



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

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

FLAGLER COUNTY HURRICANE AND STORM DAMAGE REDUCTION INTEGRATED FEASIBILITY STUDY AND ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

FLAGLER COUNTY, FLORIDA

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

I have reviewed the Feasibility Study and Environmental Assessment (EA) of the Recommended Plan and the Future Without Project (No Action Alternative) for the Flagler County Hurricane and Storm Damage Reduction Study, Flagler County. The Recommended Plan was identified as the National Economic Development (NED) plan and also the environmentally-preferred alternative as it includes reduction of damage from extreme storms and hurricanes through the shoreline protection measure of rebuilding a natural dune system and planting native dune vegetation. This Finding incorporates by reference all discussions and conclusions contained in the integrated EA (enclosed hereto) in which the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Jacksonville District (Corps) and Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) conducted an environmental analysis in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended. Technical and economic criteria used in the formulation of alternative plans were those specified in the Water Resource Council's 1983 Economic and Environmental Principles for Water and Related Land Resources Implementation Studies. All applicable laws, executive orders, regulations, and local government plans were considered in the evaluation of the alternatives. Based on information analyzed in the EA, reflecting pertinent information obtained from other agencies and special interest groups having jurisdiction by law and/or special expertise, I conclude that the proposed action will have no significant impact on the quality of the human environment. Reasons for this conclusion are in summary:

a. The Corps will take measures to minimize the effects to the threatened and endangered species including sea turtles. There will be no unauthorized impacts to other threatened and endangered species. The project will not jeopardize the continued existence of any federally listed species or adversely modify designated critical habitat, and the preferred alternative (Recommended Plan) will have beneficial effects to protected species habitat within the project area.

b. I have determined that Recommended Plan, as proposed, will pose no adverse affect on significant historic properties. Coordination with the Florida State Historic Preservation Officer and appropriate federally recognized tribes has been initiated. As stated in the EA, use of the shoreline will have no effect on historic properties as none are located within the immediate footprint of the project area, and that the preferred alternative (Recommended Plan) will have beneficial effects to those historic properties located immediately west of the project area.

Furthermore, no historic properties would be affected by any of the project alternatives in the nearshore. It is anticipated that no historic properties would be affected by use of any of the proposed borrow areas. In a 2005 consultation with the SHPO, it was recommended that an underwater survey of the proposed borrow area be conducted. This survey will be conducted prior to project construction. If any resources are identified they will be properly buffered to avoid any impacts to ensure required protection of the resource.

c. State water quality standards will be met. A Water Quality Certification (WQC) permit application will be submitted for issuance by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP).

d. The Corps has determined that the proposed project is consistent with the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA). The final concurrence from the State will be issued with the FDEP permit.

e. Measures to eliminate, reduce below the level of significance, or avoid potential impacts to fish and wildlife resources will be implemented during project construction.

f. The proposed project has been evaluated pursuant to the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. The Jacksonville District's Migratory Bird Protection procedures will be implemented for this project and for future projects. These procedures have been coordinated with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the State of Florida.

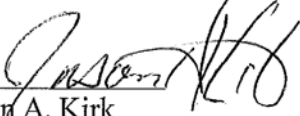
g. Benefits to the public will include restored and improved natural habitat for protected species, fish and wildlife, restored aquatic ecosystem, and engagement by the local community.

h. Measures will be in place during construction to eliminate, reduce, or avoid adverse impacts below the threshold of significance to fish and wildlife resources include the following:

1. All dredge and placement activities will occur within the template of authorized and permitted areas;
2. All water based activities would follow standard sea turtle protection measures and the conditions of the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) South Atlantic Regional Biological Opinion (SARBO), and
3. Dredged material placement would comply with the shoreline protection measures conditions of the USFWS Statewide Programmatic Biological Opinion (SPBO).

In consideration of the information summarized, I find that the proposed action will not significantly affect the human environment and does not require an Environmental Impact Statement. This document will be available to the public on the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Jacksonville District website at:

<http://www.saj.usace.army.mil/About/DivisionsOffices/Planning/EnvironmentalBranch/EnvironmentalDocuments.aspx#Flagler>



Jason A. Kirk
Colonel, Corps of Engineers
Commanding

22 JAN 2016
Date