is part of the \$23.3 Billion Dollar economic impact to our state, an economic impact which is beginning to be impacted by the lack of available slips, dockage and moorings in our county.

It is for these reasons that MIAPBC supports the Riviera Beach Mooring Field grant application. This mooring field will provide safe and regulated moorings for cruisers, locals and even those who seasonally work in our marine industries. Managed mooring fields provide a significant environmental benefit as they provide for pump out services and garbage pick-up while at the same time providing reasonable access to the boating public a reasonable price. Palm Beach County has a very limited number of available slips and this project provides an environmentally sound and safe alternative to anchoring.

These mooring fields are designed to sustain a category three storm, a design which not only provides for safe mooring but also provides a degree of protection from nearby marinas, docks and landowners from vessels which may break free of their anchorage during significant storm events. Managed mooring fields also substantially reduce negative impacts from typical anchoring practices. These area in question is already used as an anchorage and this allows for management and control of those anchoring.

The Marine industries Association of Palm Beach County, Inc supports the grant application for the Riviera Beach Mooring fields and urges favorable consideration by the F.I.N.D. commission.

Respectfully submitted,

Austin Burkett, for the Board