

## Public Comment Letters

May 31, 2013

Ms. Angela Dunn  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
PO Box 4970  
Jacksonville, FL 32232-0019

Dear Ms. Dunn,

RE: USACE Draft Integrated Feasibility Report - EIS for LWI, PB Harbor

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has prepared a Draft Integrated Feasibility Report/Environmental Impact Statement ("EIS") dated April 2013 for proposed construction activities at the Port of Palm Beach. The plan promulgated by the Army Corps would deepen and widen the channels within the Port. According to the EIS, the impacts caused by the project would include the loss of both seagrass habitat and hardbottom habitat, for which mitigation is required. The list of potential seagrass mitigation sites includes a portion of Lake Worth Lagoon known as "Turtle Cove."

The purpose of this communication is to register a formal objection to seagrass mitigation activities within Turtle Cove and to request that the Turtle Cove site be removed from the list of potential mitigation sites. Last year, Palm Beach County applied for a permit from the Army Corps to cap approximately forty-two (42) acres of muck sediment with 640,000 cubic yards of sand within Turtle Cove in an effort to create 37.8 acres of seagrass habitat. A large portion of this area is immediately adjacent to two existing communities, Old Port Cove and Twelve Oaks, and one approved (although not yet constructed) multi-family development, the Water Club. In response to strenuous objections from the Village of North Palm Beach and other stakeholders, the County withdrew its permit application and stated this site would no longer be considered for seagrass mitigation activities.

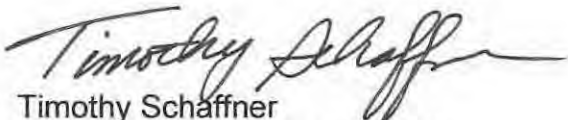
While the seagrass mitigation activities proposed by the Army Corps may not be of the same magnitude as the County's prior application, the proposed project has the same potential for negative impacts to both adjacent properties and the Lagoon itself. Specifically:

- The fill is likely to result in the accumulation of silt adjacent to the docks around the Lagoon, at the entrance to and within the canal leading into Little Lake Worth, and within the marinas and residents at Old Port Cove, Lost Tree Village, Portage Landing and Twelve Oaks (and proposed marina at The Water Club), which lie directly in the path of the tidal flow. Obstructing the entrance to Little Lake Worth could result in a "dead zone" body of water. A prior fill operation near the Monastery property had similar impacts, even though this project was much closer to shore and out of the path of the tidal flow.
- The project could eradicate the existing sea life in the currently pristine Lagoon during the course of the project.
- The project would negatively impact navigation in the area, causing vessel congestion around the perimeter of the project. The project encroaches upon an existing, long-established marked and maintained navigation channel.
- The project would encroach on the riparian rights of surrounding property owners, decrease property values, and negatively impact the surrounding communities, requiring these property owners, including the marinas, to dredge and restore their waterfront.

Given that prior Munyon Island remediation projects have failed to substantially improve the aquatic environment, I am concerned that the proposed seagrass habitat will be neither viable nor nurtured. I do not believe that any potential benefits of the project, if realized, will outweigh the continued viability of Little Lake Worth, the impediments to navigation and the impairment of riparian rights in the general vicinity of the project.

Personally, I am also a boat owner and believe this project will adversely affect my ability to navigate out of the Old Port Cove Marina. I chose to live in Old Port Cove because it had a beautiful marina with easy access to the intracoastal waterway. I also chose to live here and paid a high price for my apartment because of the wonderful water views. Your project will clog the area with commercial boats for quite some time, create navigation hazards during the work and potentially ruin the resale value of my property. I urge you to abandon the Turtle Cove site as a consideration and go elsewhere.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Timothy Schaffner". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Timothy Schaffner  
100 Lakeshore Drive, Apt 358  
North Palm Beach, FL 33408  
[timschaff@comcast.net](mailto:timschaff@comcast.net)  
561-676-6522 Cell

**From:** [Wagner Steve](#)  
**To:** [Dunn, Angela E SAJ](#)  
**Subject:** Opposition to "Turtle Cove Project"  
**Date:** Saturday, June 01, 2013 1:02:19 PM

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Ms. Angela Dunn,

I am writing concerning the "Turtle Cove Project" at the northern end of Lake Worth in North Palm Beach. This project is against my wishes and all my neighbors' wishes with whom I've spoken.

My understanding is this project was developed by the Army Corps of Engineers as a fill site from dredging at the Port of Palm Beach and ostensibly to provide a place for sea grass to grow. The project as proposed creates a submerged "island" in the middle of the lagoon to allow the sea grass to grow, leaving only a narrow channel surrounding the island. Obviously, that hampers navigation in the lagoon.

To anyone who lives in the area, it is obvious that the pristine site is not in need of reclamation nor "enhancement". It is used by fisherman, used for water sports, and serves as a mooring site for many boats. Of course, the Old Port Cove Marina at the site is an important business in the area and needs Turtle Cove for yachts to navigate into their docks. Walking along the embankment, manatees, turtles, dolphins, rays, etc. can be observed, as well as cranes, pelicans and other aquatic birds. Turtle Cove is not a sick lagoon needing "fixing" but is a healthy, thriving, picturesque water resource beloved by residents, visitors, sportsmen, and boaters.

I have not seen an environmental impact study. Is there one? I would appreciate receiving a copy. And should the project go forward, what are the plans to mitigate silt filling in the channel around the island and eventually the whole area becoming a marshy land mass? I anticipate that would be an issue in 20-30 years were this project to be realized. Why potentially ruin what is not in need of "improvement".

Is this project not really an excuse to find a place for dredging material? If there is a need to find a place for the material, there is a whole ocean available via the outlet just beyond Peanut Island, almost directly opposite the Port of Palm Beach.

Again, this project is against my wishes.

Thank you.

*Steve Wagner*

**Stephen B. Wagner**  
**Old Port Cove**  
**123 Lakeshore Dr Apt 1044**  
**North Palm Beach, FL 33408-3603**  
**Home: (561) 328-9248**  
**Cell: (267) 424-3749**  
[sandsbw@mac.com](mailto:sandsbw@mac.com)

**From:** [SheriReback@gmail.com](mailto:SheriReback@gmail.com)  
**To:** [Dunn, Angela E SAJ](#)  
**Subject:** Planting s on Big Lake Worth in front of our house located at 11235 old harbor rd Lost Tree Village.  
**Date:** Saturday, June 01, 2013 11:35:19 AM

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Dear Angela,

My husband and I are very opposed to what you are trying to do in the waterway where our docks are. We own two houses side by side in Lost Tree. Northern Trust just ordered appraisals on both and one appraised at \$13,300,000.00 and the other one appraised at \$14,500,000.00 My husband and I will do anything to keep this from happening and thus causing our properties to go down in value. Right now we could bring in over a 100 ft yacht with no problem because the soundings we had done show 8' of depth at low tide. We don't want a reef or anything similar interfering! The address of our second house is 11251 old harbor rd. Thank you!

Sheri Reback  
561-685-9215

**From:** [SHOCONNOR2@aol.com](mailto:SHOCONNOR2@aol.com)  
**To:** [Dunn, Angela E SAJ](mailto:Dunn, Angela E SAJ)  
**Cc:** [jwoconnor2@aol.com](mailto:jwoconnor2@aol.com); [SLPNPB@aol.com](mailto:SLPNPB@aol.com)  
**Subject:** Turtle Cove Project  
**Date:** Saturday, June 01, 2013 11:33:57 AM

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June 1, 2013

Ms. Angela Dunn  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
P.O. Box 4970  
Jacksonville, FL 32232-0019

Dear Ms. Dunn:

It is with great concern that we write this letter after being made aware of the plans to mitigate the removal of sand from the Port of Palm Beach to areas "1" and "2", which are areas near our home's waterfront.

We vehemently oppose the proposed dumping of large quantities of sand which will elevate the sea grass and marsh areas in our lagoon. Such action will greatly diminish the water depth of the cove, which will hamper navigation by numerous watercraft, large and small, as well as destroy the recreational use of this water by our family, neighbors and visitors. Moreover, many watercraft seek refuge in the cove during hurricanes and other adverse weather; the cove would no longer be available for such safety if sea grass were allowed to grow.

We feel very strongly that our lagoon should remain just the way it is and we, along with our neighbors, are willing and able to seek legal counsel to insure it does. We understand the need for the improvements proposed for the Port of Palm Beach; we do not understand why the sand needs to be moved to our area.

Thank you for considering our concern as we strongly advise you reevaluate the consequences of the Turtle Cove Project to our lagoon.

Sincerely,

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph W. O'Connor  
11047 Old Harbour Road  
North Palm Beach, FL 33408  
(561)236-2160

**From:** [Jim Barber](#)  
**To:** [Dunn, Angela E SAJ](#)  
**Cc:** [sandsbw@mac.com](mailto:sandsbw@mac.com)  
**Subject:** Notice of objection to the Turtle Cove Project  
**Date:** Saturday, June 01, 2013 12:38:34 PM

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U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
P.O. Box 4970  
Jacksonville, FL 32232

Dear Ms. Dunn:

I am a 65 year old resident at Old Port Cove near the proposed dredge dump site. I am a relatively new resident here and unfortunately only became aware of this misguided plan today, 1 June 2013.

I have a solid engineering foundation, have a 100 ton Ocean Master's license, have been a tugboat captain towing barges (including dredge dump barges), have owned and operated 2 marinas, and spent 15 years living aboard and cruising in my 47' ketch. I have a long standing knowledge of this area of Florida and have anchored many times in the beautiful harbor which is being proposed as a dredge spoil dump site.

My professional background and personal life's experiences uniquely and unquestioningly qualify me to make a credible evaluation of the merits and/or flaws in this proposed dredge spoil dump site. I fully realize that the U.S. government has a justifiable responsibility to support the needs of commercial interests relating to maintenance dredging that is necessary from time to time. The U.S. government also has an equal (if not greater) responsibility to protect the interests of private citizens, personal property owners, local business owners and the reasonable protection of the environment. It would seem apparent that this site is being considered because of it's proximity to the dredging area and therefore would be the least costly site to dump dredge spoils. There are clearly a number of other alternatives available that would have far less negative economic impact on local property owners and business owners but would no doubt incur greater costs to the dredging activities.

It is patently negligent for the U.S. government willingly and knowingly choose this site when it poses a clear and immediately negative economic impact on the local personal property owners by reducing their property values and the local business owners by reducing potential long term income based of

the navigational needs of their existing client base. There would also be an immediate and long term impact on the marine environment that would create irreparable harm to a very sensitive natural resource.

I therefore submit my most serious objection to this proposed dredge spoil dump site and respectfully advise the U.S. government to select a more suitable dump site.

Sincerely     James C. Barber, Jr.  
                  123 Lakeshore Dr. Apt. #143  
                  North Palm Beach, FL 33408



**From:** [Harry Krivit](#)  
**To:** [Dunn, Angela E SAJ](#)  
**Subject:** Turtle Cove Mitigation  
**Date:** Saturday, June 01, 2013 10:10:08 AM

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I am a boat owner.

The purpose of this correspondence is to register objection to Army Corps of Engineers' use of a portion of the Lake Worth Lagoon known as Turtle Cove for seagrass mitigation activities.

Last year, Palm Beach County applied for a permit from the Army Corps to cap approximately forty-two (42) acres of muck sediment with 640,000 cubic yards of sand within Turtle Cove in an effort to create 37.8 acres of sea grass habitat. A large portion of this area is located immediately adjacent to three existing communities, Old Port Cove, Lost Tree Village and Twelve Oaks, and one approved (although not yet constructed) multi-family development, the Water Club. In response to strenuous objections from many stakeholders the County withdrew its permit application.

While it is unclear that the mitigation proposed by the Army Corps is of the same magnitude as the County's prior application, the project raises the same concerns of negative impacts on both the adjacent properties and the Lagoon itself:

- The fill is likely to result in the accumulation of silt adjacent to the docks around the Lagoon, at the entrance to and within the canal leading into Little Lake Worth, and within the marinas at Old Port Cove and Twelve Oaks (and proposed marina at The Water Club), which lie directly in the path of the tidal flow. Obstructing the entrance to Little Lake Worth could result in a "dead zone" body of water. A prior fill operation near the Monastery property had similar impacts, even though this project was much closer to shore and out of the path of the tidal flow.
- The project could eradicate the existing sea life in the currently pristine Lagoon during the course of the project.
- The project would negatively impact navigation in the area, causing vessel congestion around the perimeter of the project. The project encroaches upon an existing, long-established marked and maintained navigation channel.
- The project would encroach on the riparian rights of surrounding property owners, decrease property values, and negatively impact the surrounding communities, requiring these property owners, including the marinas, to dredge and restore their waterfront.
- The project would greatly reduce the recreational value of the existing lagoon to boaters and fishermen.

We strongly request and urge that no fill be placed in the area of so-called Turtle Cove. We do not believe that any potential benefits of the project, if realized, will outweigh the continued viability of Little Lake Worth, the impediments to navigation and the impairment of riparian rights in the general vicinity of the project.

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely yours,

Harry and Susan Krivit  
1108 Marine Way - B3L  
North Palm Beach, FL 33407

(561) 691 - 1224

**From:** [FCG3241@aol.com](mailto:FCG3241@aol.com)  
**To:** [Dunn, Angela E SAJ](#)  
**Subject:** Port of Palm Beach  
**Date:** Saturday, June 01, 2013 9:19:25 AM

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As a resident of Old Port Cove, North Palm Beach, FL I wish to formally object to sea grass mitigation activities within Turtle Cove and to request that the Turtle Cove site be removed from the list of potential mitigation sites. Assuming the quality of the removed sand is of beach standard consideration of using it for beach nourishment would be the best option, otherwise dumping it in the ocean would be preferred to Turtle Cove.

Fred C Gardner  
120 Lakeshore Dr. #737  
North Palm Beach, FL 33408

**From:** [ED&GAIL](#)  
**To:** [Dunn, Angela E SAJ](#)  
**Subject:** Turtle Cove Project  
**Date:** Saturday, June 01, 2013 6:22:51 PM

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Dear Ms. Dunn:

I am writing this email to strongly protest the reconsideration of the Turtle Cove Project at this time. This project has surfaced again with very short notice. just as it did last year when it aroused great opposition among residents of Old Port Cove, the and Villages of North Palm Beach, Twelve Oaks, Lost Tree, and other abutters and interested parties. At one meeting that I attended, the Corps withdrew the project from further consideration and profusely apologized for poorly understanding the depth and reasons for our residents opposition. Now, apparently the project is again being considered. Why? The arguments presented then are all still valid. What has changed in the good condition of the lake, its terrain, and its wildlife since last year? What benefits would there be other than providing a cheap place to dump dredged material? Is that the real reason for the project?

I urge you and the Corps of Engineers to drop the Turtle Cove Project from further consideration.

Edwin L. Greenberg  
123 Lakeshore Dr. Unit 1243  
North Palm Beach, FL 33408  
edgail@bellsouth.net  
561-493-8541

**From:** [Beachley Simon](#)  
**To:** [Dunn, Angela E SAJ](#)  
**Subject:** Turtle Cove Project  
**Date:** Saturday, June 01, 2013 3:53:13 PM

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Dear Ms. Dunn,

I am writing to let you know of my objection to the proposed project involving dumping fill into Turtle Cove in North Palm Beach. As a resident of Old Port Cove I am opposed to this because it is something that is not needed. The cove is in good shape and the project will only ruin it for boaters and others who enjoy it's beauty. It would also have a negative impact on our marina and boaters who use the lake.

At a public meeting last year in the Village of North Palm Beach's village council we were assured by the Army Corp of Engineers representative that the project would be abandoned but now it appears that this is not the case.

Please let me know what I and my neighbors, who also object to this project, can do to make sure that it is truly dropped. Also, if an environmental study was done regarding this project, please let me know where I can see it.

Thank you,

Simon Beachley  
Old Port Cove  
123 Lakeshore Dr # 1044  
North Palm Beach, FL 33408-3603

**From:** [Barbara DePalma](#)  
**To:** [Dunn, Angela E SAJ](#)  
**Subject:** Turtle Cove Project  
**Date:** Saturday, June 01, 2013 7:35:31 PM

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## **Subject: Turtle Cove Project**

We are residents of Old Port Cove and strongly protest the Turtle Cove Project which will diminish so many of the activities that we enjoy in the area. On our daily walks along Lake Worth, we marvel at the pristine water with so much sea life including manatees, dolphins, and a variety of fish. We enjoy all of the boating activity in the lake and cannot imagine the disruption the Turtle Cove Project will cause.

Please reconsider any plans to continue with this project in our lovely area.

Joseph and Barbara DePalma  
Old Port Cove  
North Palm Beach. FL

Sent from my iPad

**From:** [Tom Whyard](#)  
**To:** [Dunn, Angela E SAJ](#); [Steve Wagner](#)  
**Subject:** Turtle Cove Project  
**Date:** Sunday, June 02, 2013 3:41:37 PM

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Dear Ms. Dunn,

I'm writing to protest the Turtle Cove Project. It was my understanding that this project was put on the back burner until further studies could be made concerning the environment and economic impacts.

Please respond as to why this project is moving ahead without further research.

Sincerely,

Thomas E. Whyard  
123 Lakeshore Drive, Apt. 2145  
North Palm Beach, Florida 33408

June 2, 2013

Ms. Angela Dunn  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
PO Box 4970  
Jacksonville, FL 32232-0019

Dear Ms. Dunn,

RE: USACE Draft Integrated Feasibility Report - EIS for LWI, PB Harbor

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has prepared a Draft Integrated Feasibility Report/Environmental Impact Statement ("EIS") dated April 2013 for proposed construction activities at the Port of Palm Beach. The plan promulgated by the Army Corps would deepen and widen the channels within the Port. According to the EIS, the impacts caused by the project would include the loss of both seagrass habitat and hardbottom habitat, for which mitigation is required. The list of potential seagrass mitigation sites includes a portion of Lake Worth Lagoon known as "Turtle Cove."

The purpose of this communication is to register a formal objection to seagrass mitigation activities within Turtle Cove and to request that the Turtle Cove site be removed from the list of potential mitigation sites. Last year, Palm Beach County applied for a permit from the Army Corps to cap approximately forty-two (42) acres of muck sediment with 640,000 cubic yards of sand within Turtle Cove in an effort to create 37.8 acres of seagrass habitat. A large portion of this area is immediately adjacent to two existing communities, Old Port Cove and Twelve Oaks, and one approved (although not yet constructed) multi-family development, the Water Club. In response to strenuous objections from the Village of North Palm Beach and other stakeholders, the County withdrew its permit application and stated this site would no longer be considered for seagrass mitigation activities.

While the seagrass mitigation activities proposed by the Army Corps may not be of the same magnitude as the County's prior application, the proposed project has the same potential for negative impacts to both adjacent properties and the Lagoon itself. Specifically:

- The fill is likely to result in the accumulation of silt adjacent to the docks around the Lagoon, at the entrance to and within the canal leading into Little Lake Worth, and within the marinas and residents at Old Port Cove, Lost Tree Village, Portage Landing and Twelve Oaks (and proposed marina at The Water Club), which lie directly in the path of the tidal flow. Obstructing the entrance to Little Lake Worth could result in a "dead zone" body of water. A prior fill operation near the Monastery property had similar impacts, even though this project was much closer to shore and out of the path of the tidal flow.
- The project could eradicate the existing sea life in the currently pristine Lagoon during the course of the project.
- The project would negatively impact navigation in the area, causing vessel congestion around the perimeter of the project. The project encroaches upon an existing, long-established marked and maintained navigation channel.
- The project would encroach on the riparian rights of surrounding property owners, decrease property values, and negatively impact the surrounding communities, requiring these property owners, including the marinas, to dredge and restore their waterfront.



Given that prior Munyon Island remediation projects have failed to substantially improve the aquatic environment, I am concerned that the proposed seagrass habitat will be neither viable nor nurtured. I do not believe that any potential benefits of the project, if realized, will outweigh the continued viability of Little Lake Worth, the impediments to navigation and the impairment of riparian rights in the general vicinity of the project.

Sincerely yours,

Richard Landon  
115 Lakeshore Drive #1746  
North Palm Beach, Florida 33408

**From:** [Paul Clark](#)  
**To:** [Dunn, Angela E SAJ](#)  
**Subject:** Army Corp of Engineers proposed expansion of the Port of Palm Beach  
**Date:** Sunday, June 02, 2013 5:39:48 PM

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I am opposed to the subject project because of the negative impact it will have on sea life and activities at both the Blue Heron Bridge and Peanut Island. The impacts of turbidity, siltation, blasting and construction equipment associated with the proposed expansion project have not been adequately evaluated in the Draft ACOE Feasibility Report and EIS. All negative impacts resulting must be factored into the overall Port of Palm Beach Expansion assessment and sufficient safeguards put in place to protect against reasonably avoidable harm.

Sincerely,  
Paul Clark, citizen

**From:** [Kevin Bryant](#)  
**To:** [Dunn, Angela E SAJ](#)  
**Subject:** BHB  
**Date:** Sunday, June 02, 2013 11:36:39 AM

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**If you care about Blue Heron Bridge diving and snorkeling your opportunity to comment ends June 3<sup>rd</sup>.  
Email your comments to: [Angela.e.dunn@usace.army.mil](mailto:Angela.e.dunn@usace.army.mil)**

While it saddens me greatly that the port work to be done over the next couple of years will likely end my approximately once-a-month hobby of driving down to West Palm from Savannah to dive the bridge and photograph all the cool creatures who inhabit the dive site, I guess I can't really make a case for the diving hobby to be of more importance than a port. Still makes me sad, though.

Kevin Bryant  
Savannah  
<http://www.flickr.com/photos/mentalblock/sets>

**From:** [John Q. Podesta](#)  
**To:** [Dunn, Angela E SAJ](#)  
**Subject:** Stop The Turtle Cove Project  
**Date:** Sunday, June 02, 2013 3:06:50 PM

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Dear Ms. Dunn,

I would like to add my name to the long list of citizens strongly protesting any advancement or implementation of the project to destroy the ecology of Turtle Cove with sand dumping. It is outrageous that a Federal Agency would deliberately move to destroy an eco system. As a Past President of our local Realtors Association, I know the economy of our community depends on the natural beauty of the Lake Worth Lagoon and Turtle Cove. I too would like a copy of your environmental study. I doubt that it supports your department's decision to have this project almost secretively resurface, after being told at last year's town hearing that it would be dropped. We petition you again to "drop it," and solve your sand dumping needs with an environmentally constructive plan, and not a destructive fiasco to our environment as you propose for Turtle Cove.

John Q. Podesta  
1553 Point Way  
North Palm Beach, FL 33408

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**JOHN Q. PODESTA**  
**561-379-5875**  
Broker Associate,  
UNITED REAL ESTATE, INC.  
[www.johnqpodesta.com](http://www.johnqpodesta.com)

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**From:** [Jenny](#)  
**To:** [Dunn, Angela E SAJ](#)  
**Subject:** Blue Heron Bridge and the Palm Beach Port Expansion  
**Date:** Sunday, June 02, 2013 7:47:10 AM

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Greetings Angela,

My name is Jenny Wuenschel and am an avid diver of Blue Heron Bridge who lives in Hollywood, FL. I have been diving "the bridge" for almost 10 years now and have come to love it as one of my favorite dive sites even though it takes over an hour to get there and there are other sites I can dive closer to home.

I am quite concerned about the impact the Palm Beach Port Expansion is going to have on one of the top 10 "muck dive" sites in the world, as rated by Scuba Diving magazine. The density of the diversity of life is found no where else. On a single dive, one may see a majestic spotted eagle ray or a lumbering manatee while looking for one of the many species of nudibranchs. Batfish, stargazers, blennies, gobies, lancer dragonets, sea robins, jawfish, frogfish, seahorses, and a host of other species call the bridge home. The sandy bottom is truly a "live bottom" something that is not found in the sandy areas off the beach. The County of Palm Beach has invested money and time into developing a snorkel trail, complete with topside signage to encourage and educate persons who visit the area. Scuba divers come from around the world just to dive the bridge. I have dived at the bridge with people from the States, Australia, Japan, Canada, Denmark, and am looking forward to when my future dive buddy from the UAE will be here. REEF, the go to source for critter ID regularly hosts webinars to educate people on fish ID at the bridge.

I am particularly concerned that the suspended sediments from the expansion will make their way to the bridge area and settle, killing most of the animals who currently use the live bottom as home.

Additionally, chemicals and runoff from the project may kill the fish, algae and delicate corals that also call the bridge home.

While I do not know the numbers of the economic impact of losing this cherished dive area, I know I will be saddened by its disappearance, something I fear that will happen without taking into great consideration the port expansion construction impact will do to the area. This area is so delicate with it being so close to large numbers of people, it is already stressed as it is with the runoff from storms. Water samples taken in the area at times will close the bridge for swimming. How much more this area can take is anybody's guess, but it should not have to be a decision that is made.

I am asking you to please please please consider how important the bridge is as a diverse environment when making decisions concerning the expansion. I feel that the expansion will take place (I do not know the status of the development at this point), but I do know that without many safeguards in place, the bridge and its life will be severely impacted.

Thank you very much for your time, it is much appreciated.

Regards,  
Jennifer (Jenny) Wuenschel  
1320 N 73 Way  
Hollywood, FL 33024

**From:** [David Bylcw](#)  
**To:** [Dunn, Angela E SAJ](#)  
**Subject:** Lake Worth Inlet Project  
**Date:** Sunday, June 02, 2013 9:32:25 PM

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Ms. Dunn,

I understand there is a possibility of dumping dredged bottom sediment from the Lake Worth Inlet Project into Little Lake Worth and an area being referred to as "Turtle Cove". These areas should be considered off-limits to any such activity and removed from your list as a possible dumping sites. This area has a vibrant ecosystem currently in place and will be detrimentally impacted by such intrusion.

We live along the shoreline of Little Lake Worth and have much experience with these locations. There have been other public dumping projects in the past that have have damaged the area under the guise of "restoration", which were ill-conceived and have negatively impacted the area. Any additional dumping shall damage the area further.

For example, the area being referred to as "Turtle Cove" has never been called that name. You should refer to all navigable records available and correct this reference because people may be misled into believing that a former turtle habitat existed and can be restored. This area was never a turtle habit. Do not try to replace mother nature ... it never turns out well. The local residents treasure these areas and are in the best position to comment on their health and vitality. Leave them alone!

We will utilize all measures necessary to defend our riparian rights under the law. There are many concerned residents that are now informed of this project and will move forward with a strong objection as a unified group.

Sincerely,

David and Kolleen Bylcw  
11858 Lake Shore Place  
North Palm Beach, FL 33408  
561-573-3752

**From:** [Pecoraro Carol](#)  
**To:** [Dunn, Angela E SAJ](#)  
**Subject:** Turtle Cove, right in front of residents in Old Port Cove, is not suitable for dumping dirt being dredged  
**Date:** Sunday, June 02, 2013 5:26:00 PM

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Dear Ms. Dunn,  
RE: USACE Draft Integrated Feasibility Report - EIS for LWI, PB Harbor

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The purpose of this communication is to register a formal objection to seagrass mitigation activities within Turtle Cove and to request that the Turtle Cove site be removed from the list of potential mitigation sites. Last year, Palm Beach County applied for a permit from the Army Corps to cap approximately forty-two (42) acres of muck sediment with 640,000 cubic yards of sand within Turtle Cove in an effort to create 37.8 acres of seagrass habitat. A large portion of this area is immediately adjacent to two existing communities, Old Port Cove and Twelve Oaks, and one approved (although not yet constructed) multi-family development, the Water Club. In response to strenuous objections from the Village of North Palm Beach and other stakeholders, the County withdrew its permit application and stated this site would no longer be considered for seagrass mitigation activities.

While the seagrass mitigation activities proposed by the Army Corps may not be of the same magnitude as the County's prior application, the proposed project has the same potential for negative impacts to both adjacent properties and the Lagoon itself. Specifically:

- The fill is likely to result in the accumulation of silt adjacent to the docks around the Lagoon, at the entrance to and within the canal leading into Little Lake Worth, and within the marinas and residents at Old Port Cove, Lost Tree Village, Portage Landing and Twelve Oaks (and proposed marina at The Water Club), which lie directly in the path of the tidal flow. Obstructing the entrance to Little Lake Worth could result in a "dead zone" body of water. A prior fill operation near the Monastery property had similar impacts, even though this project was much closer to shore and out of the path of the tidal flow.
- The project could eradicate the existing sea life in the currently pristine Lagoon during the course of the project.
- The project would negatively impact navigation in the area, causing vessel

congestion around the perimeter of the project. The project encroaches upon an existing, long-established marked and maintained navigation channel.

- The project would encroach on the riparian rights of surrounding property owners, decrease property values, and negatively impact the surrounding communities, requiring these property owners, including the marinas, to dredge and restore their waterfront.

Given that prior Munyon Island remediation projects have failed to substantially improve the aquatic environment, I am concerned that the proposed seagrass habitat will be neither viable nor nurtured. I do not believe that any potential benefits of the project, if realized, will outweigh the continued viability of Little Lake Worth, the impediments to navigation and the impairment of riparian rights in the general vicinity of the project.

Sincerely yours,  
Carol A. Pecoraro  
resident of North Palm Beach



**From:** [Robin Martin](#)  
**To:** [Dunn, Angela E SAJ](#)  
**Subject:** Turtle Cove Dredging Project  
**Date:** Sunday, June 02, 2013 10:04:14 PM

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Dear Ms. Dunn,

As a waterfront property owner in the communities of both Seminole Landing and Twelve Oaks, I am writing to you to express my grave concern and disapproval of the Turtle Cove Dredging Project. It is my understanding that the material dredged as a result of this project is proposed to be dumped in the north end of the Lake Worth Lagoon. This area, the north end of Lake Worth, near Old Port Cove, is where my three children and I wakeboard, waterski, etc. literally every weekend. This is one of the last safe and secluded locations where residents can enjoy water sports without concern for the ever increasing boat traffic. If carried out, the Turtle Cove Dredging Project will limit our access to safe waters .

As a local business owner, I completely understand the need to improve the Port and that doing so will benefit all of us economically. However, there must be another solution to handling and disposing of the dredge material other than in Lake Worth. Perhaps the Corps. could pump the material onto the beaches of Singer Island where in certain areas they are in desperate need of replenishing. Whether this is a viable alternative or not, it is my hope that alternative locations for disposing of the dredge material will be considered.

Respectfully,  
Bob Martin

**From:** [Anna DeLoach](#)  
**To:** [Dunn, Angela E SAJ](#)  
**Subject:** Lake Worth Inlet Expansion Proposal  
**Date:** Sunday, June 02, 2013 10:53:31 PM

---

Ms. Angela Dunn  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Planning Division, Environmental Branch  
Jacksonville, Florida 32232

Re: DRAFT INTEGRATED FEASIBILITY REPORT AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT  
LAKE WORTH INLET, PALM BEACH HARBOR PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA  
U S ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, U.S. JACKSONVILLE April 2013

June 2, 2013

I am writing to state my opposition to the proposed expansion of the Port of Palm Beach.

My husband, Ned DeLoach and I spend 4 to 5 months a year diving in tropical destinations around the world, primarily to photograph and catalog marine species for our series of identification books, scuba magazine columns and blogs. Since 2009, we have been diving in the Phil Foster Park on a regular basis and have recorded such rare behavior as spawning Striated Frogfish and species like the blenny, *Labrisomus cricota*, which was only scientifically described in 2002, and then as a Brazilian endemic!

We also serve on the board of The Reef Environmental Education Foundation (REEF), an organization that maintains the world's largest marine life survey database. REEF's volunteer divers have conducted 408 surveys in the park and reported 330 species in 65 families of fishes, for a total of over 530 hours in the water there. This is a wonderfully rich and diverse habitat.

The dive at Phil Foster Park, known as the Blue Heron Bridge dive in the scuba community deserves its reputation as one of the most unique dives in the world. It should be preserved and protected on that basis alone but I also agree with the concerns raised by the Palm Beach Reef Rescue organization about the impact on the scuba, snorkeling and swimming industry in its published comments here: <http://www.scribd.com/doc/144489950/Palm-Beach-County-Reef-Rescue-Port-Comments>

I understand that over the years the port has been deepened and expanded over a half dozen times, but how many more times must we alter habitats and further endanger wildlife? The Army Corps of Engineers mission statement includes the words "environmentally sustainable" and 5 of your 6 operating principles address the environment. Please consider the impact on the environment and have the courage to stop this project.

Yours truly,

Anna DeLoach  
New World Publications  
1861 Cornell Road  
Jacksonville, Florida 32207 USA

**From:** [Whitlock Installations, Inc.](#)  
**To:** [Dunn, Angela E SAJ](#)  
**Subject:** BHBridge  
**Date:** Monday, June 03, 2013 9:28:44 AM

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Plans to dredge and mess up everything for Peanut Island and the diving of the Blue Heron bridge is disgraceful. It would be wonderful for the future children of our area and our grandchildren to be able to enjoy these things, as we did, without them being ruined by another corporation/big business. The negative impacts (on people in the water around that area and for the fish/reefs) should be taken just as seriously as the idea to expand the port..... Anyone involved in this, and not making sure that the negative impacts are zero (or as low as possible), should be ashamed of themselves. Thank you for your time.

**From:** [Villanova](#)  
**To:** [Dunn, Angela E SAJ](#)  
**Subject:** Do no evil  
**Date:** Monday, June 03, 2013 12:17:56 PM

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Ms. Dunn,

Please protect divers and aquatic life. Do no evil.

Very Respectfully,  
Vera Shaw

**From:** [Tim Waldo](#)  
**To:** [Dunn, Angela E SAJ](#)  
**Subject:** Blue Heron Bridge  
**Date:** Monday, June 03, 2013 2:16:06 PM

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Just want to say I'm against the port expansion, I try to dive at BHB as often as possible and the construction would oblivate clear pristine water that BHB has to offer. There are very few places in Florida where you can go diving at such a high quality site without having to go off shore on a boat.

Thank you,

Tim Waldo

**From:** [Calypso Sea](#)  
**To:** [Dunn, Angela E SAJ](#)  
**Subject:** Blue Heron Bridge dive site!  
**Date:** Monday, June 03, 2013 12:28:08 PM

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PLEASE SAVE THIS DIVE SITE!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!! ITS AMAZING AND SO MANY WONDERFUL MARINE CREATURES RESIDE HERE. ITS AN INCREDIBLE EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE FOR PEOPLE FROM AROUND THE GLOBE. ITS ONE OF PBC TREASURES AND NEEDS TO BE PROTECTED. I HAVE SPENT HOURS UPON HOURS UNDERWATER, SHARING THIS LITTLE SLICE OF A MARINE ECOSYSTEM. PEOPLE THAT DONT KNOW AND LEARN ARE AMAZED. LOCAL BUSINESSES NEED THIS PLACE TO REMAIN AS IS TO HELP THE ECONIMICS MAINTAIN FEED THE COMMUNITY. AGAIN, PLEASE SAVE THIS SPECIAL, SPECIAL SITE FROM DESTRUCTION.

Tanya G Burnett  
West Palm Beach ,Florida

**From:** [Tammy Pansa](#)  
**To:** [Dunn, Angela E SAJ](#)  
**Subject:** Dredging at Port of Palm Beach  
**Date:** Monday, June 03, 2013 12:40:44 PM

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Hello, I would like to express my deepest concern for your plan to dredge the Port of Palm Beach Area, and it's negative effect on the local marine life and diving areas including the Blue Heron Bridge Dive site and snorkel trail. The area is a nursery for both marine life and Divers alike. To do such a drastic and long project would negatively affect the area for years to come, along with destroying a natural wonder of the area. If you could determine a 'safe' and less time consign way to get your objective completed it would be nice, but I doubt there is. Please do not damage our Blue Heron Bridge Dive Site, or it's inhabitants!!

Regards,  
Tammy Pansa  
116 N. L St  
Lake Worth, Fl 33460

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Suzan Meldonian](#)  
**To:** [Dunn, Angela E SAJ](#)  
**Subject:** Please review this email regarding dredging project and its effects on local wildlife  
**Date:** Monday, June 03, 2013 1:36:23 AM

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Dear Ms. Dunn,

I just want to ask you to please reconsider or amend the plans for dredging that would greatly impact the Lake Worth Lagoon & most especially the area surrounding Blue Heron Bridge at Phil Foster Park.

As the author of "Under the Bridge," (which is about the Blue Heron Bridge specifically). I am highly qualified and obliged to speak up on behalf of the underwater wildlife nation found at Blue Heron Bridge.

In the world there are but a handful of "muck dives." The Blue Heron Bridge area is the only muck dive site in the United States, joining ranks with places such as Indonesia, Micronesia, and the Philippines, Sipadan, and Borneo. A muck dive is a special area, usually not necessarily a pretty site, but due to its proximity to the Gulfstream Current, we enjoy a vast array of marine life that cannot be seen just anywhere. We've already seen the toll that the Bridge marine life has taken as a result of the bridge repairs for over a year, and also the high levels of fresh water destruction due to opening of the lochs during the Sandy Hurricane.

The Blue Heron Bridge area is a nursery and several hundreds of various species migrations occur here and only here. The Bridge has become quite popular on the international circuit as a "must-see" dive location by the international world, not just locals. A lot of work went into coming up with a game plan to enhance the park into a "Snorkel Trail." We wanted to get this area designated as a marine sanctuary. It took us close to 3 years to get the snorkel park approved. This was a concession to make amends for the damage done by the bridge repair, and to attract new life. It was a step in the right direction for conservation and tourism in one package. It created a balance between divers, swimmers, boaters and fishermen. All was done to attract an even richer marine life population & enrich the tourism experience. The project was extremely successful. Dredging will certainly destroy life there.

I invite you to my website to view the amazing underwater life that can be found there. We've documented over 100 species of nudibranchs, over 700 species of tropical fish, many of which come to the Blue Heron Bridge to spawn. Many local underwater photographers have contributed their images to raise awareness of this little gold mine of activity and rarely seen breeds. All images have been donated to the Florida Museum of Natural History's Ichthyology Dept. <http://www.flmnh.ufl.edu/fish/Gallery/Gallery.htm> as part of a photo documentary, governed by George Burgess, Museum Coordinator.

To Destroy this area any further, whilst it is just beginning to recover from the last 2 issues mentioned, would be *criminal at best*. This dive site ranks #59 in the world. This speaks volumes for such a small area. International photographers- including folks like National Geographic's David Dubilet, Keri Wilk, Andy Salmon, Alex Mustard, the list goes on- have made it a point to include this location in their travels and blogs, news and international websites.

- Dredging effects the area much the same way volcanic ash effects a town at the base of the mountain.
- Dredging will smother marine life.
- Manatees are on the endangered species list, are a protected animal, and this will affect the hundreds of Manatees that reside here. Knowingly causing harm to these animals, is a Federal offense.
- The Army should not be above this law.
- Please consider these factors. What other alternatives and does this have to be done at this inlet?

NiTE Flight Photo Graphics

*Suzan Meldonian*

<http://www.niteflightphoto.com>



**From:** [Gary Kelly](#)  
**To:** [Dunn, Angela E SAJ](#)  
**Subject:** Blue Heron Bridge  
**Date:** Monday, June 03, 2013 12:49:45 PM

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Please do not do anything that would alter the Blue Heron Bridge area. We are avid scuba divers and the sea life that lives there is rarely seen at any other location in Florida. We see seahorses, rare species of seastars, stargazers and so much more. It breaks my heart to think that this destruction is in the works. Please please reconsider.

Susan Kelly  
Chapin, South Carolina  
Scuba Instructor PADI 233977 MSDT



Reply To: West Palm Beach

June 3, 2013

Via Email: [Angela.E.Dunn@usace.army.mil](mailto:Angela.E.Dunn@usace.army.mil)

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

RE: Draft Integrated Feasibility Report and Environmental Impact  
Statement for the Lake Worth Inlet, Palm Beach Harbor,  
Palm Beach County, Florida

Dear Ms. Dunn:

On behalf of Samuel and Diane Bodman, who reside at 11087 Old Harbour Road, North Palm Beach, Florida, please accept this letter of comment on the Draft Integrated Feasibility Report and Environmental Impact Statement for the Lake Worth Inlet, Palm Beach Harbor, Palm Beach County, Florida (hereinafter "Draft EIS").

Preliminarily, Mr. and Mrs. Bodman do not object to the proposed deepening and widening of the Lake Worth Inlet channel to facilitate the operation of the Port of Palm Beach. Rather, Mr. and Mrs. Bodman, whose home is located on Turtle Cove, object to the insufficient analysis of potential seagrass mitigation sites included in the Draft EIS and the inclusion of Turtle Cove and Little Lake Worth as potential locations for seagrass mitigation.

Notwithstanding the fact that the scope and location of mitigation ultimately required for the project will be determined during the state and federal environmental permitting of the project, the included mitigation analysis is insufficient under the requirements of NEPA, which requires the Corps to take a "hard look" at the potential environmental impacts of the proposed action, including any required mitigation. *See, Environmental Defense v. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers*, 515 F. Supp. 2d 69, 77-78, 88 (D.C. 2007) (stating that "[a] reasonably complete discussion of possible mitigation measures is implicitly required....Accurate scientific analysis, expert agency comments, and public scrutiny are essential to implementing NEPA...For this reason, agencies are under an affirmative mandate to insure the professional integrity, including scientific integrity, of the discussions and analyses in environmental impact statements," and

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*See Things Differently*

BRADENTON  
101 Riverfront Boulevard  
Suite 620  
Bradenton, Florida 34205

JACKSONVILLE  
245 Riverside Avenue  
Suite 150  
Jacksonville, Florida 32202

TALLAHASSEE  
315 South Calhoun Street  
Suite 830  
Tallahassee, Florida 32301

WEST PALM BEACH  
515 North Flagler Drive  
Suite 1500  
West Palm Beach, Florida 33401

p | 941-708-4040 • f | 941-708-4024  
00209860-2

p | 904-353-6410 • f | 904-353-7619

p | 850-222-5702 • f | 850-224-9242

p | 561-640-0820 • f | 561-640-8202

finding that the agency's mitigation measures were unsupported by evidence and therefore arbitrary and capricious) (internal punctuation and citations omitted). The Mitigation Plan included as Appendix D, including the Cost Effective Incremental Cost Analysis for Mitigation included as Attachment 4 to Appendix D (hereinafter the "Mitigation Analysis") is simply insufficient under NEPA as discussed below and cannot be used to justify the choice of any site as a preferred mitigation alternative.

The Mitigation Analysis does not provide any information regarding the Corps's choice of potential seagrass mitigation locations or its rejection of others. The Mitigation Analysis merely states that the sites' "suitability is based on correspondence with Palm Beach County, Environmental Resources Management (ERM)." (See page 2 of Attachment 4 to Appendix D). However, the referenced correspondence is not included in the Draft EIS nor is it summarized in the Mitigation Analysis. The only correspondence included in the Draft EIS from ERM is a letter dated January 22, 2008, wherein Mr. Richard Walesky, Director of ERM, states, "[m]itigation for seagrass impacts at the scale being considered will have a poor chance of success in Lake Worth Lagoon." If there is additional, subsequent correspondence that bears on the mitigation options, cost, viability and practicability, it needs to be part of the NEPA document. Without it, the attached ERM correspondence simply does not support the document's conclusion. The Mitigation Analysis also fails to discuss why other sites were not considered as potential mitigation sites by the Corps. For instance, there is no discussion of any potential mitigation option at Snook Island, a County project already in progress in the Lake Worth Lagoon. This lack of data, analysis and discussion as to why the listed mitigation sites were chosen is legally insufficient under the requirements of NEPA and is inadequate to justify the selection of any site as a preferred mitigation alternative.

The Mitigation Analysis also fails to provide a thorough analysis of the direct, indirect and cumulative impacts of constructing seagrass mitigation at each of the listed locations. Rather, the Mitigation Analysis uses the costs associated with, and the size of each potential mitigation site as determinative. Attachment 4 of the Mitigation Analysis specifically states that "the purpose of this CEICA document is to show that multiple mitigation sites were considered, and the sites that were most practical and still cost effective were chosen as the preferred sites." (See page 2 of Attachment 4 to Appendix D). The analysis includes two tables: Table 1, which identifies each seagrass mitigation alternative site, its distance from the project, its cost per acre and the number of acres available; and Table 2, which summarizes the costs associated with implementing seagrass mitigation at the various locations. However, these assumptions of cost are not revealed, discussed, analyzed or verified anywhere in the Draft EIS. Nonetheless, based on these considerations alone, the document concludes that "Turtle Cove is the mitigation site which is currently used in the cost estimate. This is the next most cost effective site, has a closer

Ms. Angela Dunn  
June 3, 2013  
Page 3

distance and can accommodate all mitigation at one site and the county has had high success with seagrass restoration projects around this area.” (See page 6 of Attachment 4 to Appendix D). These statements are simply not supported by any data or analysis in the Draft EIS. Conclusory statements of this nature are insufficient under NEPA and cannot justify the use of Turtle Cove as a preferred mitigation alternative. *See, Sierra Club v. Bosworth*, 352 F. Supp. 2d 909, 927 (D. Minn. 2005) (stating that “conclusory assurances, without support, do not substitute for the analysis provided by an EIS”).

The insufficient analysis of seagrass mitigation is evidenced by the inclusion of Turtle Cove and Little Lake Worth as viable alternative locations. In addition to the numerous environmental and aesthetic bases rendering these sites inappropriate for seagrass mitigation, they can also be ruled out based on the criteria identified in the Mitigation Analysis itself. The Mitigation Analysis states that the final site should “experience a relatively calm but well-circulated tidal current and little or no daily perturbations from boating activities.” Turtle Cove is highly traveled by recreational boaters. In fact, existing marinas can be found at this location. In addition, Little Lake Worth is a relatively isolated waterbody, which draws into question whether the site is well-circulated. Further, while the Corps ruled out Singer Island Seagrass Sanctuary “because it would involve acquisition of privately owned land, which would be cost prohibitive,” the Mitigation Analysis fails to identify the costs associated with impacting private riparian rights in Turtle Cove. (See page 3 of Attachment 4 to Appendix D). None of this information or analysis was included, considered or analyzed in the Mitigation Analysis accompanying the Draft EIS.

In summary, Mr. and Mrs. Bodman urge the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and all cooperating agencies to fully analyze the environmental and economic consequences of the proposed mitigation alternatives included in the Draft EIS. A thorough analysis of these alternatives will clearly demonstrate that Turtle Cove and Little Lake Worth are not suitable for the proposed seagrass mitigation required as a result of the Lake Worth inlet channel dredging project. We appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Draft EIS and request that Mr. and Mrs. Bodman, through my firm, be included in all future notices, public meetings and correspondence regarding the Draft EIS and related mitigation plans.

Very truly yours,



Stephen A. Walker

SAW/lb

**From:** [chefy](#)  
**To:** [Dunn, Angela E SAJ](#)  
**Subject:** Blue Heron Bridge  
**Date:** Monday, June 03, 2013 1:44:46 PM

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I live in Arkansas , and have dreamed of the chance to dive this locale, and now I hear there are potential damaging effects in the works....Please won't the Corp reconsider..

**From:** [sam\\_young](#)  
**To:** [Dunn, Angela E SAJ](#)  
**Subject:** Port of Palm Beach Expansion and impact on the Blue Heron Bridge and Peanut Island  
**Date:** Monday, June 03, 2013 1:24:10 PM

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Dear Ms. Dunn:

I am writing to you to express my deep concern that the proposed expansion of the port will cause on the ecosystem at the Blue Heron Bridge and Peanut Island. This is a major attraction for both residents and tourists and should trump what industry needs in terms of a port expansion.

I am against the port expansion and thank you for your time reading this.

Sam Young.  
Palm Beach County resident and taxpayer.

**From:** [Sam Hodge](#) on behalf of [SFUPS President](#)  
**To:** [Dunn, Angela E SAJ](#)  
**Subject:** Public Comment - Palm Beach Port Expansion  
**Date:** Monday, June 03, 2013 6:58:20 PM

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Ms. Angela E. Dunn:

I'm writing on behalf of the South Florida Underwater Photography Society (SFUPS - [www.sfups.org](http://www.sfups.org)) with significant reservations about the planned dredging to support a port expansion initiative in Palm Beach. I am the President of the SFUPS organization representing over 90 local underwater photographers. Our organization has been around since 1980 and many of our photographers have been at the forefront of underwater photography since the 1960's. You can likely imagine that over the years many of our members have personally witnessed the degradation of our local reefs, marine animal encounters, species diversity, as well as an increase of the turbidity and particle layers of our local waterways and open ocean. The predominant causation over the past decades as evidenced by numerous environmental science studies and frankly our own documented photographic experience has been the mismanaged growth and limited ecological planning that has gone into new development and business expansion to the area. More to the point, we are displacing the species inhabiting our local reefs and waterways that help to maintain a semblance of ecological balance protecting the area from becoming a dead zone due to ill-managed economic development interests.

Local reefs and aquatic zones like the Blue Heron Bridge (BHB) provide enjoyment for millions of locals and tourists annually. Displacing our local species in the name of economic gratification for a small few has an unequal displacement on the many who spend money to enjoy such reef attractions and recreational areas. In the course of your feasibility study it is our hope that you recognize the economic and environmental impact the dredging will have on the millions who seek sanctuary in our local clear waters as well as the marine species that call this place home. Your organization alone has the power and designated authority to play "God" to shape the foreseen future and livelihoods of many people as well as the countless number of local sea creatures that don't have a voice. In past generations we have forced our will on the environment with poorly planned strategies to drain the Everglades, diverting waterways through dredging, and changing the water flow that supported vast ecosystems in our local area. We respect the concept of sustainable development but seek your consideration to truly justify the economic gains with the long-term consequences of displaced species. Assuming our communities core values change to be more ecologically aware we likely would not return to large quantities of marine species that used to call this area home for at least a couple generations. Meanwhile it took us just a few decades to destroy. Unsustainable dredging to the degree being discussed will significantly create a very turbid particulate layer to the water column. Many studies have concluded that depending on the mineral composition it could take significant amounts of time to dissolve or settle to the ocean bottom. If the particulate count is too high resulting conditions are a loss of oxygen in the water with an explosion of algae and phytoplankton that could suffocate the living species in our waters or prevent their local existence.

Relevant to our SFUPS organization many of our members' livelihoods are jeopardized by this large-scale dredging initiative due to the impact on water clarity and the perceptible observations

from our discoveries and observations of marine life behavior in and among this nursery. We have members who have written [books](#) and scientific journals, [articles](#), and [published images](#) on new end evolving species due to this unique nursery habitat around the Blue Heron Bridge. Others also use the area to host [live photography training](#) on most weekends depending on the clarity and visibility of the water. Then there are many more of us who capture images of fish behavior for research and recreational sharing of the unique biodiversity in the area where we could not replicate should conditions degrade due to the impact of dredging projects like the one discussed. In candid terms, it is likely because of our published [photos](#) and [videos](#) that we have contributed to sustainable economic development from [visitors across the globe](#) wanting to witness the biodiversity of the Blue Heron Bridge as a [featured destination](#). Global publications like Sport Diver that reach a world-wide audience have not only published numerous unique images on the Blue Heron Bridge over the years but dedicated entire feature-length articles as evidenced in the [September/October 2010 issue](#).

In closing, we ask that your organization consider the global repercussions the proposed project will have on this irreplaceable UNESCO World Heritage-like habitat. Any action that threatens the health and well-being of species living in or around the Blue Heron Bridge is putting at risk a small wonder of our world found nowhere else in our hemisphere.

Regards,

Sam Hodge  
President – South Florida Underwater Photography Society  
[www.sfups.org](http://www.sfups.org)



Rudy Schupp  
11874 Lakeshore Place  
North Palm Beach, FL 33408

June 3, 2013

**VIA E-Mail**

Ms. Angela Dunn  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
P.O. Box 4970  
Jacksonville, FL 32232-0019

Re: Turtle Cove and Little Lake Worth

Dear Ms. Dunn:

I understand that the Army Corps of Engineers and the Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners through their Department of Environmental Resources Management is once again pursuing the project referred to as Turtle Cove (?) which entails filling some 42 acres of submerged lands in the northern reaches of the Lake Worth Lagoon with muck sediment harvested elsewhere.

Having recreated in this part of the Lake Worth Lagoon since the 1990s and having watched the harmful, unintended impact of a similar project to place fill in front of the North Palm Beach Monastery wall I urge you to decline this permit. The "Monastery" project negatively impacted the fish population, migrated silt into the navigable area known as the Little Lake Worth Bridge and canal, reducing access and recreation. Similar fill work was completed in the Munyon Island area just south of the new proposed fill area and those sands reduced the navigable waters in that area reducing the opportunity for recreation and the ease of navigation. Already the former deeper water fishery in these areas has been compromised by these fill projects.

I am opposed to this project and am available for any discussions where my views would be welcomed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Schupp', written in a cursive style.

Rudy Schupp

**From:** [Robert Myers](#)  
**To:** [Dunn, Angela E SAJ](#)  
**Cc:** [Dan Volker](#)  
**Subject:** Re: ACOE intentional roadblocking of comments to LWL dredging (UNCLASSIFIED)  
**Date:** Monday, June 03, 2013 5:03:41 PM

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Dear Ms Dunn:

I would like to submit the following comments regarding the proposed widening and deepening of the Port of Palm Beach and entrance channel to Lake Worth Lagoon (LWL).

Based on my experience diving the vicinity of Phil Foster Park and the Blue Heron Bridge (BHB) during the past several years, conditions conducive to the health of the lagoon remained terrible throughout the winter and spring of 2013 in comparison to this time period during previous years. Two factors accounted for this: coastal beach renourishment along the coast to the north and south of LWL entrance channel and dredging of the Port of Palm beach to the south and west of Peanut Island.

The area around BHB and Peanut Island is unique to the entire east and Gulf coast of the US by having consistently clear water with visibility up to 60 ft during late flood tides. This has resulted in many coral reef organisms finding protected nursery grounds with many species able to complete their life cycles and reproduce within LWL itself.

The ease of accessibility (safe beach walk-in, not requiring a boat) has made this an important tourist resource for locals as well as visitors from around the world.

A long-term continuous dredging project not only has the potential to destroy benthic marine life but will destroy any budding visitor industry that is based on the marine life inhabiting LWL. Any repeat or worsening of the conditions experienced during the past several months will surely do this.

Furthermore, larger modern cruise ships of the type that will be able to use the future port that use thrusters rather than tugs to dock turn over the soft sediments of every shallow port they enter. These suspended particles will be carried by tidal currents to adjacent areas and smother seagrass beds and coral communities.

I believe the project as planned will definitely harm both the marine life as well as local dive-related visitor industries for the duration of dredging activities. It also has the potential to cause long term or irreversible harm if larger vessels are permitted to enter the port or port visits become more frequent.

**Robert Myers**  
Seaclicks / Coral Graphics  
9273 Silent Oak Circle  
Wellington FL 33411-6634 United States  
954 374-6486

<http://seaclicks.com/>

[robmyers1423@gmail.com](mailto:robmyers1423@gmail.com)

On May 17, 2013, at 12:23 PM, Dunn, Angela E SAJ wrote:

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED  
Caveats: NONE

Mr. Myers,

All comments on the draft Feasibility Report should be sent to me, either at this email address or by mail at the address in my signature block.

The project website is: <http://www.saj.usace.army.mil/Missions/CivilWorks/Navigation/NavigationProjects/LakeWorthInletFeasibilityStudy.aspx>

The web address where we post all of our NEPA documents is as follows and is broken up by county:

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

Please let me know if you need any additional information. We look forward to receiving your comments.

Angela Dunn  
Biologist  
Planning & Policy Division, Environmental Branch  
US Army Corps of Engineers  
P.O.Box 4970  
Jacksonville, Florida 32232-0019  
904.232.2108 (Office)  
904.563.6775 (Blackberry)

*Angie Dunn*  
PPD-ES  
x2108  
(BB) 904.563.6775

---

**From:** Robert Myers [mailto:robmyers1423@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, May 17, 2013 12:08 PM  
**To:** Dunn, Angela E SAJ  
**Subject:** Fwd: ACOE intentional roadblocking of comments to LWL dredging

Please read the message forwarded below. I would like a reasonable way to send my comments to the ACOE regarding the Port of Palm Beach Expansion. Where is there a direct link

for your email address as well as the comment section?

Thank you,

Robert Myers

Seaclicks / Coral Graphics

9273 Silent Oak Circle

Wellington FL 33411-6634 United States

954 374-6486

<http://seaclicks.com/>

[robmyers1423@gmail.com](mailto:robmyers1423@gmail.com)

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Robert Myers <[robmyers1423@gmail.com](mailto:robmyers1423@gmail.com)>

**Date:** May 17, 2013 11:44:09 AM EDT

**To:** Patrice Marker <[patrice.marker@gmail.com](mailto:patrice.marker@gmail.com)>, Sam Hodge  
<[sam@sea2020.com](mailto:sam@sea2020.com)>

**Cc:** Sandra Edwards <[sandra@sfdj.com](mailto:sandra@sfdj.com)>, Anne Dupont  
<[akdupont@bellsouth.net](mailto:akdupont@bellsouth.net)>, Dan Volker <[dan@sfdj.com](mailto:dan@sfdj.com)>, Alyssa  
Dodd <[Adodd@pbcgov.org](mailto:Adodd@pbcgov.org)>, George Burgess  
<[gburgess@flmnh.ufl.edu](mailto:gburgess@flmnh.ufl.edu)>, Stan Mihalecz  
<[stan4630@comcast.net](mailto:stan4630@comcast.net)>, Bill Lipscomb  
<[wrlipscomb@gmail.com](mailto:wrlipscomb@gmail.com)>, Ari Dimitris  
<[escherandme2001@yahoo.com](mailto:escherandme2001@yahoo.com)>

**Subject: ACOE intentional roadblocking of comments to  
LWL dredging**

To all whom this may concern:

Today I tried to post my comments in response to the ACOE environmental impact process for their proposed dredging of the Palm Beach Port and inlet. They have made it impossible. Has anyone tried navigating their way to the ACOE public comment section ....?

The link is buried inside a powerpoint presentation and does not work (it is not a live link), nor can one cut and paste to get to the link because this is the result (please scroll down):

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[NavigationProjects/LakeWorthInletFeasibilityStudy.aspx](http://NavigationProjects/LakeWorthInletFeasibilityStudy.aspx)

It seems that they have intentionally inserted blanks and returns in order to force the user to retype the web address character by character. This is a bald-faced roadblock for all those who wish to make their views known and is in violation of federal law. Is there any organization out there that is willing to take the ACOE to court to ensure that the process is truly open to all stakeholders? I will be sending this email to everyone and every organization I know who has a stake in the inshore and offshore living marine resources of the area. It is our right to have reasonable access to having our voices heard as well as representation

through our elected officials. \$100 million represents a lot of economic development but also hurts other economic interests in the area by adversely impacting living marine resources and all the stake holders who are dependent on them. We have a right to have our voices heard and our interests represented.

Posting a comment on Reef Rescue and social media is preaching to the choir, our voices also need to be heard where they count - the courts, our representatives and at public hearings and forums.

Rob

Robert Myers

Seaclicks / Coral Graphics

9273 Silent Oak Circle

Wellington FL 33411-6634 United States

954 374-6486

<http://seaclicks.com/>

[robmyers1423@gmail.com](mailto:robmyers1423@gmail.com)

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Caveats: NONE

**From:** [Rick Felty](#)  
**To:** [Dunn, Angela E SAJ](#)  
**Subject:** Blue Acheron Bridge  
**Date:** Monday, June 03, 2013 1:51:32 PM

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There should be a moratorium on this the ACE will have a Everlasting impact on the marine life and the environment in which they live. This will end the sea marine life living there, there are hermit crabs, under brands, octopus, barracuda and schools of fish that use this as a spawning area as well as a living habitat. ACE should leave it alone !!

Sent from my iPad

**From:** [Quentin Felty](#)  
**To:** [Dunn, Angela E SAJ](#)  
**Subject:** Blue heron bridge-Phil Foster park diving and. Snorkeling comments  
**Date:** Monday, June 03, 2013 2:53:01 PM

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Dear Angela Dunn,

My name is Quentin Felty and I'm an avid diver and photographer that frequents the Blue Heron Bridge and the reefs of the Palm beaches. I was directed to you based on information I learned from Reef Rescue about a proposed Port of Palm Beach expansion.

What the Blue Heron Bridge brings to the local economy is priceless. As for its role in ecotourism the loss of this natural habitat not worth any financial gains that the port expansion could bring. Many families spend their weekends swimming, fishing, diving, kayaking, paddleboarding, and socializing the water and grounds around Peanut Island and the Blue Heron Bridge for the opportunity to relax with friends and family in the beautiful landscape of nature. Personally I bring my family here to vacation when they visit me from out of state because it has such an amazing biodiversity of wildlife and its a peaceful place.

I've seen ports growing up that looked like dead zones. The smells of a shipyard and the sheen of oil film on top of the water are going to ruin this area for the present and future. Brilliant people can engineer ports and buildings but they can't create what nature has already given to us which is priceless and not worth becoming another cargo port in Florida. What nature has given to us at the Blue Heron Bridge ...many divers who do not live here envy and hope to one day visit. Photos taken have been seen around the world in magazines, books, and family albums and continue to increase its ecotourism value at a time where more and more of Florida's natural habitat is lost to greed.

The silt from the expansion will definitely cover the existing habitat. Many macro organisms live in the flora that we think is just sand like hydra forests, sea grasses, mangroves that will be choked from the cover of silt. Furthermore, the light needed for photosynthesis by these aquatic plants will be reduced kind of like a nuclear winter underwater if the expansion occurs. This place is a nursery and many of the fish who will be negatively impacted will eventually translate to loss of the reefs. Fishing and diving the reefs of palm beach will take significant losses from damage to this habitat.

I also know many of my friends who are scuba instructors and use this area to train and dive when conditions are rough at sea. Public health hazards from increased chemical pollution from shipyards and marinas that go along with the port expansion will not be diluted by the small volume of water that resides in this ecosystem and certainly I would not risk swimming or fishing in waters polluted by those chemicals. Again I've seen ports growing up in a navy family and always remember the impact of the industry of large ships had on the waters.

I hope you understand my concerns and why I believe the Blue Heron Bridge habitat is very special and should be protected. We depend on it for something greater than money...it keeps us connected to our natural world and teaches us to respect her and that we are sharing this planet with many other beings that have lived here much longer than us.

Sincerely  
Quentin Felty

Sent from my iPad



**From:** [rosemary vecchio](#)  
**To:** [Dunn, Angela E SAJ](#)  
**Subject:** Eliminate Turtle Cove Area from List for Potential Mitigation Sites  
**Date:** Monday, June 03, 2013 12:25:44 PM

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Dear Ms. Dunn,  
RE: USACE Draft Integrated Feasibility Report - EIS for LWI, PB Harbor

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has prepared a Draft Integrated Feasibility Report/Environmental Impact Statement ("EIS") dated April 2013 for proposed construction activities at the Port of Palm Beach. The plan promulgated by the Army Corps would deepen and widen the channels within the Port. According to the EIS, the impacts caused by the project would include the loss of both seagrass habitat and hardbottom habitat, for which mitigation is required. The list of potential seagrass mitigation sites includes a portion of Lake Worth Lagoon known as "Turtle Cove."

The purpose of this communication is to register a formal objection to seagrass mitigation activities within Turtle Cove and to request that the Turtle Cove site be removed from the list of potential mitigation sites. Last year, Palm Beach County applied for a permit from the Army Corps to cap approximately forty-two (42) acres of muck sediment with 640,000 cubic yards of sand within Turtle Cove in an effort to create 37.8 acres of seagrass habitat. A large portion of this area is immediately adjacent to two existing communities, Old Port Cove and Twelve Oaks, and one approved (although not yet constructed) multi-family development, the Water Club. In response to strenuous objections from the Village of North Palm Beach and other stakeholders, the County withdrew its permit application and stated this site would no longer be considered for seagrass mitigation activities.

While the seagrass mitigation activities proposed by the Army Corps may not be of the same magnitude as the County's prior application, the proposed project has the same potential for negative impacts to both adjacent properties and the Lagoon itself. Specifically:

The fill is likely to result in the accumulation of silt adjacent to the docks around the Lagoon, at the entrance to and within the canal leading into Little Lake Worth, and within the marinas and residents at Old Port Cove, Lost Tree Village, Portage Landing and Twelve Oaks (and proposed marina at The Water Club), which lie directly in the path of the tidal flow. Obstructing the entrance to Little Lake Worth could result in a "dead zone" body of water. A prior fill operation near the Monastery property had similar impacts, even though this project was much closer to shore and out of the path of the tidal flow.

The project could eradicate the existing sea life in the currently pristine Lagoon during the course of the project.

The project would negatively impact navigation in the area, causing vessel congestion around the perimeter of the project. The project encroaches upon an existing, long-established marked and maintained navigation channel.

The project would encroach on the riparian rights of surrounding

property owners, decrease property values, and negatively impact the surrounding communities, requiring these property owners, including the marinas, to dredge and restore their waterfront.

Given that prior Munyon Island remediation projects have failed to substantially improve the aquatic environment, I am concerned that the proposed seagrass habitat will be neither viable nor nurtured. I do not believe that any potential benefits of the project, if realized, will outweigh the continued viability of Little Lake Worth, the impediments to navigation and the impairment of riparian rights in the general vicinity of the project.

Sincerely yours,

Rosemary Vecchio  
Old Port Cove Resident  
123 Lakeshore Drive  
Apt 1745  
North Palm Beach, FL 33408

**From:** [kaleah37@aol.com](mailto:kaleah37@aol.com)  
**To:** [Dunn, Angela E SAJ](#)  
**Subject:** Blue Heron Bridge  
**Date:** Monday, June 03, 2013 4:28:09 PM

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Please - do not allow any more dredging at the Blue Heron Bridge. This area is unique and the environmental impact will be great if this is allowed.

Thank you!  
Peggy Butler  
1365 Summit Pines Blvd  
West Palm Beach FL 33415

**From:** [Patricia Wuest](#)  
**To:** [Dunn, Angela E SAJ](#)  
**Subject:** Blue Heron Bridge  
**Date:** Monday, June 03, 2013 7:49:43 PM

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Hello Ms. Dunn:

I am very concerned about what impact the Army Corp of Engineers proposed expansion of the Port of Palm Beach will have on Blue Heron Bridge diving. I have enjoyed numerous dives, along with other staff members, and can report that this has become a world-renowned dive site. Underwater photographers come from all over the world to photograph the incredible treasures found here — flying gurnards, frogfish, octopuses and much more. It is so important that Florida protect and retain all its natural treasures. Please consider the thousands of visitors and income generated by this dive site before undertaking any project that would adversely affect the marine life here.

Thank you for considering my comments,  
Patricia Wuest

**patricia wuest**

bonnier corporation

senior editor | *Sport Diver* and *Sport Diver Asia Pacific*

460 north orlando avenue | suite 200 | winter park, florida 32789

407.571.4884 | [patricia.wuest@bonniercorp.com](mailto:patricia.wuest@bonniercorp.com)

**From:** [Norman Gitzen](#)  
**To:** [Dunn, Angela E SAJ](#)  
**Subject:** Port expansion letter  
**Date:** Monday, June 03, 2013 12:33:23 PM

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**Re: DRAFT INTEGRATED FEASIBILITY REPORT AND ENVIRONMENTAL  
IMPACT STATEMENT LAKE WORTH INLET, PALM BEACH HARBOR**

Dear Ms. Dunn,

I am opposed to the Port expansion project because it does not protect the natural and recreational environment at the Blue Heron Bridge and Peanut Island from turbidity, silt accumulation and the impacts from blasting.

The Blue Heron Bridge is considered unique due to its flora and fauna. It attracts underwater photographers and enthusiasts worldwide. It is recognized internationally as an underwater macro-photography mecca due to an abundance of tropical fish, gobies, blennies, squid, rays, seahorses, starfish, octopus, nudibranchs, tunicates, lobster as well as benthic invertebrates and organisms.

The financial impact on Blue Heron Bridge and Peanut Island tourism related expenditures represents a significant contribution to the local economy and its loss is not taken into consideration in the ACOE report.

Very respectfully submitted,

Norman J. Gitzen Jr

**From:** [Me](#)  
**To:** [Dunn, Angela E SAJ](#)  
**Subject:** Blue Heron Bridge  
**Date:** Monday, June 03, 2013 2:07:53 PM

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Please take into consideration the facts involved & impacts you will cause by dredging near the BHB....it is a divers paradise because of all the sea life in that area.Don't destroy our natural habitat....sincerely, Miriam Ruffolo..divemaster

*Sent from my Motorola Smartphone on the Now Network from Sprint!*

**From:** [Mary Frances Emmons](#)  
**To:** [Dunn, Angela E SAJ](#)  
**Subject:** Comment on Blue Heron Bridge  
**Date:** Monday, June 03, 2013 12:31:55 PM

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Hi, Angela. I am the senior editor of *Scuba Diving* magazine; I got your email from the Reef Rescue — Coral Reef Blog.

Most nondivers have no idea what kind of treasure the Blue Heron Bridge dive really is — a world-class dive that ranks with some of the best diving in the world, in places like Indonesia and the Coral Triangle, for seeing exotic miniatures of animals found almost nowhere else in the U.S.

For the sake of all present and future divers, we hope the Army Corps of Engineers will look very closely at the impact on BHB diving from any expansion of the Port of Palm Beach. Blue Heron is a very special place, and we hope that you will recognize that.

--

**Mary Frances Emmons**

Senior Editor

*Scuba Diving* magazine

Bonnier Corporation

460 N. Orlando Ave., Suite 200

Winter Park, FL 32789

Office: 407-571-4531

Mobile: 407-670-9487

[maryfrances.emmons@bonniercorp.com](mailto:maryfrances.emmons@bonniercorp.com)

[scubadiving.com](http://scubadiving.com)

**From:** [Manuel Palachuk](#)  
**To:** [Dunn, Angela E SAJ](#)  
**Subject:** Palm Beach Port Expansion concerns  
**Date:** Monday, June 03, 2013 10:06:45 AM  
**Attachments:** [ATT00006.png](#)  
[ATT00007.png](#)  
[ATT00008.png](#)  
[ATT00009.png](#)  
[ATT00010.png](#)

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Hello Ma'am,

I would like to add my voice to those who have already expressed concerns over the Palm Beach Port expansion and its effect on the eco systems in and around the area.

I see no need to go into great detail as it is my understanding that you have received a letter from the Reef Rescue program outlining the major concerns. If not, I have included below a link to the where it can be viewed online.

To paraphrase: I agree that the EIS should fully assess the impacts from turbidity, siltation and contaminated sediments on flora and fauna and the impact on diving/snorkeling at the world renowned Blue Heron Bridge (BHB).

I simply ask that you take appropriate action as requested.

Thank you.

Re: **Reef Rescue comment letter** can be viewed at: <http://www.scribd.com/doc/144489950/Palm-Beach-County-Reef-Rescue-Port-Comments>

**[Manuel Palachuk](#)**

*The coach that takes you to the gym, not just sends you there!*

Phone: 561.577.1979

[www.ManuelPalachuk.com](http://www.ManuelPalachuk.com)





**From:** [Lureen the Scuba Diving Diva](#)  
**To:** [Dunn, Angela E SAJ](#)  
**Cc:** [Lureen the Scuba](#)  
**Subject:** Comments regarding the proposed expansion at Blue Heron Bridge/Lake Worth Lagoon  
**Date:** Monday, June 03, 2013 6:38:55 PM

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Hi Angela,

I completely oppose the proposal to expand the Palm Beach Port. Half the marine life listed as being impacted is already endangered/threatened. The study doesn't even mention the sea robins - the only place in the world where all 6 sea robins have been seen. Blue Heron Bridge/Lake Worth Lagoon is the only place in the northern Caribbean that I've seen seahorses or frog fish and it is the ONLY place I've ever seen dwarf frog fish.

The frog fish come every year to spawn then disappear again. If we destroy their habitat will their species survive ?

Why do we have laws in place to protect endangered/threatened species then disregard them ? In the name of "progress " ? Why does the port need to be expanded ? Port Everglades and most like the port in Miami can accommodate large ships and they aren't that far away.

We do not NEED a larger port.

Lureen Ferretti

Miracles start to happen when you give as much energy to your dreams as you do your fears.

**From:** [Lazaro Ruda](#)  
**To:** [Dunn, Angela E SAJ](#)  
**Subject:** Palm Beach port expansion comments  
**Date:** Monday, June 03, 2013 8:50:47 AM

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Hello,

I am writing to you today as a concerned citizen of West Palm Beach. It has been recently brought to my attention that plans are being considered for the expansion of the port of Palm Beach, which can have a detrimental effect on the surrounding ecosystems and the livelihood and safety of many people. I have been a citizen of south Florida my entire 39 years of life. I spent my youth enjoying the spectacular marine life of the surrounding Singer Island area including Phil Foster park. I have seen the local natural environment, above and below the sea, evolve with our changes for the better and the worse.

This area has had such a profound effect on me that I decided nine years ago to leave behind a career in computer programming and follow my heart. I decided to become a dive professional and film maker so I could share the wonders of our natural world here in Palm Beach with the entire world. In this short span of time, I have seen the importance of our natural areas to the local tourism. I have traveled throughout the world and I can attest that the marine life around this tiny span of land is some of the richest in the world.

Places like Phil Foster park have reached a worldwide audience. It has been chosen by many dive magazines as one of the greatest dive sites in the world. Every day divers from around the world come to Palm Beach to dive this rich and unique ecosystem. To say a hundred divers visit this dive site on a weekly basis is not an exaggeration. Think of the money this brings to our local economy. My personal business would not exist were it not for this place.

I know the dredging of the port, as stated in your report, would have a devastating effect on this fragile marine ecosystem. Siltation would consume areas of natural topography. Divers will no longer visit this site. Siltation will cut out the light for the different sponges, hydroids, helpful algae, and corals on which the marine life depends. Within a short span of time the important residents of this natural world will die. I have seen it happen before during the hurricanes of 2004 which closed the area for over a year. Ten years later, the area has recovered, but not yet to the point that I experienced before the hurricanes. A lot of passionate work and caring has been done to bring this area back and I feel this huge dredging project will destroy all the time and money invested by so many to bring this amazing dive site to its world class status. This area needs changes to restore the local environment such as the restoration of mangroves and oyster reef restoration, not adding more environmental pressures to an already delicate ecosystem.

As is very apparent during any low tide, what we do within the confines of the Lake Worth inlet spews into our ocean. The area outside the inlet and north across Singer Island is greatly affected. Even the areas of Juno and Jupiter are affected. Underwater, this very apparent plume of nutrients has a very profound effect on the environment already. Harmful algae grow near this area where as spots just south of the inlet have no signs of the algae. Increasing the siltation of this area and disturbing the bottom which contains many years of unhealthy trapped chemicals and nutrients will certainly increase the growth of this and other harmful algae.

The areas just north of the Lake Worth inlet are a very important ecosystem for a number of endangered and protected sea creatures. Sea creatures such as the goliath grouper, who congregate for their annual spawning on the wrecks just north of the Lake Worth inlet, would certainly be affected. The beaches of Singer Island are also a very important area for the endangered sea turtles. The largest congregation of sea turtles are found just offshore of John D. MacArthur Beach State Park. Many sea turtles mate in this shallow water. Just yesterday I saw two pair of green sea turtles mating here within the span of an hour. Research by the scientist at the Loggerhead Marine Life Center will attest to the importance of this area. Siltation can make it difficult for the turtles to locate each other and might deter them from mating or nesting.

Just outside the Lake Worth inlet lives a local resident of Atlantic bottlenose dolphins. These animals depend on the use of their echolocation to find prey. As so many scientific papers have proven, the constant blasting of rock will not only affect their abilities to locate food but can have a severe and detrimental effect on these protected animals.

The Lake Worth lagoon and even Phil Foster park is also an important sanctuary to the endangered manatee. I see them in this area quite frequently throughout the year. I am concerned that the explosives and constant noise produced by the dredging will have a very detrimental effect on the local population of these mammals.

The tourism of Palm Beach depends greatly on our wonderful beaches. Singer Island attracts millions of people every year to enjoy our beaches. The constant siltation of this area will affect our beaches which will hurt the tourism economy. All these and many more causes which we can not even begin to foresee affects the economy and livelihood of the locals including me.

The marine industry and all other industries depend on the local environment which lie in the path of the siltation and dredging that will occur if this project begins. We have seen, to much shame, the ill effects of past dredging projects in the area. I will also add a personal note which affected me during the last dredging project at the Lake Worth inlet. During stormy seas, the vessel "Texas" was haphazardly sitting near the center of the inlet with buoys north of it. The path way it left for a boat to enter was extremely narrow and our dive boat captain, with decades of experience, mentioned it was one of the most dangerous situations he had ever experienced entering the inlet. This narrow inlet can not afford to have a dredge blocking an important navigational area especially with the high amount of boat traffic that occurs on a daily basis. This can have a life threatening effect! As a citizen of Palm Beach, I do not want to see this continue to happen.

**I urge you to reconsider this project and leave the Palm Beach inlet as it is for the sake of the marine life and the people who depend on this very special and fragile environment, as well as the dangers it can impose on human and animal life.**

If you would like to discuss any of the above mentioned concerns in more detail, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards,

Lazaro Ruda  
2936 Lake Shore Dr. #207  
Riviera Beach, FL. 33404  
305.528.3076

Kind regards,

Lazaro Ruda

**From:** [Lauren Young](#)  
**To:** [Dunn, Angela E SAJ](#)  
**Subject:** Port of Palm Beach Expansion  
**Date:** Monday, June 03, 2013 1:56:50 PM

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Dear Ms. Dunn,

I am writing as a life long resident of Palm Beach County to express my grave concerns for the marine life and marine loving citizens who will be impacted by the proposed expansion of the Port of Palm Beach.

Although I understand with progress and growth we must consider updates to infrastructure, this growth must not tamper or threaten what is vital to both residents and visitors to our area which includes healthy reefs, marine life, waters, and continued existing access to recreational areas such as the Blue Heron Bridge and Peanut Island.

Studies of these impacts have not been sufficient and thus the risks can not be shown to be minimal enough to justify moving forward at this time.

I urge you to consider the needs of this area to support our #1 industry, tourism and recreation, by not moving forward with this plan until assurances can be made that fish, reefs, divers, boaters, and beach goers will not only have minimal impacts but continue to thrive with Port growth plans.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Warm Regards,  
Lauren Young (Wellington, FL)

**From:** [Muench, Kristin L.](#)  
**To:** [Dunn, Angela E SAJ](#)  
**Subject:** Blue Heron Bridge diving is amazing!  
**Date:** Monday, June 03, 2013 1:05:59 PM

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Hello,

I was extremely disappointed to hear that the Palm Beach port expansion endangers the diving/snorkeling at Blue Heron Bridge. Although I am not a local, I got my SCUBA certification at that site over Memorial Day weekend, and I am so glad I spent my money there. We chose Blue Heron Bridge specifically because it is one of the best places in the world for shallow water diving, and therefore one of the best places to get a SCUBA certification or snorkel. I returned home prepared to recommend Palm Beach SCUBA certification to all of my friends because we had such a fantastic time.

My understanding is that the Palm Beach port expansion is intended to bring in more tourism income. By endangering this dive site, you will actually undermine this objective. Like me and my friends, many only visit Palm Beach for the diving, and especially for the fantastic, affordable SCUBA certification opportunity. We spent a whole five days in Palm Beach just because we knew we would be doing our SCUBA certification at the reef, and ended up spending a lot of money at local restaurants, stores, and attractions. There are so many wonderful dive sites in the world, but Palm Beach is possibly the best in the United States, and the Blue Heron Bridge (to my knowledge) is the only place where a student can be certified in SCUBA diving, according to the rules and restrictions placed on certification sites by the certification agencies.

I urge you to consider the fiscal damage to your local merchants, both water-oriented and tourism-supporting, that the decision to build the extension will cause. Thank you for your consideration.

Kristin Muench, Research Specialist  
Department of Pediatrics, Emory University  
Marcus Autism Center  
1920 Briarcliff Rd  
Atlanta, GA, 30329  
Tel.:404.785.8928

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**From:** [Kate Wolters](#)  
**To:** [Dunn, Angela E SAJ](#)  
**Subject:** Turtle Cove project  
**Date:** Monday, June 03, 2013 6:05:50 PM

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I am writing to express my concern over dredging plans in the Palm Beach turning basin, and the deposit of the sand in the north end of Lake Worth. I currently own a home on the water in Lost Tree Village that is for sale. Should this process proceed, the value of my home will drop dramatically as the ability to dock and operate a boat at this site is one of it's major selling points. I have just recently purchased a home north of mine, still on Lake Worth where the property value again is compromised. I urge you to re-consider and instead investigate depositing the sand back into the ocean outside of the inlet.

Thank you.

Sincerely,  
Kate Wolters  
11185 Old Harbour Road  
North Palm Beach, FL 33408

--

**From:** [Joseph Vecchio](#)  
**To:** [Dunn, Angela E SAJ](#)  
**Subject:** Eliminate TurtleCove as a potential mitigation site  
**Date:** Monday, June 03, 2013 3:24:36 PM

---

Dear Ms. Dunn,  
RE: USACE Draft Integrated Feasibility Report - EIS for LWI, PB Harbor

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has prepared a Draft Integrated Feasibility Report/Environmental Impact Statement ("EIS") dated April 2013 for proposed construction activities at the Port of Palm Beach. The plan promulgated by the Army Corps would deepen and widen the channels within the Port. According to the EIS, the impacts caused by the project would include the loss of both seagrass habitat and hardbottom habitat, for which mitigation is required. The list of potential seagrass mitigation sites includes a portion of Lake Worth Lagoon known as "Turtle Cove."

The purpose of this communication is to register a formal objection to seagrass mitigation activities within Turtle Cove and to request that the Turtle Cove site be removed from the list of potential mitigation sites. Last year, Palm Beach County applied for a permit from the Army Corps to cap approximately forty-two (42) acres of muck sediment with 640,000 cubic yards of sand within Turtle Cove in an effort to create 37.8 acres of seagrass habitat. A large portion of this area is immediately adjacent to two existing communities, Old Port Cove and Twelve Oaks, and one approved (although not yet constructed) multi-family development, the Water Club. In response to strenuous objections from the Village of North Palm Beach and other stakeholders, the County withdrew its permit application and stated this site would no longer be considered for seagrass mitigation activities.

While the seagrass mitigation activities proposed by the Army Corps may not be of the same magnitude as the County's prior application, the proposed project has the same potential for negative impacts to both adjacent properties and the Lagoon itself. Specifically:

- The fill is likely to result in the accumulation of silt adjacent to the docks around the Lagoon, at the entrance to and within the canal leading into Little Lake Worth, and within the marinas and residents at Old Port Cove, Lost Tree Village, Portage Landing and Twelve Oaks (and proposed marina at The Water Club), which lie directly in the path of the tidal flow. Obstructing the entrance to Little Lake Worth could result in a "dead zone" body of water. A prior fill operation near the Monastery property had similar impacts, even though this project was



much closer to shore and out of the path of the tidal flow.

- The project could eradicate the existing sea life in the currently pristine Lagoon during the course of the project.
- The project would negatively impact navigation in the area, causing vessel congestion around the perimeter of the project. The project encroaches upon an existing, long-established marked and maintained navigation channel.
- The project would encroach on the riparian rights of surrounding property owners, decrease property values, and negatively impact the surrounding communities, requiring these property owners, including the marinas, to dredge and restore their waterfront.

Given that prior Munyon Island remediation projects have failed to substantially improve the aquatic environment, I am concerned that the proposed seagrass habitat will be neither viable nor nurtured. I do not believe that any potential benefits of the project, if realized, will outweigh the continued viability of Little Lake Worth, the impediments to navigation and the impairment of riparian rights in the general vicinity of the project.

Sincerely yours,

JOSEPH VECCHIO  
OLD PORT COVE  
123 Lakeshore Drive  
Apt. 1745  
North Palm Beach, FL 33408

**From:** [James Weller](#)  
**To:** [Dunn, Angela E SAJ](#)  
**Subject:** Palm Beach Port Expansion  
**Date:** Monday, June 03, 2013 8:50:07 AM

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My name is Jim Weller. I live in Vero Beach, FL and spend my free time diving and teaching Scuba Diving under the Blue Heron Bridge and on the reefs off of Palm Beach.

I believe that the Palm Beach Port Expansion project will be detrimental to the diverse and delicate Eco system and to the economy. This ecosystem is one of a kind. The slightest change in conditions may send it over the edge never to return. The Blue Heron Bridge Dive site has gained worldwide recognition for being so diverse and special.

The economy is already bad enough. By proceeding with this project, the sites we use to teach and to make and income will be affected to where we can't use them, and know one has any idea what will happen to the reefs outside of the inlet. There has been enough damage from dredging cables.

I say no to the Palm Beach Port Expansion Project.

Best Regards,

Jim Weller

**From:** [Jennifer](#)  
**To:** [Dunn, Angela E SAJ](#)  
**Subject:** Blue Heron Bridge  
**Date:** Monday, June 03, 2013 12:43:13 PM

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I fully support and back the concerns that Reef Rescue and other environmental agencies have regarding the expansion of the Port. The area is a great aquatic destination and needs to be preserved for enjoyment and the economy in our area. Every step must be taken to preserve this area prior, during and after the proposed project. Unrealized negative consequences will have permanent effects and cannot be overlooked. This area is too precious and vital to our community!

Sincerely concerned,  
Jennifer Berman

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Jeff Trotta](#)  
**To:** [Dunn, Angela E SAJ](#)  
**Subject:** Blue Heron Bridge - Peanut Island  
**Date:** Monday, June 03, 2013 7:47:49 AM

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Dear Ms. Dunn

Please give all due consideration to the objections given by Reef Rescue to the impact to the underwater habitat from the dredging of the Port of Palm Beach.

I have been a frequent SCUBA diver in this part of Palm beach county for more than 40 years. The Blue Heron Bridge dive site is an irreplaceable treasure and is a great asset for tourism in the county.

Our concerns regarding the upcoming project can be found here  
<http://www.scribd.com/doc/144489950/Palm-Beach-County-Reef-Rescue-Port-Comments>

Sincerely,

Jeffery Trotta & Dr. Roseanne Belsito

**From:** [Jeff Kainec](#)  
**To:** [Dunn, Angela E SAJ](#)  
**Subject:** Port expansion  
**Date:** Monday, June 03, 2013 12:30:32 PM

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Please take into consideration the whole picture before expansion takes place. The expansion will essentially kill all sea life in the area as well as adversely affect birds and other animal life that feed on the sea life. Not to mention the large amount of money brought in every weekend for small businesses by people visiting peanut island would dry up. It seems the expansion of a less popular area for both sea life and people should be considered as a viable alternative.

Thanks for you time,  
Jeff Kainec

Sent from my iPad

**J. BARRY CURTIN, P.A.**

COUNSELOR AT LAW  
214 BRAZILIAN AVE. SUITE 200  
PALM BEACH, FL 33480  
(561) 301-6419

DATE: June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2013

TO: Ms. Angela Dunn  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
P.O. Box 4970  
Jacksonville, FL 32232-0019

RE: Comments in response to Lake Worth Inlet Dredging Project  
Impact on adjoining south side properties including  
179 East Inlet Drive, Palm Beach, FL 33480

Have you modeled the Hurricane storm and sub-hurricane storm conditions sufficiently at the Palm Beach Inlet in order to eliminate or rule out that this dredging project will not increase the damage occurring to the adjacent properties bordering on the inlet on the Palm Beach side of the inner and outer channel?

Should these storm impacts at the inlet be evaluated through modeling more thoroughly under varying storm driven tidal surge and wind conditions in order to more precisely identify what added damage, if any, is likely to occur to these shore-facing properties at the Inlet. Many of these properties sustained substantial damage as a result of the tidal surge and the wind coming through the inlet during the two recent hurricanes of September 2004. These storms destroyed many docks at the Inlet, damaged and undermined the structural integrity of the seawalls of homes fronting the inlet which, in turn, resulted in substantial loss of upland ground for these properties through leaks which the storms created in the seawalls. This caused homeowners bordering the inlet to experience foundation problems to their homes. These storm damages required some homeowners bordering the inlet to inject cement and other materials into the ground to reestablish their foundations and to install new fill materials in order to replenish what was lost from leaching through the seawalls. Additionally many seawalls had to be repaired or reinstalled at a considerable cost to these homeowners because much of this damage repair work was not covered by the homeowners insurance.

Increasing the width and depth of the inner channel, as proposed in the impact study, will substantially increase the volume of water flowing through the channel during storms coming from the east off the Atlantic Ocean. This increased volume of water will in all

likelihood significantly damage the seawalls, docks and underwater structures of the residential properties located on the south side of the Inlet. This potential for damage from the increased volume of water flowing through the Inlet is substantiated by your study proposing to install a 63 ft. sheet metal plate along the north Jetty wall of the Inlet. (see sections 3.11 and 4.1 of EIS) This steel plate installation on the north Jetty of the Inlet confirms that widening and deepening of the inlet has a significant impact on these adjacent seawalls. This in turn raises the question whether or not your modeling study has sufficiently accounted for the impacts a storm could have on seawalls, docks and underwater structures affronting of the properties bordering the inlet on the South or Palm Beach side of the Inlet. As previously referenced, these properties received substantial damage in 2004 from the two hurricanes that occurred in September of 2004 and the causes of these damages need to be thoroughly evaluated so that these properties are protected from any additional damage exposure occasioned by the increased flow of water through the inlet which your dredging project will most likely produce.

Additionally, my client at 179 East Inlet Drive objects to the need for blasting as a construction technique at the Inlet. There are less invasive and less dangerous ways of removing the materials needed to deepen the channels. These non-blasting options should be adopted in order to preserve the tranquility of the Inlet residences.

Sincerely yours,



J. Barry Curtin, P.A.

**From:** [Jason Pilalas](#)  
**To:** [Dunn, Angela E SAJ](#)  
**Cc:** [Charles C. Isiminger](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Lake Worth Inlet Draft Integrated Feasibility Report and EIS (UNCLASSIFIED)  
**Date:** Monday, June 03, 2013 10:16:26 AM

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Dear Ms. Dunn:

My name is Jason M. Pilalas and my wife and I reside at 1923 Portage Landing South, North Palm Beach. Our property is on the shore of Lake Worth facing south. We purchased it in September 2007 because it was the only available parcel we found on North Lake Worth with a CoE approved dock which extended into deep water to accommodate our 145' motor yacht. The price we paid reflected that ability and uniqueness. We subsequently applied for and received CoE approval for a dock extension, which was completed before the dock/yacht's first use. Is it customary for a subsequent approval to conflict with a prior one, such as would seem to be the case with the proposed in-fill of the north end of the lake directly in front of our property? In such a case, what compensation does the CoE offer or are other applying parties liable for? In my view, a restriction on the ability to dock a large yacht where no restriction now exists would substantially reduce the property's value, and I would look to any and all parties involved for reimbursement, and also for a reduction in property tax liability.

Kindly acknowledge receipt of this notice.

Sincerely,

Jason M. Pilalas

Sent from my iPad

On Jun 3, 2013, at 1:17 PM, "Dunn, Angela E SAJ" <Angela.E.Dunn@usace.army.mil> wrote:

> Classification: UNCLASSIFIED  
> Caveats: NONE  
>  
> Thank you for your interest in this project. Your comments will be considered and included in the final Feasibility Report and Environmental Impact Statement. The Lake Worth Inlet Feasibility project team is currently reviewing all comments received and will revise the final report as appropriate. I have also included the above email addresses in our Lake Worth Inlet contact list and you will receive future updates on the project by email.  
>  
> Thank you again for your comments.  
>  
> Angela Dunn  
> Biologist  
> Planning & Policy Division, Environmental Branch  
> US Army Corps of Engineers  
> P.O.Box 4970  
> Jacksonville, Florida 32232-0019  
> 904.232.2108 (Office)  
> 904.563.6775 (Blackberry)  
>  
> -----Original Message-----  
> From: Charles C. Isiminger [<mailto:cisiminger@coastal-engineers.com>]  
> Sent: Friday, May 31, 2013 3:30 PM  
> To: Dunn, Angela E SAJ  
> Cc: Richard Morgan (morganr@gate.net); 'rvail@kolter.com'; 'John Kosak (jkosak@cpprov.org)' (jkosak@cpprov.org); Jason Pilalas (jasonpilalas@earthlink.net); jandrpilalas@earthlink.net; 'jim@jjproduce.com' (jim@jjproduce.com); Isurchik@wmiteam.com; DOMERIC PAPARONE (paparonehomes@gmail.com); DOMENICK PAPARONE (Paphomes@aol.com)



> Subject: Lake Worth Inlet Draft Integrated Feasibility Report and EIS  
>  
> Ms. Dunn,  
>  
>  
> Please accept the attached letter with attachments as Public Comments on the Corp's Draft Feasibility Report and Environmental Impact Statement for the Lake Worth Inlet project. The comments are being filed on behalf of the parties listed in the letter.  
>  
>  
> Please let us know if you need further information. Thank you.  
>  
>  
> Charlie  
>  
>  
> Isiminger & Stubbs Engineering, Inc.  
>  
> 649 U.S. Hwy 1, Suite 9  
>  
> North Palm Beach, FL 33408  
>  
> Office: (561) 881-0003  
>  
> Fax: (561) 881-8123  
>  
> Email: [cisiminger@coastal-engineers.com](mailto:cisiminger@coastal-engineers.com)  
>  
>  
> Attention:  
>  
> This email and any files transmitted with it from Isiminger & Stubbs Engineering, Inc. are confidential and intended solely for use of the individual or entity to whom they are addressed. If you have received this email in error, please immediately notify the sender.  
>  
>  
> Classification: UNCLASSIFIED  
> Caveats: NONE  
>  
>

**From:** [Jason Mauricio](#)  
**To:** [Dunn, Angela E SAJ](#)  
**Subject:** Blue Heron Bridge & Proposed Palm Beach Port Expansion  
**Date:** Monday, June 03, 2013 5:55:22 PM

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Hi Angela,

I'm writing today about doing everything possible to protect the Blue Heron Bridge dive site.

This site is regularly cited as one of the top 10 diving destinations in America and has established itself as THE top shore dive in the US.

its not the for the trash or rocks! But the incredible diversity of wild life that occupy the area, everything from Octopi to jawfish, Seahorses to even the very rare/endangered guitar-fish (which I had the pleasure to see the last time I drove there). There are even species that are only also found in the indo pacific regions and no where else! Its a shame that more people do not know about what Blue Heron Bridge offers. It truly is a special place.

I live in Miami and make it a point to dive there every few months. During my visits, i've encountered regular locals as well as divers a far a field as Russia. No doubt adding to the local economy.

I'm sure you've heard from others. I just want to add my 2 cents. The area is special. It deserves protection

attached are a few images that I have taken there. Once this is destroyed, there is no going back.

Very best Regards

Jason Mauricio





**From:** [Jack Purcell](#)  
**To:** [Dunn, Angela E SAJ](#)  
**Cc:** [SHERYL Purcell](#)  
**Subject:** Dumping Fill From Dredging Of Palm Beach Inlet  
**Date:** Monday, June 03, 2013 10:04:32 AM

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Dear Ms. Dunn:

As the owner of two properties on the water in Seminole Landing, North Palm Beach, my wife and I respectfully object to the ACE plan to dump fill from the dredging of the Palm Beach inlet in the Turtle Cove Area near the North End of Lake Worth Creek.

Such dumping in that area will destroy sea life, hamper navigation, diminish property values near the lake, and destroy the recreational use of this beautiful and pristine body of water.

We urge the Corps to reconsider its Plan and find a more suitable location to dump the fill.

Respectfully Submitted,

John R Purcell

--

Jack Purcell  
14155 US Highway One  
Juno Beach, FL 33408  
P-[561-622-2000](tel:561-622-2000)  
F-[561-622-1233](tel:561-622-1233)  
C-[561-762-3865](tel:561-762-3865)

**From:** [Dive master Harland](#)  
**To:** [Dunn, Angela E SAJ](#)  
**Subject:** Blue Herron bridge  
**Date:** Monday, June 03, 2013 9:19:09 PM

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Please don't screw up a world famous dive site that has been in many dive magazines, hence famous with a bridge that'll probably get washed away in a hurricane anyways, and draws many tourists from all points of the globe. Thanks for your time.

Sincerely, Divemaster Harland Hoffman  
PADI certified divemaster # 287649

Sent from Yahoo! Mail on Android

**From:** [Reef Rescue](#)  
**To:** [Dunn, Angela E SAJ](#)  
**Subject:** DRAFT INTEGRATED FEASIBILITY REPORT AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT LAKE WORTH INLET,  
PALM BEACH HARBOR  
**Date:** Monday, June 03, 2013 7:37:51 AM

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On Saturday I was snorkeling at Peanut Island and observed several juvenile Queen Conch. This is a protected species and is not mentioned in the above referenced ACOE document. The protection and conservation of the Queen Conch must be addressed prior to approval of this proposed project.

Ed Tichenor

1513 SW 8th Ave.

Boynton Beach, FL 33426

**From:** [Diane Randolph](#)  
**To:** [Dunn, Angela E SAJ](#)  
**Subject:** Corp of Engineers proposed expansion of the Port of Palm Beach  
**Date:** Monday, June 03, 2013 6:50:54 PM

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Ms. Angela Dunn  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Planning Division, Environmental Branch  
P.O. Box 4970  
Jacksonville, Florida 32232-0019  
Phone: (904) 232-2108  
Email: [Angela.E.Dunn@usace.army.mil](mailto:Angela.E.Dunn@usace.army.mil)

Dear Ms Dunn,

Please reconsider proceeding with the proposed expansion of the Port of Palm Beach until further research has been done to fully asses the impact that this will have on the surrounding areas and sea life.

The area around Peanut Island and Phil Foster Park is a very unique habitat with many delicate marine animals that will not withstand the amount of silt, reduced water quality and possible debris that this expansion will generate.

Even with the recent dredging there have been significant impacts. With no time to recover and with this project expected to be executed 24/7 for 2 years I believe the results for this delicate habitat will be catastrophic. Not to mention how it will impact the marine mammals, sea grass and sawfish populations out on the reef.

Most of the bottom of the Lake Worth Lagoon is made up of fine sand and rubble much like other locations in the state. The uniqueness comes from the close proximity to the inlet which brings in not only fresh nutrient rich water but settling fish and invertebrates from out on the reefs. This area is a huge nursery where most of the marine animals come to mate, lay eggs, release fry, and build homes and they have been doing this for over 60 years. We have seen everything from large Goliath Groupers down to small delicate Amphipods, Nudibranch's and filter feeders. The delicate sponges, sea turtle grass, and corals will be impacted immediately and will die off in just a short amount of time with no fresh seawater. The silt will choke the life out of the surrounding area and literally make Phil Foster Park a waste land.

In addition to the impact on the sea life there is also the impact on the economy in Palm Beach County. The Blue Heron Bridge is world renowned for it's diving and people fly from all over the world just to visit this unique location. The reason they do this is that there isn't another place like the Blue Heron Bridge in the US and very few outside of it.



It would be a true tragedy to destroy this wonderful ecosystem, especially as we have other deep water ports close by.

Respectfully,

Diane Randolph

West Palm Beach, Florida

**From:** [Deborah Wiles](#)  
**To:** [Dunn, Angela E SAJ](#)  
**Subject:** Blue Heron Bridge Project  
**Date:** Monday, June 03, 2013 11:59:55 AM

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Angela,

What is wrong with human beings? They seem to want to ruin everything for the sake of money. I am a scuba diver and just found out about the incredible diving at Blue Heron. Decided to put it in my bucket list, but now seems I'll have to dump that one. I want someone to know I don't want this destruction to occur. I think humans need to realize they are not the only ones occupying this planet, and just because they can, doesn't mean they have the right to destroy it little by little, because that's what's happening. Lately, I'm embarrassed to be among the human race. I know this will not help, but I wanted someone to hear my opinion, and one more thing...shame on the people who want to spoil nature!

Truly Sincerely,

Deborah Wiles

56 Pottle Rd

Oxford, Maine 04270

**From:** [Martha Zill](#)  
**To:** [Dunn, Angela E SAJ](#)  
**Subject:** comment on ACOE Port expansion EIS  
**Date:** Monday, June 03, 2013 6:28:51 AM

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I snorkel in the Blue Heron Bridge, Munyon Island and Peanut Island area and have noticed many juvenile Queen Conchs. I reviewed the ACOE Port expansion EIS and found no reference to this protected species. Please address what impact this project will have on the resident Queen Conch population. Sincerely,  
Cookie Zill

**From:** [Christopher Karch](#)  
**To:** [Dunn, Angela E SAJ](#)  
**Cc:** [rick.scott@eog.myflorida.com](mailto:rick.scott@eog.myflorida.com); [Jeff.Atwater@MyFloridaCFO.com](mailto:Jeff.Atwater@MyFloridaCFO.com); [pam.bondi@myfloridalegal.com](mailto:pam.bondi@myfloridalegal.com); [matt.leopold@dep.state.fl.us](mailto:matt.leopold@dep.state.fl.us); [herschel.vinyard@dep.state.fl.us](mailto:herschel.vinyard@dep.state.fl.us); [rick.scott@gov.myflorida.com](mailto:rick.scott@gov.myflorida.com); [adam.putnam@freshfromflorida.com](mailto:adam.putnam@freshfromflorida.com); [karl.rasmussen@eog.myflorida.com](mailto:karl.rasmussen@eog.myflorida.com); [HValeche@pbcgov.org](mailto:HValeche@pbcgov.org); [Robert Robbins](#); [Christopher Karch](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Attachment 3 and 4 to the Draft EIS Lake Worth Inlet (UNCLASSIFIED)  
**Date:** Monday, June 03, 2013 1:47:24 PM  
**Attachments:** [ACOE Angela Dunn LW Inlet Project Opposition Letter.pdf](#)

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Good afternoon Angela:

Please see the attached letter for your consideration and response. Thank you. We look forward to hearing from the ACOE further on this project.

Warm Regards,

Christopher Karch, PE - President

Christopher Karch & Associates, Inc.  
Old Port Cove  
1208 US Highway One, Suite C  
North Palm Beach, FL 33408

Phone: (561) 686-5577  
Fax: (561) 686-5266  
DIRECT Email: [chris@cka-inc.com](mailto:chris@cka-inc.com)

-----Original Message-----

From: Dunn, Angela E SAJ [<mailto:Angela.E.Dunn@usace.army.mil>]  
Sent: Thursday, May 30, 2013 2:40 PM  
To: Christopher Karch  
Subject: RE: Attachment 3 and 4 to the Draft EIS Lake Worth Inlet (UNCLASSIFIED)

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED  
Caveats: NONE

Mr. Karch,

The Lake Worth Inlet/Palm Beach Harbor project webpage is:  
<http://www.saj.usace.army.mil/Missions/CivilWorks/Navigation/NavigationProjects/LakeWorthInletFeasibilityStudy.aspx>

The entire report can be found at:  
[http://www.saj.usace.army.mil/About/DivisionsOffices/Planning/EnvironmentalBranch/EnvironmentalDocuments.aspx#Palm\\_Beach](http://www.saj.usace.army.mil/About/DivisionsOffices/Planning/EnvironmentalBranch/EnvironmentalDocuments.aspx#Palm_Beach)

Attachments 3 and 4 can be found in the Appendix link titled "D through G, other"

There has been some confusion from stakeholders recently and I offer the following to aid in preparing your comments (due by close of business 6/3/13).

-----  
Public review on the Draft Feasibility Report and Environmental Impact Statement for Lake Worth Inlet/Palm Beach Harbor began April 19 and concludes June 3. Upon conclusion of the public comment period on June 3,

the project team will review all comments received, evaluate the comments, and make changes to the final report as appropriate.

The Lake Worth Inlet Feasibility Study proposes to deepen and widen the Federal channel from Lake Worth Inlet to the Port of Palm Beach. The attached graphic (.pdf in email) shows the footprint of the proposed project. Impacts to seagrasses and hardbottom resources are anticipated and as such, mitigation for these impacts is required. The Corps is currently consulting with various resource agencies to determine the appropriate level of mitigation required for the project.

Little Lake Worth and Turtle Cove are two of ten proposed locations for sea grass (and hardbottom) mitigation due to impacts of the proposed widening and deepening of the Port. Dredging of Turtle Cove is neither part of the proposed project nor part of the mitigation plan. The mitigation plan is discussed in Appendix D of the draft report. The report can be found online at:

[http://www.saj.usace.army.mil/About/DivisionsOffices/Planning/EnvironmentalBranch/EnvironmentalDocuments.aspx#Palm\\_Beach](http://www.saj.usace.army.mil/About/DivisionsOffices/Planning/EnvironmentalBranch/EnvironmentalDocuments.aspx#Palm_Beach)

Creation of seagrass sites have been shown to improve sediment stability, enhance foraging habitat for numerous species of fish and other marine animals including manatees and provides nursery grounds for many species of shrimp and fish. Seagrass beds improve water quality from the uptake of nutrients in the water column and trapping fine sediments.

The Corps is currently coordinating with the resource agencies for our mitigation plan and locations for both sea grass and hardbottom mitigation have not been finalized. Concerns over the use of Little Lake Worth, Turtle Cove, or other proposed locations for mitigation will be considered and shared with Florida Department of Environmental Protection and the National Marine Fisheries Service during coordination of mitigation requirements.

-----

Angela Dunn  
Biologist  
Planning & Policy Division, Environmental Branch US Army Corps of Engineers  
P.O.Box 4970 Jacksonville, Florida 32232-0019  
904.232.2108 (Office)  
904.563.6775 (Blackberry)

-----Original Message-----

From: Christopher Karch [<mailto:chris@cka-inc.com>]  
Sent: Thursday, May 30, 2013 2:03 PM  
To: Dunn, Angela E SAJ  
Cc: Christopher Karch  
Subject: Attachment 3 and 4 to the Draft EIS Lake Worth Inlet

Hello Angela:

We have an enormous wave of objection coming from our community over the referenced project. I have reviewed the study ([http://www.saj.usace.army.mil/Portals/44/docs/Planning/EnvironmentalBranch/EnvironmentalDocs/LWI\\_01\\_Draft%20Feasibility\\_EIS\\_April\\_2013.pdf](http://www.saj.usace.army.mil/Portals/44/docs/Planning/EnvironmentalBranch/EnvironmentalDocs/LWI_01_Draft%20Feasibility_EIS_April_2013.pdf)) that also refers to the referenced attachments, but those attachments are not embedded within the study. Can you please send me these attachments and any other information/planning that you have regarding the proposed mitigation for

this project? I will be submitting an objection letter to you and am working on that now. Can you please confirm what the deadline is for that as well?

Thank you very much Angela.

Warm Regards,

Christopher Karch, PE - President

Christopher Karch & Associates, Inc.

Old Port Cove

1208 US Highway One, Suite C

North Palm Beach, FL 33408

Phone: (561) 686-5577

Fax: (561) 686-5266

DIRECT Email: [chris@cka-inc.com](mailto:chris@cka-inc.com)

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Caveats: NONE

# CKA

---

## CHRISTOPHER KARCH & ASSOCIATES, INC.

Old Port Cove  
1208 US Highway One, Suite C  
North Palm Beach, FL 33408

Telephone: (561) 686-5577  
Fax: (561) 686-5266  
Email: chris@cka-inc.com

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ENVIRONMENTAL / CIVIL CONSULTING ENGINEERING  
WATER & WASTEWATER  
PROCESS MECHANICAL  
CUSTOM EQUIPMENT  
CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT

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ATTN: Angela Dunn, Biologist  
Planning & Policy Division, Environmental Branch  
US Army Corps of Engineers  
PO Box 4970  
Jacksonville, FL 32232-0019

Ref: Lake Worth Inlet Widening/Deepening Project  
Letter of Objection

June 3, 2013

Dear Ms. Dunn:

Pursuant to our recent email transmission of May 30<sup>th</sup>, 2013, I am formally submitting to you my objections to the referenced project and the reasons for that objection herein.

As a current waterfront homeowner in Hidden Key, the property which resides in Holmes Harbor off of Little Lake Worth, and being an owner of that property since the late 1960's, I am submitting these objections to this project being intimately knowledgeable to this area and its marine life.

To begin, it is imperative to note that this project, and the mitigation proposed with the project, was the subject of severe and intense scrutiny and public outcry in the first quarter of last year. The project was presented by the Palm Beach County ERM dept. and was not properly publicly noticed, which raised the ire of many, if not all stakeholders. We were told then that the sites considered for spoil deposition related to this project were NOT mitigation sites and were only candidates for the deposition of spoil. Moreover, the sites for Turtle Cove and Little Lake Worth for the deposition of spoil were shelved due to the overwhelming public objection and that any further notice, information, planning, design, etc. would be expeditiously sent to all the stakeholders for input. All contact information for stakeholders was provided at that meeting, which was finally held at the North County Public Library off of PGA Blvd. This ACOE project appears to be a "transfer" of ownership of the project and zero notice has been given to the stakeholders. We once again have been put in a position of last minute notice for comment and/or objection to the project. The fact that one agency inherits a project from another, does not relieve that agency to properly notice the stakeholders in accord with that which was previously advised by the original agency. Also, it is imperative to note at this point that the subsequent inclusion of Turtle Cove and Little Lake Worth as mitigation sites is unacceptable after receiving information that these sites were NOT mitigation and were only "candidates" for the deposition of spoil; both of which were removed from the candidate list. Moreover, Commissioner Valeche's office has advised that they have requested again to ERM that these sites be removed from the list and that ERM has responded accordingly. However, after speaking

with the ACOE, the contrary has been indicated. Nonetheless, these two sites should be specifically excluded from consideration as mitigation sites.

My personal objection to the project as presented last year was sent to Eric G. Reusch in February of 2012 and is attached for your file.

To reiterate, we have an enormous wave of objection coming from our community over the referenced project as presented now from the ACOE. I have reviewed the study ([http://www.saj.usace.army.mil/Portals/44/docs/Planning/EnvironmentalBranch/EnvironmentalDocs/LWI\\_01\\_Draft%20Feasibility\\_EIS\\_April\\_2013.pdf](http://www.saj.usace.army.mil/Portals/44/docs/Planning/EnvironmentalBranch/EnvironmentalDocs/LWI_01_Draft%20Feasibility_EIS_April_2013.pdf)) that was generated and dated April 2013. I have the following comments regarding that report:

1. In Section 1.0 Introduction, a statement is made that the Port of Palm Beach is situated between Port Canaveral to the north and the port in Miami to the south. No consideration is given to Port Everglades to the south, much closer to Palm Beach than Miami.
2. Under Section 2.0 Existing/Future Conditions, a map of import and export shipping is presented on page 14 (Port of Palm Beach Trade Routes), a large portion of those routes identified are for the transport of Cement from Denmark and Venezuela. Please note that Cemex has not imported cement from those locations for several years now and use their own cement plants in Mexico, for which most is transported by rail or truck. Therefore a considerable percentage of routes identified are non-existent and therefore have a considerable impact on the financial feasibility of this project as a whole. Cemex does import white cement through Port Everglades but I am told they do not utilize the Port of Palm Beach.
3. Figure 2.7 of the report indicates the percentage of differing imports, the data for which is from 2007. As you know, this data is abundantly out of date and totally irrelevant at this time. Our economic activity is a fraction of what it was in that year and therefore this data would need to be updated to reflect current economy.
4. Please note that Tropical Shipping is the major user of the Port of Palm Beach and in fact makes up 75% of the use for containerized goods per the data provided. Their primary business plan is to serve the Bahamas and Caribbean Islands. There is very little and slight opportunities for those islands to receive larger ships due primarily to depth of water and berthing constraints. Therefore, the largest user of the port (75%) will likely forego any use of larger ships in the port and therefore the existing channels are sufficient as they have been used for decades as is.
5. The remaining uses of the port and specifically sugar and molasses are a large question to the feasibility study. There has been recent discussion on the legislative level that brings to question the level upon which US sugar imports and exports will be regulated. This could very well result in the decrease of sugar production the US and therefore would reduce the need for import/export of that commodity at the Port of Palm Beach. Prudent and thorough research would be required of this sub-portion use in order to adequately and precisely ascertain the viability of the project as a whole.
6. Consideration to Cruise Ships needs to be addressed. If this project is completed, the inlet will remain unable to accommodate the cruise lines that currently berth at Port Everglades. The increase in depth and width will still be inadequate and the increase that is realized will not enable a marked increase in that tourism trade. In fact, I question that any larger ships in the cruise industry would utilize the inlet at all. It seems that there is a large gap between the size of the cruise ships now serviced and the size serviced by Port Everglades and little to no ships between are used in the industry. This needs to be addressed properly and taken into consideration in an updated feasibility study.



7. Section 2.3 Navigation needs to be addressed. Should this project proceed and the larger ships identified come into the inlet, the space remaining for other recreational boats will be severely limited. Because of the strong currents experienced in that inlet, hazards will increase and possible additional life safety issues will be generated. At this point, the inlet is fairly safe for all boaters.
8. The proposed dredging and rock removal from the jetty will certainly have an effect on the northern and southern currents that move sand up and down the coast. There is no sufficient data provided to represent what the proposed modifications will do to the existing problems and whether those problems will be exacerbated by said modifications.
9. The existing marine life needs to be considered with this project. The existing conditions have been current since the original construction of the inlet and that included the cutting of the reef. This has been many decades. The marine life has become abundant in that time. Section 2.5 Natural Environment, speaks to many varieties of marine life that need to be preserved and that would be considerably harmed by this project's construction. It would take just as long to restore that marine habitat and population as has transpired since the original construction. What is not mentioned is the existence of the protected species of Goliath Grouper (Jewfish). These fish are not only found in the area around the inlet but are abundant and thriving in Little Lake Worth! One may not believe that, but it is one of our most well kept secrets. Those fish have been caught up to and exceeding 200 lbs in the lake.
10. Section 4.3 Mitigation includes Figure 4-2 Mitigation Sites.

Site 1: Little Lake Worth:

- a) This site is totally unacceptable due to many reasons. This site is a primary recreational area for many residents living in and around the lake as well as many who come from areas outside to ski, wakeboard, fish, etc. Construction related activity and the aftermath would be detrimental to this use.
- b) The Goliath Grouper (Jewfish) are present and thriving in the north end of Little Lake Worth. These fish are protected by the marine fisheries in the state of Florida.
- c) This area is a deep water fishing habitat for tarpon, shark, and other species. Either sand deposition or rock deposition would be detrimental to this habitat. The current conditions are listed as a "borrow hole". While this may be the case for a small portion of the lake, that hole has significant bottom elevation changes and even steeples. Mitigation of this area would destroy this area.
- d) Home values would certainly be affected and therefore lawsuits would certainly ensue.
- e) Seagrass will not grow in this area due to the turbidity and high tannin content in the water. Sunlight will not traverse this water to produce seagrass as has previously been proven.
- f) Sand and or sediment migration is absolutely a factor in any deposition in this area. Channels leading to and from this lake have been choked off subsequent to prior deposition projects and continue to be harmful for navigation of existing waterways. The existing tide and current is strong in this area and there is a significant tidal swing of up to and beyond 5 feet.

Site 2: Turle Cove:

- a) First and foremost; this site has never had a turtle in it. Our community has expressed our concerns for the county's ERM dept calling this area a name that could in the future be detrimental to our boating use. There simply is no reason to call this area turtle cove and we respectfully request that the ACOE cease the use of this term in the future. We would suggest calling the area what it is; Northern Lake Worth Lagoon.

- b) This site is totally unacceptable due to many reasons. This site is a primary recreational area for many residents living in and around the lake as well as many who come from areas outside to ski, wakeboard, fish, etc. Construction related activity and the aftermath would be detrimental to this use.
- c) The neighboring residences on the lake have procured permits from the state for docks berthing large vessels, up to 160 feet in some cases. Old Port Cove has vessels in excess of that. The upcoming development just north of Old Port Cove has plans for a deep water marina and I believe entitlements are in place for that if not the submerged lands permit(s) as well.
- d) We have expressed our concerns to ERM on a number of occasions for this site. See my letter of February 2012 attached.
- e) The Goliath Grouper (Jewfish) are present and thriving in the north end of Lake Worth. These fish are protected by the marine fisheries in the state of Florida.
- f) This area is also a deep water fishing habitat. This ecosystem houses many species of "deep water" fish and mammals for both habitat existence and for breeding purposes as well as some shallow water species including but not limited to porpoise, sharks, bluefish, tarpon, grouper, goliath grouper, snapper, seabass, seatrout, spanish mackerel, redfish, snook, jack crevalle, cobia, and many, many more. Bottlenose porpoise frequent this area during mating season and I have witnessed many young porpoise raised in this lagoon. Either sand deposition or rock deposition would be detrimental to this habitat. The current conditions are listed as a "borrow hole" in front of the north end near Jack Nicholas' home. While this may be the case for a small portion of the lake, that hole has significant bottom elevation changes and houses many marine species. Muck has been reported however the capping of this muck would cause issues with surrounding navigable elevations and non-navigable elevations. Mitigation of this area would destroy this area.
- g) Home values would certainly be affected and therefore lawsuits would certainly ensue.
- h) Seagrass will not grow in this area due to the turbidity and high tannin content in the water. Sunlight will not traverse this water to produce seagrass as has previously been proven. It has been proven that the seagrass project on the north end of Munyon Island and the area in front of the monastery were unsuccessful and were failed projects for the generation of seagrass. The area that has been successful is "south" of Munyon Island, which receives a considerable slug of clean water during the incoming tides. This area has succeeded in the growth of seagrass, however the area is not full and doubtful that more sediment can be received in this area.
- i) Sand and or sediment migration is absolutely a factor in any deposition in this area. Channels leading to the Little Lake Worth have been choked off subsequent to prior deposition projects and continue to be harmful for navigation for the ingress/egress of the Little Lake Worth. The existing tide and current is strong in this area and the problem with the sand migration has exacerbated the problem to a point where it is a life safety issue navigating the bridge into the lake at night on an incoming tide with the wind out of the south. The same is true in reverse exiting the lake. We have brought this to the attention of ERM dept and they continue to disregard their involvement with this problem. We respectfully request that the ACOE working with ERM fix this problem as part of your work associated with this project, should it be deemed feasible.

Site 3: Singer Island Seagrass Mitigation:

- a) This site has received years of deposition on the north and south sides of Munyon Island and is currently full. I doubt any real estate exists that would amount to any benefit at all. Furthermore, any filling north of Munyon Island will have migration impacts and impact our area as discussed above.

Site 4: Kelsey City Park Artificial Reef

- a) This site would be a good candidate for an artificial reef.

Sites 5 & 6: Sugar Sands & Singer Island Artificial Reefs

- a) These sites would be good candidates for artificial reefs.

Site 6: Peanut Island Shoal

- a) This site would not be a candidate for deposition of material as a large shoal already exists and is difficult if not impossible to navigate at low tide. There are considerable recreational impacts to this area as it is used by hundreds of boaters each weekend.

Sites 7: Peanut Island

- a) This site is the best area for the deposition of fill and was originally intended for this use as a "spoil island". This area recently was eradicated of excess fill and thus has much capacity to receive spoil on top of the island.

Please note that I have also reviewed the Feasibility Study that you provided the link to: [http://www.saj.usace.army.mil/About/DivisionsOffices/Planning/EnvironmentalBranch/EnvironmentalDocuments.aspx#Palm Beach](http://www.saj.usace.army.mil/About/DivisionsOffices/Planning/EnvironmentalBranch/EnvironmentalDocuments.aspx#Palm%20Beach). I have noted that much of the data used for that report, i.e. Borings is very old data. There are core borings from March of 2001, 1966, and 1962. Also, Appendix B, Subsurface Exp. Report is from 2/15/1995, some 18 years ago. At the very least, all economic and technical information should be updated to reflect current conditions.

In summary, I have provided to you a cursory review of the documents made available to me from a technical standpoint, however please note that the primary issue with these mitigation prospects is the financial impact on property values that include many very expensive homesites. The impact to the project itself is, but not limited to, the issues as stated. I am therefore opposed to the project as a whole without the proper documentation referred to herein and am adamantly opposed to the proposed mitigation sites as discussed herein.

I would be happy to discuss this in some sort of format that you choose, and I respectfully ask that my email address, on the header of this document, be used to notify me prior to any public meetings, discussions, or planning for this project.

Respectfully,



Christopher Karch, PE – President

Cc: Governor Rick Scott  
Attorney General Pam Bondi  
Chief Financial Officer, Jeff Atwater  
Commissioner of Agriculture, Adam Putnam  
PB County Commissioner Hal Valeche  
PB County ERM, Rob Robbins  
DEP Secretary, Hershel Vinyard  
DEP Chief Gen. Council, Matt Leapold

# CKA

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## CHRISTOPHER KARCH & ASSOCIATES, INC.

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Riviera Beach, FL 33404

Telephone: (561) 686-5577  
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ENVIRONMENTAL / CIVIL CONSULTING ENGINEERING  
WATER & WASTEWATER  
PROCESS MECHANICAL  
CUSTOM EQUIPMENT  
CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT

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ATTN: Eric G. Reusch  
Department of the Army  
Jacksonville District Corps of Engineers  
4400 PGA Boulevard, Suite 500  
Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33410

Ref: Permit App. SAJ-2012-00131(IP-EGR)

February 27, 2012

Dear Mr. Reusch:

I have just received a copy of the "Public Notice" regarding the referenced permit application whereby you have proposed to issue a permit to fill approximately 42 acres of submerged lands in the northern reaches of the Lake Worth Lagoon. I write to you today representing in excess of 300 homes in the Village of Lost Tree, Hidden Key, Captains Key, and Seminole Landing and hereby submit our formal objection to the issuance of this permit. We have assembled this group in our recent long and arduous 3-year attempt at helping the FDEP and the FDOT with their issuance of a sovereign submerged lands permit for the replacement construction of the bridge leading to Little Lake Worth. This permit has just been issued, construction has just commenced, and now it appears that we have another agency (PBC) attempting again to reduce our navigation of these waters.

Having just received this notice, by unconventional means, I am wondering where this "Public Notice" was advertised? The communities listed above are all affected parties of this project and we have received no notification whatsoever. Furthermore, we have been subjected to two (2) similar projects that have had considerable negative affect on both the habitat and environment in this vicinity and the adverse navigational impacts directly caused by these fill projects.

Several years ago, fill was placed in front (east) of the Monastery seawall. This sand impacted several fish species and has done nothing to "enhance" any marine life whatsoever. This project negatively impacts the residents listed above as well as Portage Landing and Twelve Oaks Marina due to the heavy silt and sands that are washed into the navigational waters entering the Little Lake Worth Lagoon and the bridge along the way. These sands are carried into these navigational waters on each incoming tide...twice daily. They have now collected to the point where it is almost unnavigable and maintenance is required to re-establish the original section.

The second and more recent project that has negatively impacted our residents is the fill project on the north side of Munyon Island that reaches north all the way to the marked channel leading to the northern Lake Worth Lagoon, i.e. Old Port Cove Marina(s), Lost Tree Village, Hidden Key, Portage Landing, Twelve

Oaks, Captains Key, and Seminole Landing. These sands are choking off navigable waters in this area. Also, a quick study will reveal that the eastern shore of the northern Lake Worth Lagoon, up against the seawalls of Lost Tree, has increasingly become very shallow. This has had negative impacts on larger yachting vessels that now have difficulty even reaching the channel from their docks.

The two (2) projects that have already been completed have caused a terrible navigational hazard at the bridge leading to Little Lake Worth (LLW) and elsewhere within LLW, i.e. Holmes Harbor. We are looking for the FDEP and the ACOE to rectify this problem via the removal of these spoils that have “unnaturally” been placed in our waters. The issuance of any permits for the referenced project herein “shall” cease and desist immediately without further action until discussions can be heard from all affected parties as to the negative impacts of this project. There is simply no more room for the unnatural filling of these waters.

There are ecosystem issues with this project in addition to the navigational hazards. The ecosystem that exists in the northern end of the Lake Worth Lagoon is primarily natural and original not to mention beautiful and quite fragile. Our family has a residence in this area since the late 60's. This ecosystem houses many species of “deep water” fish and mammals for both habitat existence and for breeding purposes as well as some shallow water species including but not limited to porpoise, sharks, bluefish, tarpon, grouper, goliath grouper, snapper, seabass, seatrout, spanish mackerel, redfish, snook, jack crevalle, cobia, and many, many more. Moreover, we are seeing an increase in the annual bait runs that are the absolute fuel to the entire ecosystem in that area and beyond. These bait runs include but are not limited to mullet, threadfins, menhaden, shad, etc. This proposed project has zero benefit to the environment and will only serve to alter and decrease (if not eliminate) the existing and thriving marine habitat in this area.

These species have already been negatively impacted by the prior two fill projects and therefore we cannot have further impacts to these species. Filling in of these waters in an area abundant with marine life is parallel to cutting down beautiful piney upland for the purposes of constructing a man-made wetland. These man-made projects are rarely successful and prove to drive many species away for the inclusion of some insignificant other species; as is in our case. Similarly, attempting to “create” an “unnatural” seagrass bed at the detriment of all of these affected species makes no common sense at all. This project, on its face, is merely a dumping zone for spoil generated elsewhere and we cannot have any more of these negative impacts on this area. We already need for the responsible agencies to clean up the mess that has already been created in the prior two projects. I suggest that the county find another dumping zone that is in “need” of this spoil. i.e. beach restoration.

On an unrelated note; how did the name “Turtle Cove” come about? This area has never been called Turtle Cove in the past and I have “never” seen a turtle in this area.

We would be happy to discuss this in some sort of format that you choose, but the issuance of this permit simply must cease.

Respectfully,



Christopher Karch, PE – President

Cc: James Scott Curry, Esq.  
Roger O'Neil  
Joe O'Neil  
Bob Martin  
John Coliton

**From:** [Chris Harmon](#)  
**To:** [Dunn, Angela E SAJ](#)  
**Subject:** Blue Heron Bridge - Port Expansion Feasibility Study  
**Date:** Monday, June 03, 2013 8:00:43 AM  
**Attachments:** [FINAL\\_RRM\\_1\\_cropped.png](#)

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Hello Ms. Dunn,

I am a scuba diver and underwater photographer and also greatly concerned about the proposed Port of Palm Beach project.

The Blue Heron Bridge is a treasure that is already under threat from the current amount of use it receives from nearby boat traffic.

I cannot adequately describe the beauty and diversity of this area in mere words.

However, Scuba Diving magazine named the area one of top 10 shallow water dives in the *world*.

Also, here is a link to a short clip I shot last October. Please excuse the shaking- I was trying to handhold a GoPro I had just purchased. <http://vimeo.com/52159942>

This is what is being threatened by expansions in the area.

I know you are getting all kinds of legal documentation regarding this, but I was hoping to appeal to your sensibilities as an American citizen. Truly, this area needs to be protected from further development, before it becomes just another dead waste zone, as so many of our reefs have become off of South Florida.

Chris Harmon

+++++

Chris Harmon

[chris@redreefmedia.com](mailto:chris@redreefmedia.com)

[www.redreefmedia.com](http://www.redreefmedia.com)

877-357-8414 toll free

561-706-6286 cell



**From:** [Carol](#)  
**To:** [Dunn, Angela E SAJ](#)  
**Subject:** Lets kill every thing in the Sea!  
**Date:** Monday, June 03, 2013 9:04:36 PM

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This can be the logo for the Port of Palm Beach!

Dredging Lake Worth Inlet will totally destroy species of marine life that is found only in the lagoon there. Photographers from around the world are coming here to photograph the huge number of rare and unusual

Marine life. Several previously unknown species have been documented there.

Dredging will be the the end of all life in the area. It will kill EVERY living organism by smothering them with silt.

Please stop the murder of our environment!

Sent from my iPhone

Happy Bubbles, Carol Schurtz

**From:** [Carly Mejeur](#)  
**To:** [Dunn, Angela E SAJ](#)  
**Subject:** Blue Heron Bridge  
**Date:** Monday, June 03, 2013 8:11:21 PM

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Hello,

I have been a seasonal lifeguard at Phil Foster for the past 8 years and have watched the snorkeling area grow and attract people from all over the world! I couldn't believe when someone came up and told me they had seen pictures online from Australia and wanted to make sure they didn't miss it on their tour of the east coast! I am also a teacher at the Palm Beach Maritime Academy and many of our students visit Phil Foster and Peanut Island every year and have developed their love and passion for the ocean and it's creatures through their experience. It has truly developed into an amazing place and a local gem. After all this work making it into a successful tourist destination, why destroy it now? Please consider the true value that both places have and the negative affect of the expansion.  
Thanks for your time,

Sincerely,

Carly Mejeur  
Art Educator  
Palm Beach Maritime Academy  
[Carlymejeur.com](http://Carlymejeur.com)



**From:** [Calbourne](#)  
**To:** [Dunn, Angela E SAJ](#)  
**Subject:** Blue Heron Bridge Prkject  
**Date:** Monday, June 03, 2013 5:35:34 PM

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I was just informed of the project which is about to begin in the Blue Heron Bridge area.

Once again the environment takes a back seat to engineering projects which in the end create a Domino effect of destruction to wildlife in the area.

This needs to stop !!!

Please consider we are here to protect... not destroy.

Sincerely  
Cal Lathrop

**From:** [akdupont@bellsouth.net](mailto:akdupont@bellsouth.net)  
**To:** [Dunn, Angela E SAJ](#)  
**Subject:** Blue Heron Bridge Diving and Snorkeling  
**Date:** Monday, June 03, 2013 8:12:52 PM

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I would like to voice my concern regarding the impact that the proposed expansion of the Port of Palm Beach will have on The Marine Life found around the Blue Heron Bridge.

As an underwater photographer and scientific diver, I see first-hand the diversity and uniqueness of the marine life found at the Blue Heron Bridge.

I am one of the co-authors of “**Caribbean Sea Slugs,**” a field guide to the Opisthobranch mollusks from the tropical northwestern Atlantic. This book contains photos of 300 species of opisthobranchs from Florida throughout the Caribbean.

Starting in 2000 I started working with scientist to document the Opisthobranchs found in Lake Worth Lagoon. Here is an overview.

### **Opisthobranchs in Lake Worth Lagoon 2000- Present time**

- **123 Species photographed**
- **6 nudibranchs found in LWL were the FIRST US Record found**
- **15 are undescribed – could be New Species**
- **A large percentage of Nudibranchs found in LWL are not found on South Florida Reefs**
- **A partial List here: <http://www.jaxshells.org/opis.htm>**

Over one third of the Opisthobranchs found throughout the Caribbean are found **HERE**, in LWL.

The Blue Heron Bridge underwater area is a significant natural resource that is worth preserving.

I will be glad to provide you with more information.

*Anne DuPont*

*Co-Author Caribbean Sea Slugs*

**From:** [Allison Knox](#)  
**To:** [Dunn, Angela E SAJ](#)  
**Subject:** Palm Beach port expansion comments  
**Date:** Monday, June 03, 2013 12:20:03 PM

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Hello,

It has been brought to my attention that there are plans being considered to expand the Port of Palm Beach. These plans will have a detrimental affect on the surrounding ecosystems and the livelihood of numerous people in the community.

As a scuba diving instructor, 90% my income comes form teaching scuba certifications and taking certified divers on guided tours in Palm Beach. Of which more then half of of my diving takes place at Phil Foster Park. Because of the depths of the reefs in Palm Beach, I am not allowed to take Open Water students diving in the ocean for their fist set of dives. Without the use of Phil Foster Park, I will **NOT** be able to teach Open Water certifications, refresher classes or Discover Discover Scuba Diving courses in Palm Beach. These three course make up almost my entire livelihood. In addition to not being able to teach Open Water certification classes, refresher classes or Discover Discover Scuba Diving courses, I would not be able to take certified divers on guided tours when the seas are rough, thus losing an entire day (or days) of work when we have bad weather.

Phil Foster Park is a safe haven for scuba divers during certification courses and bad weather, but it is also an amazing ecosystem with creatures not regularly seen or found in other places in Florida. Phil Foster Park is world renowned and people from all over the world visit Palm Beach each year just to dive here. If we loose the ability to dive there, the community will suffer from the loss of tourism. Local dive shops flourish during the summer from the number of vacationers renting equipment to dive and snorkel Phil Foster Park. They too will lose patronage and in turn employees (like myself) could loose their jobs.

You may be asking why I am so concerned with not being able to dive Phil Foster Park when the dredging will be taking place south of the park?  
As stated in your report, dredging of the port will have a devastating effect on this fragile marine ecosystem. Siltation would consume areas of natural topography. The turbidity of the water will cut out the light that different marine life depend upon to survive. The marine ecosystem of Phil Foster Park will shut done and die. The hurricanes of 2004 have already showed us what will happen to this ecosystem. Almost a decade later, this area has finally been able to regain a healthy status, but it is still not like it was before the hurricanes.

With aid from passionate and environmentally minded people, Phil Foster Park has made a come back. The new snorkel trail already has tons of life growing on and living within its structure. Even the remodeling of the east bridge was done with the parks marine ecosystem in mind and therefore the old pilings were left. All of this hard work over the past decade will have been for not when the dredging begins. What does this community stand to gain by expanding the Port of Palm Beach that could out weigh all of the devastation that it will bring in it's wake?

I and others diving professionals will not be able to sustain our way of life and will be forced to move or to find other forms of employment.

**I implore you to reconsider this project! Leave the Palm Beach inlet as it, and send the larger ships to Port Everglades. Do this for sake of the marine life and the people who depend on this amazing and fragile ecosystem.**

Please contact me if you wish to discuss any above comment in more detail.

Kind regards,

Allison Knox

561.236.1733

**From:** [Alex Page](#)  
**To:** [Dunn, Angela E SAJ](#)  
**Subject:** Proposed expansion of the Port of Palm Beach and its effect on the Blue Heron Bridge habitat  
**Date:** Monday, June 03, 2013 1:10:55 PM

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Dear Ms. Dunn,

I'm writing today to let you know about my concern for the Blue Heron Bridge habitat, and the effect that the proposed Port of Palm Beach expansion may have on that habitat.

I am a recreational scuba diver. I typically complete between 50 and 100 dives each year, mostly in the state of Florida. I've been diving off all three coasts of Florida, from the Marquesas Keys, and the Straits of Florida, to Tampa, up into Pensacola, Florida and Rivera Beach. I even dive the caves and caverns that stretch across the interior of the state.

By far, the most extraordinary site I have ever visited, is the Blue Heron Bridge. The Blue Heron Bridge is unique because it sits in the "Goldilocks Zone". It is not too warm, or too cold. It is not too fresh or too salty. It is not too deep, or too shallow. It is, if such a thing is possible, the perfect nursery for underwater life, and I fear that the construction proposed for the Port of Palm Beach expansion, may be too much for the balance that has been established at the Blue Heron Bridge.

On a typical SINGLE dive at the Blue Heron Bridge, I will see three to four species of eel, two species of octopuses, two or three species of seahorses (very rare elsewhere in the United States), juvenile spiny and slipper lobster, three kinds of angelfish, several grouper and snapper species, snook, several blenny species, jawfish pairs tending their eggs, mantis shrimp, coral shrimp, hard corals, sponges, tunicates, and manatees (yes, manatees). I could do a hundred dives at a hundred sites in Florida, and not see even half of these animals.

I live in Mobile Alabama. Typically I make two trips a year to dive the Blue Heron Bridge. I generally travel in a group of four to six divers, who make the trip with me down to the Blue Heron Bridge. We usually stay at a local hotel for a week while we are down, and eat most of our meals at local restaurants. While there are other good dive opportunities in Pompano Beach, and Ft. Lauderdale, the diving there cannot begin to compare to what is available at the Blue Heron Bridge.

My opinion (shared by my traveling companions) is that the Blue Heron Bridge is the very best diving spot in the continuous United States. Please consider the disruption that would be caused to this location and its inhabitants. There are plenty of marinas and ports in Florida, but there is only one Blue Heron Bridge habitat.

Respectfully,  
Alex Page  
Mobile, Alabama

**From:** [Alex Mustard](#)  
**To:** [Dunn, Angela E SAJ](#)  
**Subject:** Palm Beach Port Expansion. Comment  
**Date:** Monday, June 03, 2013 7:36:04 AM

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Dear Angela Dunn,

I am writing to you to add my comments to the discussion on Palm Beach Port Expansion.

I am not from Florida, in fact I am not even from the US. I live in the UK, but have crossed the Atlantic to visit Palm Beach and, like many other tourists, to enjoy the scuba diving at Blue Heron Bridge. And of course, in the process, stayed at local hotels, eaten in local restaurants and gone diving with the local dive schools. In short adding my dollars to the local economy because of this unique diving site.

Why would I cross an ocean to dive at Blue Heron Bridge? Well, this place is like discovering a shop in the most unlikely area of town that turns out to be a real Aladdin's cave, packed with little treasures. It is the most improbable setting, beneath a four lane bridge, but as soon as you are underwater you're seeing wonders: frogfish, seahorses, searobins, nudibranchs, batfish, stargazers and always a surprise or two. I have seen hairy frogfish in waist deep water and watched both long-arm octopus and seahorses mating here. Blue Heron Bridge is clearly an important place not just for divers to see these marvels, but for the next generation of these species.

I hope it can remain protected.

Best regards,

Alex Mustard Ph.D.  
Ocean Insight Ltd.  
Swan Gardens, 61,  
Peterborough. PE1 4SB.  
United Kingdom

Dr Alexander Mustard  
underwater photographer - marine biologist  
Web: [www.amustard.com](http://www.amustard.com)  
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**GERALD M. WARD, P.E.**

*Consulting Engineer  
Coastal - Environmental*  
P.O. Box 10441  
Riviera Beach, Florida 33419  
561/863-1215  
[wardgm@gate.net](mailto:wardgm@gate.net)

3 June 2013

Alan M. Dodd, Colonel  
District Engineer Jacksonville District  
United States Army - Corps of Engineers  
P. O. Box 4970  
Jacksonville, Florida 32232

Re: Draft Environmental Impact Statement Comments  
Integrated Feasibility Report and Environmental Impact Statement  
Lake Worth Inlet, Palm Beach Harbor  
Riviera Beach/Palm Beach Shores/Palm Beach, Palm Beach County, Florida

Dear Colonel Dodd:

As a person who has been involved and the named responsible person for preparation and processing of numerous National Environmental Policy Act actions since 1970, I became quite concerned when referenced document was noticed to me in April. Your District staff did not even provide a copy within the local municipal that hosts the majority of the Port of Palm Beach lands and facilities. (The document clearly violates the Council of Environmental Quality regulations by being way over normal page limits (182 pages DEIS and upwards towards a 1000 pages with the extremely redundant Appendices), see 16 CFR 1502.7 & 1502.10(k). We then discovered when printing in preparation for the short noticed (your District Press Release was issued/posted six days in advance) "Public Meeting" that no where could the hundreds of pages of Appendices be obtained (other than traveling three towns north to a their library). See EXHIBIT 1 by your Point of Contact.

Equally important as to compliance with NEPA regulations is the length of time for preparation of the DEIS. At the Scoping Meeting in January 2008 your documents and staff opined that the work would take exactly 2 years with the DEIS being available in January 2010. Instead your staff took 5 1/3 years even though the public requests were for such to be no longer than one year. Violation of CEQ NEPA regulations 1500.5(e) & 1501.8 has occurred. As described below the contemplated project is not complex!

Page 2

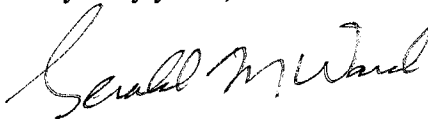
Re: Draft Environmental Impact Statement Comments  
Integrated Feasibility Report and Environmental Impact Statement  
Lake Worth Inlet, Palm Beach Harbor  
Riviera Beach/Palm Beach Shores/Palm Beach, Palm Beach County, Florida  
3 June 2013

At the short noticed "Public Meeting" held in a small meeting room, I was allowed to speak and raised a number of points and requests. Most importantly the requests desired to see the actual reports dealing in hydrodynamic impacts (tides, currents, storm surge, etc.) resulting from the simple proposed federal project modifications of the Port of Palm Beach District works existing (since 1919 by private interests and mid-1930s as a federal project) channel and turning basin deepening and widening. To date I have been "stonewalled" by not receiving any of the 'References' cited in the draft document and appendices in violation of 16 CFR 1502.21 and potentially 1502.22. (& other regulations including 1502.18(e)). (See EXHIBIT 2 for CEQ "public" cites.)

Based upon my long experience with NEPA documents I opined at the Hearing that overall this document was at best a C- or a D quality. Further review says your work is a solid D! I would like you as the ultimate responsible officer for the document to order an investigation of the compliance with CEQ regulations. Now that said, I have been super impressed that you as one of the few Jacksonville District Engineers in the last four decades that have understood 'delegation' and therefore I do not expect you to waste your time on these procedural matters, but, merely refer to the Planning Division for corrective discipline and actions.

Given the massive amount of material which is difficult to obtain, my more specific cursory comments are not comprehensive, but, are attached as EXHIBIT 3.

Very truly yours,



Gerald M. Ward, P.E.

8336PPBDEIS

Enclosures - EXHIBITS 1 through 3 (EXHIBIT 4 added this date)

Cc: Ms Angela Dunn, SAJ Planning Division, Environmental Branch ✓  
P.O. Box 4970, Jacksonville, Florida 32232

Executive Office of the President  
Council on Environmental Quality  
Washington, D.C. 20503

PS-Colonel, In searching for your middle initial today I went to the Jax District internet pages and found that on Friday (one business day before these comments were due) your Public Information Office sent out a five paragraph Press Release full of falsehoods! Add your Media Office to your referral list for discipline! I have added the Friday Press Release annotated as EXHIBIT 4.



1303  
833

**RE: SHORT NOTICED PUBLIC MEETING -  
PORT OF PALM BEACH CONTRACT WITH  
CORPS FOR FEASIBILITY STUDAY AND  
EIS (UNCLASSIFIED)**

PPB  
DEIS

Ward EXHIBIT 1

**From:** "Ellison, Amanda D SAJ" <Amanda.D.Ellison@usace.army.mil>  
**To:** "GERALD M. WARD"  
**Subject:** RE: SHORT NOTICED PUBLIC MEETING - PORT OF PALM BEACH  
CONTRACT WITH CORPS FOR FEASIBILITY STUDAY AND EIS (UNCLASSIFIED)  
**Date:** May 8, 2013 11:02 AM

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Caveats: NONE

Mr. Ward,

My apologies. I was not aware that the appendixes were not linking on the web site. I will correct the link. Here is a link to the appendices. You will find it under "Palm Beach" on this web page:

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

Amanda D. Ellison  
Public Affairs Specialist  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Jacksonville District  
Corporate Communications Office  
Office: 904.232.1576  
Cell: 904.614.2240  
[www.saj.usace.army.mil](http://www.saj.usace.army.mil)

-----Original Message-----

From: GERALD M. WARD [mailto:wardgm@gate.net]

Sent: Wednesday, May 08, 2013 10:57 AM

To: Ellison, Amanda D SAJ

Subject: SHORT NOTICED PUBLIC MEETING - PORT OF PALM BEACH  
CONTRACT WITH CORPS FOR FEASIBILITY STUDAY AND EIS

>From: "GERALD M. WARD" <wardgm@gate.net>

>Sent: May 8, 2013 10:44 AM

>To: Amanda.D.Ellison@usace.army.mil

>Subject: SHORT NOTICED PUBLIC MEETING - PORT OF PALM BEACH  
CONTRACT WITH CORPS FOR FEASIBILITY STUDAY AND EIS

>

>MS ELLISON

>

>I ATTEMPTED TO CONTACT YOU AND WENT TO A VOICE MAIL (904/232-1576). ALTHOUGH THE RECORDED INSTRUCTIONS TOLD US TO PUNCH "ZERO" FOR A WARM BODY YOUR EXTENSION HAS NOT HAD SUCH SET UP! YOUR NOTICE OF 3 MAY FOR TOMORROW'S EVENING GIVES A LINK TO ALLEGEDLY THE REPORT (PDF) WHICH THEN SAYS THE APPENDIX IS ONLY AVAILABLE ON A CD (SEE PAGE 4). SINCE APPARENTLY THE MAJORITY OF THE REAL INFORMATION IS CONTAINED WITHIN THE APPENDIX ACCORDING TO THE TEXT OF THE PDF FILE, HOW CAN WE POSSIBLY HAVE COMPLETE COMMENTS AT TOMORROW EVENING'S SHORT TWO HOUR MEETING (1730-1930) IN A SMALL ROOM????

>

>IS THE APPENDIX AVAILABLE AT THIS LATE DATE AND TIME ELECTRONICALLY ON THE DISTRICT ENGINEER'S WEB SITE?

>

>I WAS ADVISED THAT YOU DID NOT EVEN PUT A HARD COPY OF THE  
REPORT ON PUBLIC AVAILABILITY WITHIN THE CITY THAT THE PORT IS  
IN. YOU SENT IT TO PALM BEACH GARDENS SEVERAL TOWNS  
NORTH! WOULD THAT LOCATION ALSO HAVE A COPY OF THE  
APPDENCIES?

>

>

>GERRY WARD

>GERALD M. WARD, P.E.

>P.O. BOX 10441

>RIVIERA BEACH, FLORIDA 33419

>2135 BROADWAY, SUITE 5

>RIVIERA BEACH, FLORIDA 33404

>561/863-1215

>8336PORTOFPALMBCHDEIS

>

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Caveats: NONE

21 wind us up.

22 SPEAKER: I'm Gerald Ward. 31 West 20th

23 St. here in Riviera Beach.

24 This is a NEPA scoping meeting so we're

25 really not into formalizing for or against

P96

1304

8336

WARD SCOPING  
MEETING TRANSCRIPT  
9 JANUARY 2008

WARD EXHIBIT 2

positions, but I have to compliment you, Miss  
2 Burns, because the last scoping meeting I went  
3 to up in Martin and St. Lucie County for a  
4 marine minerals management service offshore  
5 meeting was a disaster, and it's pleasant to  
6 see that you have the reporting accommodated  
7 versus what happened up there.

8 I would request a copy of any summaries,  
9 transcripts or documents as a result of this  
10 meeting. Plus, pursuant to 40CFR1502.19 subC  
11 I'd like to get hard copies of the draft  
12 Environmental Impact Statements and the final.  
13 I understand you're limiting the written  
14 comments to the 20th. If that's not correct --  
15 that's only 11 days away.

16 The draft schedule says you are proposing  
17 to drag this out until the first quarter of  
18 2010. That's two years hence. My experience  
19 in economic and NEPA actions is that that's way  
too long to do it, and pursuant to

21 40CFR1502.8(c) I request you advance it to no  
22 later than the first quarter of 2009. It cuts  
23 costs. It will probably not -- if you take an  
24 extra year, you probably won't know that much  
25 more about this area. And I think it's

important. So you have to, I believe, by that  
regulation have to look at my request.

How many pages are you proposing for this  
EIS? I hope it's 150 or less. When you get  
too big, you overwhelm the public in  
responding, and we need to have the greatest  
response on this.

The sixth area, which is my last major  
topic, is scoping alternatives. The  
alternatives are the heart of an economic  
statement, an Environmental Impact Statement.

It is really an evaluation process of which  
many questions were thrown out today that  
people really want an evaluation. You list in  
the public notice of the scoping meeting only  
eight areas, all waterside and all increases in  
the project. Then you list a combination of  
those eight projects, again all increases, plus  
the no action. You have indicated numerous  
physical models, ship models, studies, economic

21 studies, and you have complained about the  
22 maintenance of the existing channel because its  
23 depth is now six or so feet. Underneath the  
24 project, the depth's at 29 feet, apparently.  
25 Therefore, you need another alternative to the



study; what I think is known as a similar  
2 action alternative.

3 Number One, reduce the project navigation  
4 depth. Look at not serving bulk cargo. That  
5 seems to be the predominant safety issue that  
6 you've gotten into. What would it also do? It  
7 would free up existing <sup>S</sup>lip faces. And I think  
8 that's in accord with what's happened at the  
9 Port. Your economist has got to look at how  
10 the cargo traffic has gone up in the Port. And  
11 they're not big vessels.

12 You are between two major <sup>DEEP WATER</sup>deports or  
13 ports; Port Canaveral, which has significant  
14 military assistance for maintenance, Port  
15 Everglades with much less wave climate that  
16 does not have a significant maintenance  
17 problem. Both have little tributary runoff  
18 with no currents except the tidal currents in  
19 and out from the straits of Florida or the  
Atlantic Ocean to the inland waters. They deal

21 in deep channels for different types of  
22 vessels. The container shipping that has  
23 developed in this port could use more wharfage  
24 and cargo container area. That type of  
25 transportation and similar island trade, which

100

is small bulk, plus small ferry or cruise

2 vessels have great future at the Port of Palm

3 Beach.

4 The Port advertises itself as a niche

5 port, and I think you need to go into how they

6 have promoted themselves. It is a small port.

7 Go to the Port of Shanghai and compare it.

8 The project, eight projects -- and by the

9 way, interestingly, last night we completed the

10 steering committee for a surety of the CRA,

11 Community Redevelopment Agency of the City of

12 Riviera Beach. That project, report, will be

13 out on the 30th of this month and I hope you at

14 least incorporate it by reference.

15 But one of the things is that the State

16 Comprehensive Plan, Chapter 186 Florida

17 Statutes, requires the 14 <sup>deep water</sup> ~~deport~~ ports to

18 start to accommodate the locals in changing

19 their types of uses. So we expect to see the

port -- and several suggestions are already

21 being bantered about of how even this building  
22 can become more of a common facility for the  
23 public of this area.

24 The project -- I like the man inquiring  
25 about A1 and A2, Mr. Gibson. I am not quite

sure that's a viable project.

2 Project I doesn't make any sense except to  
3 spend money. It has a bogus name. North  
4 Turning Basin Widener. Look at the Corps  
5 manuals, Mr. McMillan. That doesn't compute.

6 Project G probably has the most economic  
7 potential. Moving the Port's waterfront faces  
8 south along the existing Florida Power & Light  
9 Company wharfage or bulkheads could quickly  
10 convert more usable area. Ecology impacts are  
11 really minimal, and you have to recite in your  
12 investigations that less than a century ago it  
13 is only because of the Port of Palm Beach and  
14 the Florida Legislature that created two ports.

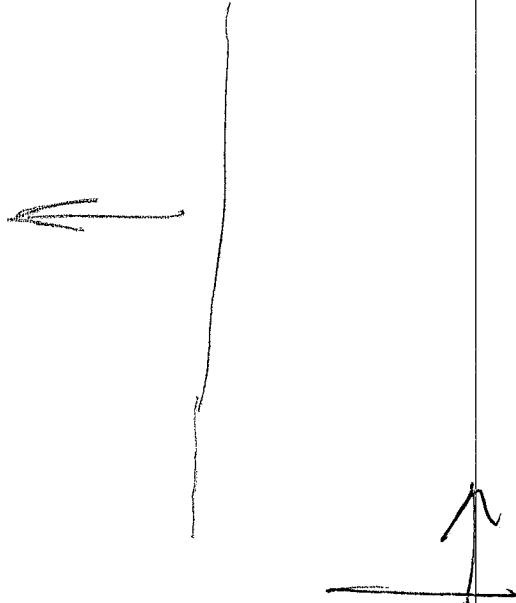
15 Both have port <sup>POWERS</sup>powerage (sic), or they did have  
16 when they were created, that has reduced the  
17 marine resources within the Lake Worth system  
18 of the magnitude that they are today.

19 Lastly, I guess of a technical nature,  
water levels, tides, storms and the resulting

. '21 surge, the modeling does need to focus on that.  
. '22 I personally have looked at the tides for the  
23 federal government prior and after the mid '60s  
24 deepening of the inlet. We basically almost  
25 doubled the inlet tide range with that project.

NEPA mandates a host of upland-based

2 considerations. I haven't heard a lot of  
3 discussion about that, but it includes  
4 economics. This should be an economic driven  
5 study, not ecology. We need -- didn't see that  
6 man here today, or woman, but they are the  
7 driving forces to evaluate what's good for  
8 Riviera Beach or the Port or Palm Beach County.



9 MS. BURNS: Thank you for your comments.

10 Last but not least, Mr. Williamson.

11 SPEAKER: I'll bet everybody is happy to  
12 see me. I'm last.

13 My name is George Williamson and I work  
14 for Rinker Materials, but now we're called  
15 Cemex. We were purchased by Cemex back in  
16 July. And what that really means is that we  
17 have gone from a company of 13,000 employees  
18 that did about 5 billion in business per year  
19 to a company that does about 25 billion in  
20 sales a year and has about 50,000 employees.

Re: Draft Environmental Impact Statement Comments by Gerald M. Ward  
**Integrated Feasibility Report and Environmental Impact Statement**  
**Lake Worth Inlet, Palm Beach Harbor**  
**Riviera Beach/Palm Beach Shores/Palm Beach, Palm Beach County, Florida**

3 June 2013

EXHIBIT 3. - PAGE 1 OF 2

I appeared at your 9 January 2008 Scoping Meeting for referenced Feasibility Study & Environmental Impact Statement and rendered comments attached as **EXHIBIT 2**, pages 96 through 102. We wish such to be included into my required matters to be addressed, if this project should be continued to a Final Environmental Impact Statement without further revisions as a Draft Environmental Impact Statement. We believe such a simple project as this has become quite convoluted and grossly expanded by extraneous words that the impacts are downplayed or ignored. The best solution would be to issue a revised Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Further in as much as I appeared at the 9 May 2013 "Public Meeting", I wish each point then made to be addressed if this project should be continued to a Final Environmental Impact Statement without further revisions as a re-noticed Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Given the poor quality of the draft I am not spending significant time and energy reviewing the 182 page draft document in detail, however, much additional work and rewrite is needed for the following topics. I am using much of the voluminous Appendices as source material in as much as most other commenters are focusing on the DEIS itself. The failure of the District Engineer to produce even one of the requested referenced document dealing in water levels (CEQ 1502.21) compromises major issues.

**APPENDIX A: ENGINEERING**

2. Tenatively Selected Plan - Does not adequately address the reconfiguration of the Advance Maintenance Zones nor the reconfiguration of the Settling Basin. Most importantly the work and ultimately impacts of the inline channel deepening to 52 feet needs to be described including Paragraph 16. I am not opposed to channel inline sand traps as a means of more economical inlet functionality, but, your descriptions and evaluations are deficient.

4. Tides: and 5. Currents: are not adequately addressed and cites conflict with the Appendix D, **SECTION 404(b) EVALUATION**. The unavailability of requested consultant report(s) invalidates any evaluations in the DEIS. A complete discussion is also mandated describing the increases in Tides and Currents as a result of the federal project modifications of 1965.

7. Storm Surge: Again inadequate justifications are cited that deepenings of the channel to as much as 52 feet result in with and without project storm surge water levels to less than 0.1 meter. The description does not specific what the only two different model bathymetries (most importantly exactly what is the future bathymetry modeled?).

Paragraphs 12. & 14. Side Slopes does not comport with the geology nor the existing channel side configuration. "For estimating purposes ..." needs to be re-reviewed.

Paragraph 18. Disposal Areas. Does not justify the almost unrestricted use of the Palm Beach Ocean Dredge Material Disposal Site as described. Construction and so-called time constrained economics are in large part the reason for decades of sand deprivation to the shores of Palm Beach Island.

H. SHIP SIMULATION STUDY The third paragraph describes the reason this DEIS concept of wider channel features are flawed and why the Project will fail. With out a doubt an honest description and evaluation of navigational usefulness, relevance and safety will most likely emphasize that channel widening is of limited value and that the Port of Palm Beach needs to deal in serving vessels acceptable to cross currents prevalent. Either be honest or abandon this study. (See CEQ Regs 1502.21)



Re: Draft Environmental Impact Statement Comments by Gerald M. Ward  
**Integrated Feasibility Report and Environmental Impact Statement**  
**Lake Worth Inlet, Palm Beach Harbor**  
**Riviera Beach/Palm Beach Shores/Palm Beach, Palm Beach County, Florida**

3 June 2013

EXHIBIT 3. - PAGE 2 OF 2

APPENDIX D. -

**SECTION 404(b) EVALUATION** - Have a divorced Corps (probably Regulatory Division and/or Office of Counsel) party or parties read this writeup along with the at least the DEIS I do not believe that they will agree! Somehow this evaluation does not pass the "smell test"! There are nil justifications as previously comment about use of the Palm Beach Offshore Dredged Material Disposal Area.

What is so missing are the baseline conditions. Lake Worth is a freshwater lake connected by artificial channels to the Straits of Florida and poorly to the Atlantic Ocean via Jupiter Inlet to the north. The facts are grossly in conflict with the cited conditions for generating the supposed project enlargements. (For example see; II./a.(2) as really obnoxious!) Although no federal Marine Sanctuaries are located within the "Project Area" a notable State Park exists down current both inside and outside and its waters are designated as Outstanding Florida Waters.

**MITIGATION PLAN**

As cited just above, the DEIS has no business determining that so-called "mitigation" is needed. The process will determine whether the "Project" itself balances the benefits and adverse impacts! The Table with ten projects including as Project Number 2, a completely failed concept (Turtle Cove) by the Palm Beach County Environmental Resources Management Department and abandoned by them after major public objections. (These backfill projects have obstructed navigation channels, caused untold siltation of adjacent bottoms and adversely affected private property riparian rights.) This local agency has recently changed management and no longer supports attempting "make work" projects with questionable overall goals. Jacksonville District staff attempted the middle of Paragraph 4.0 to deceptively attribute the "Turtle Cove" to the Town of Palm Beach by citing a non-existent "Town Division"!

Further, the extensive recitation of determining methods and so-called 'mitigations' creations wrongly precedes an analysis of benefits by the proposed project! Nowhere do I find competent analysis of beneficial impacts of the project. Neither Little Lake Worth nor the bogus Turtle Cove sites will achieve public support. The DEIS first job is to evaluate impacts, then the process follows with whether so-called 'mitigation' might even be needed. The reason for the two inlets connected to the Straits of Florida was clearly for lake clarification (water quality as we now know) first and navigation second.

**2012 Coordination Letters** Not of substance, but, an example of the lack of checking of this DEIS is District Engineer (Environmental Branch) request to the Florida Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) of July 20 2012 requesting asking for concurrence of no historic properties within the Project Area. I tend to concur, but, the response of SHPO September 13, 2012 was not for the referenced project!

Given the Feasibility Study was promoted for a wider and deeper port facilities, the Palm Beach Harbor Pilot's Association one paragraph letter of April 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2013 seems a little different than the one supporting Pilot speaker at the 9 May 2013 Public Meeting. Prior to any Final Environmental Impact Statement (if a revised and re-noticed Draft Environmental Impact Statement is not issued) a new Pilot's Association letter should be solicited.

**ECONOMICS** - As we testified at the Scoping Meeting (EXHIBIT 2), this subject needed to "drive the train" based upon realities of the physical constraints of the Port of Palm Beach. Instead somehow bulk cargos and transatlantic shipping seem to have become the basis for larger vessels. We expect a Revised Draft Environmental Impact Statement!

8336PPBDEISCURSORYCOMMENTS

WARD EXHIBIT 4



# US Army Corps of Engineers

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## Little Lake Worth and Turtle Cove not part of proposed dredging project at Lake Worth Inlet

Email Print

Posted 5/31/2013

Release no. 13-032

### Contact

Amanda Ellison  
904-232-1576

Jacksonville, Fla. – The Lake Worth Inlet Feasibility Study proposes to deepen and widen the Federal channel from Lake Worth Inlet to the Port of Palm Beach. Impacts to sea grasses and hardbottom resources are anticipated, therefore mitigation for these impacts are required.

① FALSE! AT THE DRAFT EIS STAGE NO SUCH DETERMINATION CAN BE MADE.

Little Lake Worth and Turtle Cove are two of 10 proposed locations for sea grass and hardbottom mitigation due to impacts of the proposed widening and deepening of the port. Dredging of Turtle Cove is neither part of the proposed project nor part of the mitigation plan. The mitigation plan is discussed in Appendix D of the draft report which is located at:

② // \*

[http://www.saj.usace.army.mil/About/Divisions/Offices/Planning/EnvironmentalBranch/EnvironmentalDocuments.aspx#Palm\\_Beach](http://www.saj.usace.army.mil/About/Divisions/Offices/Planning/EnvironmentalBranch/EnvironmentalDocuments.aspx#Palm_Beach)

DREDGING OF TURTLE COVE HAS NEVER BEEN PROPOSED. THE PBCO-ERN PROJECT WAS KILLED BECAUSE OF NUMEROUS "FILINGS" OF NAVIGATIONAL CHANGES, SEDIMENTATION AND APALACHIAN RIGHTS IMPACTS.

③ / \*

The Corps is currently coordinating with resource agencies for the mitigation plan. Locations for both sea grass and hardbottom mitigation have not been finalized. Concerns over the use of Little Lake Worth, Turtle Cove, or other proposed locations for mitigation will be considered and shared with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and the National Marine Fisheries Service.

UNDER THE LAWS AND REGULATIONS THE AGENCIES DO NOT DRIVE THE TRAIN, BUT THE PUBLIC AND THE CORPS (SUBJECT TO PUBLIC FURTHER REVIEW) DO!

④ / \*

Public review of the Draft Feasibility Report and Environmental Impact Statement for Lake Worth Inlet/Palm Beach Harbor will conclude on Monday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>. Upon conclusion of the public comment period, the project team will review all comments received, evaluate the comments, and make changes to the final report as appropriate.

IF YOU OR YOUR STAFF MAKE BAD DECISIONS THE PUBLIC HAS APPEAL PROCESS AND ULTIMATELY FUNDING CONTROL!

Official comments may be submitted to Ms. Angela Dunn at 904-232-2108 or Angela.E.Dunn@usace.army.mil.

army corps of engineers dredging Little Lake Worth Palm Beach Harbor Palm Beach Inlet Port of Palm Beach Turtle Cove



Why was not this sent out to the 9 MAY 2013 PUBLIC MEETING AND 9 JANUARY 2008 SCORING MEETING ATTENDEES?

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FOIA Privacy & Security  
Information Quality Act Public Inquiries

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has prepared a Draft Integrated Feasibility Report/Environmental Impact Statement ("EIS") dated April 2013 for proposed construction activities at the Port of Palm Beach. The plan promulgated by the Army Corps would deepen and widen the channels within the Port. According to the EIS, the impacts caused by the project would include the loss of both seagrass habitat and hardbottom habitat, for which mitigation is required. The list of potential seagrass mitigation sites includes a portion of Lake Worth Lagoon known as "Turtle Cove."

The purpose of this communication is to register a formal objection to seagrass mitigation activities within Turtle Cove and to request that the Turtle Cove site be removed from the list of potential mitigation sites. Last year, Palm Beach County applied for a permit from the Army Corps to cap approximately forty-two (42) acres of muck sediment with 640,000 cubic yards of sand within Turtle Cove in an effort to create 37.8 acres of seagrass habitat. A large portion of this area is immediately adjacent to two existing communities, Old Port Cove and Twelve Oaks, and one approved (although not yet constructed) multi-family development, the Water Club. In response to strenuous objections from the Village of North Palm Beach and other stakeholders, the County withdrew its permit application and stated this site would no longer be considered for seagrass mitigation activities.

While the seagrass mitigation activities proposed by the Army Corps may not be of the same magnitude as the County's prior application, the proposed project has the same potential for negative impacts to both adjacent properties and the Lagoon itself. Specifically:

- The fill is likely to result in the accumulation of silt adjacent to the docks around the Lagoon, at the entrance to and within the canal leading into Little Lake Worth, and within the marinas at Old Port Cove and Twelve Oaks (and proposed marina at The Water Club), which lie directly in the path of the tidal flow. Obstructing the entrance to Little Lake Worth could result in a "dead zone" body of water. A prior fill operation near the Monastery property had similar impacts, even though this project was much closer to shore and out of the path of the tidal flow.
- The project could eradicate the existing sea life in the currently pristine Lagoon during the course of the project.
- The project would negatively impact navigation in the area, causing vessel congestion around the perimeter of the project. The project encroaches upon an existing, long-established marked and maintained navigation channel.
- The project would encroach on the riparian rights of surrounding property owners, decrease property values, and negatively impact the surrounding communities, requiring these property owners, including the marinas, to dredge and restore their waterfront.

Given that prior Munyon Island remediation projects have failed to substantially improve the aquatic environment, I am concerned that the proposed seagrass habitat will be neither viable nor nurtured. I do not believe that any potential benefits of the project, if realized, will outweigh the continued viability of Little Lake Worth, the impediments to navigation and the impairment of riparian rights in the general vicinity of the project.

Sincerely yours,

*Jeanette O. Land*

SIGN, PRINT NAME AND ADDRESS



Jeanette O. Land  
Apt 235  
120 Lakeshore Dr  
North Palm Beach, FL 33408

RE: USACE Draft Integrated Feasibility Report - EIS for LWI, PB Harbor

13 NY VELA 130000  
US ARMY C of E  
PO BOX 4970  
JACKSONVILLE FL  
32232-0019

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has prepared a Draft Integrated Feasibility Report/Environmental Impact Statement ("EIS") dated April 2013 for proposed construction activities at the Port of Palm Beach. The plan promulgated by the Army Corps would deepen and widen the channels within the Port. According to the EIS, the impacts caused by the project would include the loss of both seagrass habitat and hardbottom habitat, for which mitigation is required. The list of potential seagrass mitigation sites includes a portion of Lake Worth Lagoon known as "Turtle Cove."

RECEIVED  
03/13

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Sincerely yours,  
*John Land*

SIGN PRINT NAME AND ADDRESS



Mr John Land  
120 Lakeshore Dr Apt 235  
N Palm Beach FL 33408-3633

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Sincerely yours, *Antonina Alabina*

SIGN, PRINT NAME AND ADDRESS

*ANTONINA ALABINA  
120 LAKESHORE DR PH 35  
16 PALM BEACH FL 33408*

RECEIVED  
6/3/13

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Sincerely yours,

SIGN, PRINT NAME AND ADDRESS

*Paul Kelly*  
132 Lakeside Dr #70  
North Palm Beach, FL 33408



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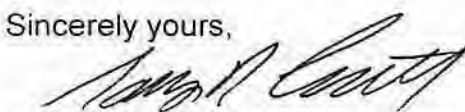
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Sincerely yours,

  
SIGN, PRINT NAME AND ADDRESS

Gary R. Cartwright  
122 Lake Shore Dr, Apt. 733  
North Palm Beach, FL 33408

 - Telephone 561-568-5913  
England

May 24, 2013

Ms. Angela Dunn

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

PO Box 4970

Jacksonville, FL 32232-0019

RECEIVED  
6/3/13

Dear Ms. Dunn,

RE: USACE Draft Integrated Feasibility Report - EIS for LWI, PB Harbor

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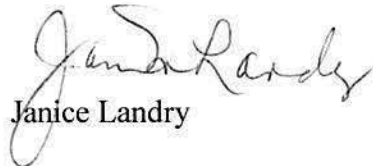


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Sincerely yours,



Janice Landry

100 Lakeshore Drive Apt 1451

North Palm Beach, FL 33408

May 24, 2013

Ms. Angela Dunn

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

PO Box 4970

Jacksonville, FL 32232-0019



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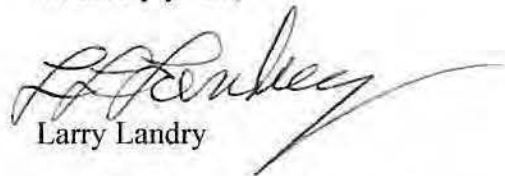
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Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Larry Landry", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Larry Landry

100 Lakeshore Drive Apt 1451

North Palm Beach, FL 33408

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Sincerely yours,

*Jane A. Morgan*

SIGN, PRINT NAME AND ADDRESS

JANE A. MORGAN #930  
124 Lakeshore Dr.  
North Palm Beach, FL 33408



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Sincerely yours,

RON & MARIA KABITZICE  
OPC 120 LAKE SHORE DR. APT. 437 NORTH PALM BEACH FL 33409

SIGN, PRINT NAME AND ADDRESS

*[Handwritten signature: Ron & Maria Kabitzice]*

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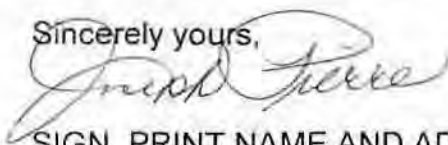
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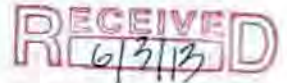
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SIGN, PRINT NAME AND ADDRESS

JOSEPH PERRY #325, No. PALM BCH., FL 33408  
126 LAKESHORE DR.

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*Florence De Alteris*

SIGN, PRINT NAME AND ADDRESS

Florence De Alteris, 124 Lakeshore Dr. PH 28, North Palm Beach, FL 33408

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*Priscilla Atoa-Pierre*

SIGN, PRINT NAME AND ADDRESS

126 Lakeshore Dr #325  
North Palm Bch, FL 33408



Date MAY 29, 2013



Ms. Angela Dunn  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
PO Box 4970  
Jacksonville, FL 32232-0019

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Sincerely yours,



Ivan Be Rossy

RECEIVED  
6/3/13

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Sincerely yours,

5/29/13

Harold Bolstein  
134 LAKESHORE DR. APT T14  
N. PALM BEACH, FL 33408

RECEIVED  
6/3/13

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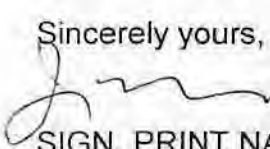
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Sincerely yours,



John Kelly

SIGN, PRINT NAME AND ADDRESS

120 LAKESHORE DR  
UNIT 73C  
NPB FL 33406

RE: USACE Draft Integrated Feasibility Report - EIS for LWI, PB Harbor

RECEIVED  
06/07/13

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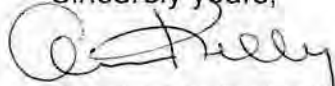
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Sincerely yours,



SIGN, PRINT NAME AND ADDRESS

Ann Kelly  
120 Lakeshore Drive #736  
North Palm Beach  
FL 33408

RECEIVED  
6/3/13

Date: May 23, 2013

Ms. Angela Dunn

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

PO Box 4970

Jacksonville, FL 32232-0019

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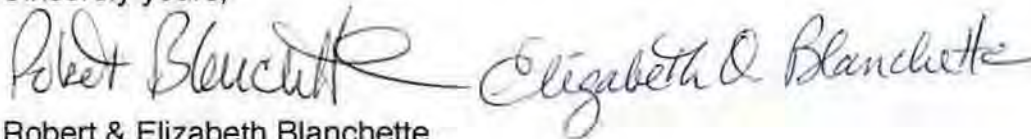
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Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Robert & Elizabeth Blanchette". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the right of the typed name.

Robert & Elizabeth Blanchette  
1108 Marine Way B4L  
North Palm Beach, FL.



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ROGER LEBEL Quay South  
120 LAKESHORE DR

SIGN, PRINT NAME AND ADDRESS

APT 536 N.P.B. FL 33408



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SIGN, PRINT NAME AND ADDRESS

Carol Lennon  
126 Lake Shore Dr NE, North Palm Beach FL 33408

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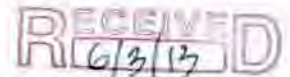
Michael Dowd

BOARD MEMBER  
QUAY SOUTH

SIGN, PRINT NAME AND ADDRESS

MICHAEL DOWD

126 LAKESHORE DR  
NORTH PALM BEACH FL



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*Karen A. Williams*

SIGN, PRINT NAME AND ADDRESS

130 Lake Shore Dr #423  
N Palm Beach, Florida 33405

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*Catherine Kalina*  
CATHERINE KALINA

SIGN, PRINT NAME AND ADDRESS

132 Lakeshore Drive #611  
North Palm Beach Florida 33408

**From:** [Catherine Asumbra](#)  
**To:** [Dunn, Angela E SAJ](#)  
**Subject:** The Blue Haron Bridge  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 04, 2013 4:17:37 PM

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I am horrified! That this Palm Beach Port Exspansion has even been considered, knowing the impact that it will have on our sea life! This is a two year project! This disruption to our sea life will go on 24hrs a day, 7 days a week! The stress alone that it will have on our sea life is unthinkable! It will effect there eating, sleeping, their breeding, driving them out of there habitate. What about the ones who cant leave? What about our coral reef? The contamination that this project will cause will effect not only our presious sea life, but it will move through the food chain onto the tables of humans, it will be on your table and the table of the ones you love. Our waters will become silty, full of contaminates and hazards. This is dirty greed put forth by those who only care about them selves. It saddens me so much that I took this time to write you this letter. It should sadden you too. Please stop this prodject for the love of nature and mankind.

Thank you  
Catherine Asumbra

**From:** [Keystone](#)  
**To:** [Dunn, Angela E SAJ](#)  
**Subject:** WPB Port Expansion and BHB Habitat  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 04, 2013 8:46:25 AM

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After reading the following letter I would like to express my concern with the impact the port expansion will have on the habitat in question. Please take into consideration the potential destruction of the BHB environment and reconsider the port expansion project.

Thank you,

Ed Farias

Bob Hewes Boats

305-405-6605

Palm Beach County

REEF RESCUE

P.O. Box 207 Boynton Beach, Florida 33425(561) 699-8559 Email: [etichscuba@aol.com](mailto:etichscuba@aol.com) [www.reef-rescue.org](http://www.reef-rescue.org)

May 29, 2013 PALM BEACH COUNTY REEF RESCUE COMMENTS: DRAFT INTEGRATED FEASIBILITY REPORT AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT LAKE WORTH INLET, PALM BEACH HARBOR PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, U.S. JACKSONVILLE DISTRICT APRIL 2013 The above referenced report fails to adequately address all of the potential negative environmental and economic impacts and implications of the project on the Palm Beach Harbor area. The report does not take into consideration the substantial recreational resources located within the immediate area of potential project impacts and what affects the loss of these resources, either temporarily or permanently, will have on the local economy. Definition of Recreational Resources Blue Heron Bridge at Phil Foster Park The area of the Blue Heron Bridge (BHB) supports a significant recreational SCUBA and snorkeling community. The area is considered unique due to its flora and fauna; attracting underwater photographers and enthusiasts worldwide. According to local SCUBA retailers the BHB can draw as many one hundred divers per day. The BHB is recognized internationally as an underwater macro-photography mecca due to an abundance of tropical fish, gobies, blennies, squid, rays, seahorses, starfish, octopus, nudibranchs, tunicates, lobster as well as a plethora of benthic invertebrates and organisms. Palm Beach County (PBC) has recently completed a snorkeling trail adjacent to the BHB, constructed with limestone boulders and prefabricated reef modules it increases the benthic hard bottom community and provides additional essential habitat for juvenile fish. The trail spans a two acre area in six to ten feet of water. Over 600 tons of rocks were used to construct the project which was completed April 2012. However, even before completion the BHB had a reputation as a world-class diving destination. The BHB is utilized for SCUBA diving training. Due to its sheltered location instructors take student divers to this area to practice skills needed for SCUBA

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To monitor, preserve and protect the coral reef ecosystem of South Florida through research, education and public awareness

Palm Beach County

## REEF RESCUE

certification. There is no other like setting in PBC where this type of training can be performed. In addition, because of the sheltered nature of this location many diving charter boatstake their customers to BHB when sea conditions are unfavorable for offshore diving. Local dive businesses rely on this important option when out-of-area groups come to Palm Beach County for SCUBA excursions. This diving alternative is a component of an out-of-area tour group's decision to select PBC as a diving destination. The financial impact of BHB tourism related expenditures represents a significant contribution to the local economy. PBC BHB

factsheet: (<http://www.pbcgov.com/erm/downloads/pdf/projectfactsheets/philfostersnorkeltrail.pdf>) pdf  
<<http://www.pbcgov.com/erm/downloads/pdf/projectfactsheets/philfostersnorkeltrail.pdf>> pdf  
<<http://www.pbcgov.com/erm/downloads/pdf/projectfactsheets/philfostersnorkeltrail.pdf>> ) Peanut Island  
The County operated Peanut Island Park offers a year-round opportunity for swimming in the Intracoastal Waterway. Adjacent to the beach PBC has built a shallow-water reef habitat Snorkeling Lagoon. On weekends and holidays hundreds of recreation boaters anchor in the shallow waters north and east of the island. The Draft ACOE Feasibility Report and EIS discusses blasting impacts on populations of whales, sea turtles, manatees and the resulting mortality of finfish. However, there is no evaluation, assessment or safety consideration for potential blast related barotrauma to divers/snorkelers. Nor does it address blasting impacts on the large Peanut Island recreational boating community. All of the aforementioned activities at both the BHB and Peanut Island can be severely impacted by turbidity, siltation, blasting and construction equipment associated with the proposed expansion project. All negative economic impacts resulting from the loss of recreational usage must be, and have not been, factored into the overall Port of Palm Beach Expansion economic assessment. Turbidity & Sediment Impacts  
The Draft ACOE Feasibility Report and EIS suggests project related turbidity i.e., cloudiness and siltation (suspended solids) can be controlled/kept in-check by employing a turbidity requirement of no greater than 29 NTU above background. Stating; should an exceedance

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<<http://www.pbcgov.com/erm/downloads/pdf/projectfactsheets/philfostersnorkeltrail.pdf>>  
<<http://www.pbcgov.com/erm/downloads/pdf/projectfactsheets/philfostersnorkeltrail.pdf>>

Palm Beach County

## REEF RESCUE

occur work would cease until readings returned to background levels. However, the document fails to define the extent of the "mixing zone" within which turbidity values greater than 29 NTU would be permissible. Nor does the document indicate the frequency with which turbidity analysis will be performed or how "background" will be determined. The proposed 29 NTU standard is not intended to preserve the aesthetic water quality necessary for recreational diving/snorkeling. Typically underwater horizontal visibility at the BHB ranges between 20 to 40 feet; a clarity essential for photography and diver safety. There is no correlation between the 29 NTU standard and resulting horizontal visibility. An nephelometric standard appropriate for preserving the existing BHB water clarity must be developed. The document fails to cite a scientific reference or justification that a 29 NTU above background standard will not degrade the receiving environment. The 29 NTU standard appears to be gleaned from Florida Statute; a standard which is generally employed during short-term construction projects. The 29 NTU standard is not designed for protection of the environment, bathers, snorkelers and divers from long-term, multi-year, chronic exposure to potentially contaminated sediments. The document fails to take into consideration the physical and chemical nature of the suspended solids

impacting the receiving environment. Results of sediment analysis published by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (Florida coastal sediment contaminants atlas a summary of coastal sediment quality surveys, 1994) found

"Both metal and organic contamination are ubiquitous [in sediments] north of Fort Lauderdale... A few sites in the Lake Worth Lagoon north of the City of Lake Worth have significant enrichment in metals... PAH's and PCB's also were detected slightly south of West Palm Beach."

(<http://ufdc.ufl.edu/UF00099283/00001/2x>) Marinas and boatyards are notorious for containing contaminated sediments, including Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAH's), organic contaminants, heavy metals and most notably tributyltin (TBT). TBT, a component of marine antifouling paints, is toxic to aquatic organisms such as mussels, clams, and oysters. At low levels, TBT can cause structural changes and growth retardation. TBT binds strongly to suspended particles such as minute organic material or inorganic sediments, it is well documented that TBT persists in marina/boatyard sediments. Lake Worth Lagoon is the location of extensive, publicly funded oyster reef restoration projects. Liberation and suspension of entombed TBT and other hazardous material can have a devastating impact on invertebrate reproduction, a component key to the success of Palm Beach County's oyster habitat restoration, Peanut Island shallow-water reef habitat Snorkeling Lagoon and BHB limestone hardbottom recruitment project efforts.

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< <http://ufdc.ufl.edu/UF00099283/00001/2x> >

Palm Beach County

#### REEF RESCUE

In addition to the above listed marina/boatyard related contaminants, there is a high likelihood agricultural and urban runoff pollutants may be present in sediments within the proposed port expansion footprint. The Port of Palm Beach receives runoff from the Everglades Agricultural Area (EAA). Contaminates present in EAA sediments can include arsenic, pesticides, herbicides, DDT and its degradation products. The South Florida Water Management District, Ambient Pesticide Monitoring Network Technical Publication 105 (October 2009) lists the following 21 most frequently detected pesticides, herbicides, Aroclors and degradation products found in EAA drainage sediments: aldrin, alpha endosulfan, ametryn, atrazine, bromacil, beta endosulfan, chlordane, dicofol, dieldrin, diquat, diuron, p,p'-DDD, p,p'-DDE, p,p'-DDT, endosulfan sulfate, ethion, norflurazon, PCB-1016, PCB-1242, PCB-1254, PCB-1260. ([http://my.sfwmd.gov/portal/page/portal/pg\\_grp\\_tech\\_pubs/PORTLET\\_tech\\_pubs/sfwmd\\_105.pdf](http://my.sfwmd.gov/portal/page/portal/pg_grp_tech_pubs/PORTLET_tech_pubs/sfwmd_105.pdf)) < [http://my.sfwmd.gov/portal/page/portal/pg\\_grp\\_tech\\_pubs/PORTLET\\_tech\\_pubs/sfwmd\\_105.pdf](http://my.sfwmd.gov/portal/page/portal/pg_grp_tech_pubs/PORTLET_tech_pubs/sfwmd_105.pdf) > 5.pdf < [http://my.sfwmd.gov/portal/page/portal/pg\\_grp\\_tech\\_pubs/PORTLET\\_tech\\_pubs/sfwmd\\_105.pdf](http://my.sfwmd.gov/portal/page/portal/pg_grp_tech_pubs/PORTLET_tech_pubs/sfwmd_105.pdf) > , Table 7) It is imperative that prior to any dredging/excavation authorization, within this unique environmental/recreational setting, a full understanding of potential contaminants, routes of exposure and long-term effects on the public health, flora and fauna be assessed. The Draft ACOE Feasibility Report and EIS in its present form fails to address these issues.

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To monitor, preserve and protect the coral reef ecosystem of South Florida through research, education and public awareness

4



**From:** [Teresa K. Roberts](#)  
**To:** [Dunn, Angela E SAJ](#)  
**Subject:** Port of Palm Beach  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 04, 2013 2:06:29 AM

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Dear Ms. Dunn:

Please stop the expansion of the Port of Palm Beach.

This outrageous project will impact sea life at the Blue Heron Bridge, a unique area in south Florida. Already, diving the ledges and reefs in Jupiter, we are effected from the ships heading to the port of PB.

Many times our lives are put in danger from barges and ships that enter our waters shallower than 80 to 100' in depth. They take a short cut across our dive areas cutting us off from our dive boats, fellow divers, and stopping us from surfacing when we are low on air and hear the ships above and near us. We do not need another "mega" ship port.

Also effected would be sea life, especially our endangered and threatened Sea turtles and manatees

Which already struggle to survive in our waters. I have photographed many turtles

Damaged by boat strikes. We have a population of

the rare Learherback sea turtles which nest on our beaches along Jupiter, Juno, Singer Island that utilize the Gulfstream waters. They can swim against any currents in the world and are critically endangered.

Please know that people come to these waters to see sea life large and small from all over the world.

The expansion of the Port of Palm Beach would have a grave effect on our oceans!

Thank you for your time.

Sincere regards,  
Terri Roberts

TERRI ROBERTS  
PHOTOGRAPHER  
JUPITER FL USA

\*\*\*Pls excuse errors, Sent from my iPhone

~Save the Sharks and sea turtles of the world~~~~~)~~~~~

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has prepared a Draft Integrated Feasibility Report/Environmental Impact Statement ("EIS") dated April 2013 for proposed construction activities at the Port of Palm Beach. The plan promulgated by the Army Corps would deepen and widen the channels within the Port. According to the EIS, the impacts caused by the project would include the loss of both seagrass habitat and hardbottom habitat, for which mitigation is required. The list of potential seagrass mitigation sites includes a portion of Lake Worth Lagoon known as "Turtle Cove."

The purpose of this communication is to register a formal objection to seagrass mitigation activities within Turtle Cove and to request that the Turtle Cove site be removed from the list of potential mitigation sites. Last year, Palm Beach County applied for a permit from the Army Corps to cap approximately forty-two (42) acres of muck sediment with 640,000 cubic yards of sand within Turtle Cove in an effort to create 37.8 acres of seagrass habitat. A large portion of this area is immediately adjacent to two existing communities, Old Port Cove and Twelve Oaks, and one approved (although not yet constructed) multi-family development, the Water Club. In response to strenuous objections from the Village of North Palm Beach and other stakeholders, the County withdrew its permit application and stated this site would no longer be considered for seagrass mitigation activities.

While the seagrass mitigation activities proposed by the Army Corps may not be of the same magnitude as the County's prior application, the proposed project has the same potential for negative impacts to both adjacent properties and the Lagoon itself. Specifically:

- The fill is likely to result in the accumulation of silt adjacent to the docks around the Lagoon, at the entrance to and within the canal leading into Little Lake Worth, and within the marinas at Old Port Cove and Twelve Oaks (and proposed marina at The Water Club), which lie directly in the path of the tidal flow. Obstructing the entrance to Little Lake Worth could result in a "dead zone" body of water. A prior fill operation near the Monastery property had similar impacts, even though this project was much closer to shore and out of the path of the tidal flow.
- The project could eradicate the existing sea life in the currently pristine Lagoon during the course of the project.
- The project would negatively impact navigation in the area, causing vessel congestion around the perimeter of the project. The project encroaches upon an existing, long-established marked and maintained navigation channel.
- The project would encroach on the riparian rights of surrounding property owners, decrease property values, and negatively impact the surrounding communities, requiring these property owners, including the marinas, to dredge and restore their waterfront.

Given that prior Munyon Island remediation projects have failed to substantially improve the aquatic environment, I am concerned that the proposed seagrass habitat will be neither viable nor nurtured. I do not believe that any potential benefits of the project, if realized, will outweigh the continued viability of Little Lake Worth, the impediments to navigation and the impairment of riparian rights in the general vicinity of the project.

Sincerely yours,



SIGN, PRINT NAME AND ADDRESS

SCOTT GOODBY  
122 Lakeshore Dr

T. 34 D 1 D 0 1 E 1 33408

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Sincerely yours,

*Camille Goodby*

Camille Goodby  
122 Lakeshore Dr T-34  
North Palm Beach, FL  
33408

SIGN, PRINT NAME AND ADDRESS



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Sincerely yours,

SIGN, PRINT NAME AND ADDRESS

MARY T. PERCIVAL 123 LAKESHORE DR.  
North PALM BEACH APT. 432  
FLORIDA



## FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF STATE

**RICK SCOTT**  
Governor

**KEN DETZNER**  
Secretary of State

Mr. Eric Summa  
Planning and Policy Division  
Jacksonville Corps of Engineers  
Post Office Box 4970  
Jacksonville, Florida 32232-0019

November 20, 2013

Re: DHR Project File No.: 2013-05131/ Received: October 20, 2013  
Lake Worth Inlet & Palm Beach Harbor Construction  
County: Palm Beach

Dear Mr. Summa,

Our office received and reviewed the project in accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended and 36 CFR Part 800. The State Historic Preservation Officer is to advise and assist federal agencies when identifying historic properties (archaeological, architectural, and historical resources) listed, or eligible for listing, in the National Register of Historic Places, assessing the project's effects, and considering alternatives to avoid or minimize adverse effects.

Based on the information provided, this office concurs that the proposed project will have no adverse effect on historic or archaeological properties.

If you have any questions concerning our comments, please contact Michael Hart, Historic Sites Specialist, by phone at 850.245.6333, or by electronic mail at [Michael.Hart@dos.myflorida.com](mailto:Michael.Hart@dos.myflorida.com). Your continued interest in protecting Florida's historic properties is appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert F. Bendus".

Robert F. Bendus, Director  
Division of Historical Resources  
and State Historic Preservation Officer

### DIVISION OF HISTORICAL RESOURCES

R. A. Gray Building • 500 South Bronough Street • Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0250

Telephone: 850.245.6300 • [www.flheritage.com](http://www.flheritage.com)

*Commemorating 500 years of Florida history* • [www.VivaFlorida.org](http://www.VivaFlorida.org)



**Pilot Approval Letter and  
Associated Correspondence**



**Board of Commissioners**

Blair J. Ciklin  
Jean L. Enright  
George E. Mastics  
Edward R. Oppel  
Wayne M. Richards

**Executive Director**

Manuel Almira, PPM®

January 22, 2014

COL Alan Dodd  
Commander  
USACE, Jacksonville District  
701 San Marco Boulevard  
Jacksonville, FL 32207

Dear Colonel Dodd:

The Port of Palm Beach continues to support the proposed Harbor Deepening and Widening project, as described in the Final Integrated Feasibility Report and Environmental Impact Statement. The Port supports the Recommended Plan, consisting of deepening and widening the channel with associated mitigation efforts. The Port understands the financial commitments as the non-Federal sponsor for design and construction of the project and associated items of local cooperation. It is the Port's intention to enter into a Design Agreement and a Project Partnership Agreement for the project when approved for implementation.

The Port of Palm Beach offers this letter of intent to fulfill the non-Federal responsibilities for possible implementation of the Recommended Plan. The Port is eager to proceed to the next phase of this project. This letter of intent is not intended to be legally binding, but rather our expression of intent to move forward expeditiously with the Project.

Sincerely,

Manuel Almira  
Executive Director  
Port of Palm Beach District



Gregory G. Turner  
William G. Roden, Jr.

William D. Messer  
Matthew L. Rigby  
Reid Hansen

**Palm Beach Harbor Pilots' Association**

200 E. 13<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite B  
Riviera Beach, Florida 33404-6946  
Office (561) 845-2628 FAX (561) 845-2644  
Email: [PBPilots@aol.com](mailto:PBPilots@aol.com)

April 22nd, 2012

The Palm Beach Harbor Pilots have reviewed and approve Revised Plan 2 of the Army Corps of Engineer's Channel Improvement Plan. We feel the new plan will maximize ship size: length and beam, that can safely enter to the Port of Palm Beach. We also feel Revised Plan 2 will require the least amount of dredging and minimize the ecological impact to the Lake Worth Inlet and turning basin while providing maximum economic benefit.

Sincerely,

Captain Gregory G. Turner, President  
Palm Beach Harbor Pilots' Association





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

FEB 13 2008

REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF

Planning Division  
Plan Formulation Branch

Mr. Martin E. Murphy  
The Murphy Construction Company  
1615 Clarke Avenue  
West Palm Beach, Florida 33401

Dear Mr. Murphy:

Thank you for your response to the December 6, 2007 Notice of Intent to prepare a Draft Environmental Impact Statement for Expansion of Lake Worth Inlet (Palm Beach Harbor), Florida. The Port is no longer considering expansion of their cruise terminal to the north.

Element E of the study was being considered for navigational reasons. The harbor pilots had identified conditions, particularly when a strong east wind occurred with Tropical vessels berthed along the marginal wharf approach that the northern extent of the basin during turning maneuvers was limiting. The alternative does not include expansion of the Port of Palm Beach to the north.

This study area has a low priority with both the pilots and the Port of Palm Beach and based upon further consideration is being removed from the study as an alternative. I would like to thank you for taking the time to attend the scoping meeting and providing input into this process. If you have any questions, please contact Samantha Brucker at (904) 232-1066.

Sincerely,

Marie G. Burns  
Acting Chief, Planning Division

Copy Furnished:

Ms. Kathy Andress, Deputy Port Director, One East 11th Street, Ste. 400, Riviera Beach,  
Florida 33404



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20314-1000

REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF:

CECW-PM (10-1-7a)

29 MAR 2001

MEMORANDUM FOR COMMANDER, SOUTH ATLANTIC DIVISION  
ATTN: CESAD-CM-P

SUBJECT: Lake Worth Inlet (Palm Beach Harbor), Florida - Section 905(b) Analysis

1. Reference: E-mail Message from Mr. William H. Osborne, CESAD-CM-C, dated 16 March 2001, which forwarded the subject analysis to HQUSACE.
2. The subject analysis and letter of intent, which were provided as an attachment to the referenced message, are approved for proceeding into the feasibility phase of planning. The district should plan to convene an in-progress review meeting early in the feasibility study to ensure that the study is focused and tailored to meet specific objectives. Based on the results of the in-progress review meeting, the project study plan may need to be revised to better define depth of analysis required and/or refine study constraints.
3. Submission of the model feasibility cost sharing agreement is not required, provided no deviations are required.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James F. Johnson".

JAMES F. JOHNSON  
Chief, Planning and Policy Division  
Directorate of Civil Works



Gregory G. Turner  
William G. Roden, Jr.

William D. Messer  
Matthew L. Rigby

### **Palm Beach Harbor Pilots' Association**

200 E. 13<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite B  
Riviera Beach, Florida 33404-6946  
Office (561) 845-2628 FAX (561) 845-2644  
Email: PBPilots@aol.com  
June 28, 2005

To: Vessel Operators, Ship's Agents and Port Officials

This letter is to help clarify our parameters as to what size, beam, and draft that vessels may transit the Port of Palm Beach. A synopsis of our guidelines is listed below; however, it is impossible to regulate each scenario. When a vessel is calling on the Port for the first time, the Pilots must be contacted before scheduling vessels that are either 550' LOA or greater, 85' or over in beam, or over 30' in draft. The Pilots should be contacted at least 72 hours prior to arrival for all other vessels calling on the Port for the first time to discuss any tug or docking requirements that may delay the vessel.

The maximum salt-water draft is 33'-00" for the Port of Palm Beach when the channel and turning basin are free from shoaling. During periods when shoaling is present, further restrictions beyond what is stated below might be applied to the draft, length, or beam.

Vessels 600' and over LOA will enter only during daylight hours.

Vessels 600' and over LOA or a beam of 90' or greater may have an additional draft restriction.

Vessels within 3 feet of maximum allowable draft are restricted to high water slack.

Single screw vessels 500' LOA or greater may be restricted to maneuvering during daylight slack water depending upon the draft of the vessel and the current weather conditions.

Single screw vessels must have at least 50' of clearance to adjacent vessels in the slip in order for the tugs to operate safely. All vessels may expect delays whenever this situation occurs.

Deep draft vessels over 600' should be advised that the west end of the South Slip (Slip #3) has a depth of 25' at MLW.

Vessels less than 550' LOA and 85' beam with 50 feet of clearance in the slip can be safely handled using the two local tugs under most weather conditions. When vessels exceed this size or when the weather deteriorates, we have found that it is necessary to order an outside tug and/or restrict the draft to improve the maneuvering of these vessels. Briefly, the reasons for this are; the low horsepower of the local tugs, the strength of the Gulf Stream at the mouth of the inlet, the width of the turn in the inner channel, and wind velocities that exceed 20 knots.

Single screw vessels will require a third tug if they exceed the following parameters:

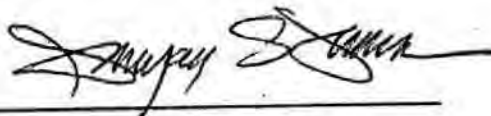
550' LOA or greater when there are adverse weather conditions  
600' LOA or greater with drafts at 30' or greater  
Inbound vessels with a LOA of 550' or greater and a draft over 32' or beam over 85' and a draft over 30'  
A combination of LOA over 600' and a beam over 85' at any draft with 30' being the maximum

Vessels 500' LOA or greater may need a third tug when backing into a slip in a loaded condition. Twin-screw ships, and single screw vessels fitted with thrusters, may not have all of the restrictions that are listed above depending upon the handling characteristics of the vessel. The Pilots should be contacted regarding such vessels.

Additional recommendations for Oil Tankers and Barges:

It is recommended that vessels carrying oil transit during slack water for safety reasons. Flood tides should be avoided at all times. Certain vessels such as steam tankers may require 3 tugs. The maximum draft for oil is 32'-00" unless limited by the above parameters or shoaling.

It has been and will continue to be the Port's decision on what vessels will have priority and to which berths they will be assigned. We will continue to work with the staff at the Port of Palm Beach in order to fully utilize the Port. Please contact the Port and the Pilots for further information before considering vessels for charter within the parameters specified above. Guidelines for vessels entering the North Slip (located at the new Cruise Terminal) will be determined after all bottom surveys and simulator studies are complete.



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Gregory G. Turner  
President / Palm Beach Harbor Pilots