



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
JACKSONVILLE DISTRICT CORPS OF ENGINEERS
P.O. BOX 4970
JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA 32232-0019

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

Planning Division
Environmental Branch

JUN 01 2007

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Jacksonville District has published a Notice of Intent to prepare a Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Martin County Beach Erosion Control Project located in Martin County, Florida. The study will evaluate alternative sand sources for this project including sand shoals offshore Martin and St. Lucie Counties. Enclosed is the notice of intent and study map.

We welcome your views, comments and information about Environmental and Cultural resources, study objectives and important features within the described project area, as well as any suggested improvements. Letters of comment or inquiry should be addressed to the letterhead address to the attention of Mr. Paul DeMarco at telephone number 904-232-1897 and email address Paul.M.DeMarco@saj02.usace.army.mil, Planning Division, Environmental Branch and received by this office within 30 days of the date of this letter.

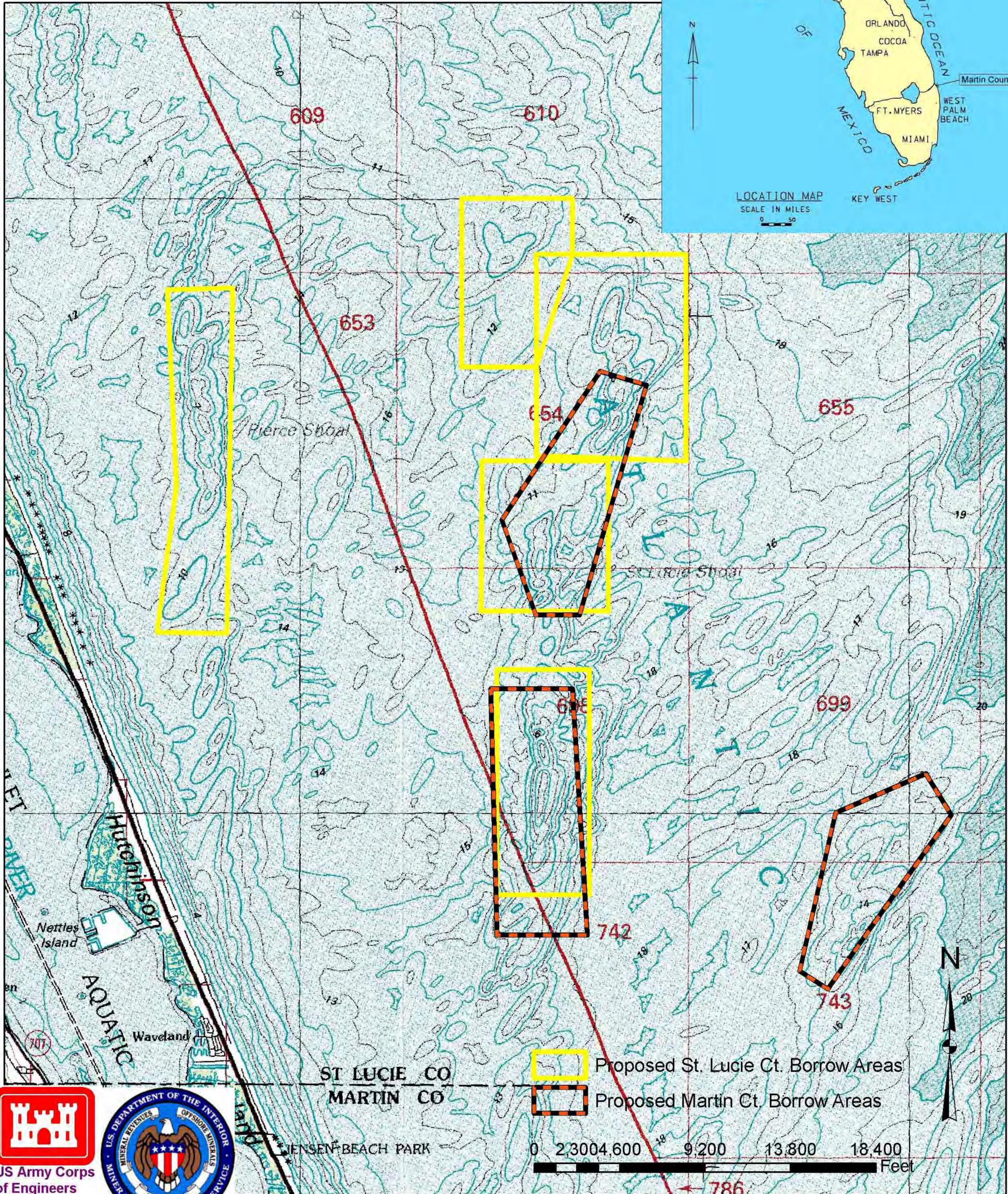
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S. J. Appelbaum".

Stuart J. Appelbaum
Chief, Planning Division

Enclosures

ENCLOSURE Martin County BEC New Borrow Area Study Map



US Army Corps
of Engineers
Jacksonville
District



**DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
Department of the Army; Corps of Engineers**

**Intent to Prepare a Draft Environmental Impact Statement for a New
Borrow Area for the Martin County Beach Erosion Control Project
Located in Martin County, FL**

AGENCY: Department of the Army, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers,
DoD.

ACTION: Notice of intent.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Jacksonville District, intends to prepare a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for a new borrow area for the Martin County Beach Erosion Control Project. In cooperation with Martin County, the study will evaluate alternative sand sources that will maximize shore protection while minimizing environmental impacts.

ADDRESSES: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Planning Division,
Environmental Branch, P.O. Box 4970, Jacksonville, FL, 32232-0019.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Paul M. DeMarco, by email Paul.M.DeMarco@saj02.usace.army.mil or by telephone at (904) 232-1897.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: a. *Proposed Action.* The Martin County, FL, Beach Erosion Control project was authorized by the Water Resource Development Act of 1990 passed November 28, 1990 (Pub. L. 101-640) in accordance with the report of the Chief of Engineers dated November 20, 1989. The final Environmental Impact Statement was filed with the Environmental Protection Agency in 1986. Prior to construction, General Design Memorandum (GDM) dated June 1994 was prepared. The project was authorized for 50 years from date of initial construction in 1996. The authorized plan consisted of restoration of 4 miles of shorefront southward from the St. Lucie County line to near the limit of Stuart Public Park (R1 - R25). The previously approved borrow area has been depleted. The DEIS will evaluate various sources of beach quality sand, the impacts from removal of this sand on the environment and coastal processes, and the impacts from nourishing the beach with this sand. Subsequently a final EIS will be published.

b. *Alternatives.* Specific proposed alternatives at this time include hydraulic dredging of beach quality sand from offshore shoals, truck-haul beach fill from upland sources, and no-action.

c. *Scoping Process.* The scoping process as outlined by the Council on Environmental Quality will be utilized to involve Federal, State, and local agencies, affected Indian tribes, and

other interested persons and organizations. A scoping letter will be sent to the appropriate parties requesting their comments and concerns. Any persons and organizations wishing to participate in the scoping process should contact the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers at (see **ADDRESSES**).

Significant issues to be analyzed in the DEIS would include effects on Federally listed threatened and endangered species, Essential Fish Habitat with particular concern for nearshore hardbottom habitat. Other issue would be health and safety, water quality, aesthetics and recreation, fish and wildlife resources, cultural resources, socio-economic resources, and any issues identified through scoping and public involvement.

The proposed action would be coordinated with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, with the NMFS concerning Essential Fish Habitat, and with the State Historic Preservation Officer and Native American Tribes.

The proposed action would also involve evaluation for compliance with guidelines pursuant to Section 404(b) of the Clean Water Act; application (to the State of Florida) for Water Quality Certification pursuant to Section 401 of the Clean Water Act; certification of state lands, easements, and rights of way; and determination of Coastal Zone Management Act consistency.

The non-Federal sponsor, Martin County, would provide extensive information and assistance on the resources to be impacted and alternatives. The Minerals Management Service (MMS) has requested to be a cooperating agency for the DEIS. As a cooperating agency their role would be to provide pertinent information and relevant expertise, to review and provide comments on the DEIS, and to attend and participate in scoping meetings. It is anticipated that the MMS FINAL REPORT: ENVIRONMENTAL SURVEYS OF POTENTIAL BORROW AREAS ON THE CENTRAL EAST FLORIDA SHELF AND THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS OF SAND REMOVAL FOR COASTAL AND BEACH RESTORATION will be an important source of information for the DEIS. This report is available for download at:

<http://www.mms.gov/sandandgravel/FloridaStudyReport.htm>

d. *Scoping Meetings.* Public scoping meetings would be held. Exact dates, times, and locations would be published in local papers.

e. *Draft Environmental Impact Statement Availability.* The Draft Environmental Impact Statement would be available on or about October 2007.

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