



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

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

**PINELLAS COUNTY BEACH EROSION CONTROL PROJECT
TREASURE ISLAND AND LONG KEY
PINELLAS COUNTY, FLORIDA**

This Finding incorporates by reference three Environmental Assessments conducted for the proposed beach renourishment of the Federally authorized Pinellas County Beach Erosion Control Project on Treasure Island and Long Key, Pinellas County, FL. The initial Environmental Assessment (EA) was completed in 1997 by the Planning Division (PD) under the Civil Works Project authority and evaluates the placement of dredged sand from the Egmont Shoal offshore borrow area onto the beaches of Pinellas County. A subsequent 2003 EA completed by PD evaluates the Egmont Shoal borrow area as the No Action Alternative for the Pinellas County beach erosion control project. More recently, a new PD EA was written in 2009 to evaluate alternate borrow areas for the same beach erosion control project. Therefore, this Finding provides notice of intent of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) Civil Works Program to include and amend its existing National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) coverage by incorporating by reference all discussions and conclusions contained in these three EAs. Consequently, the scope of this FONSI is to dredge approximately 560,000cy of sand from the Egmont Shoal borrow area and place 160,000cy and 200,000cy between R-126 to R-128 and R-136 to R-141 on Treasure Island and 200,000cy between R-144 to R-148 and R-160 to R-165 on Long Key. Based on information analyzed in the EAs, reflecting pertinent information obtained from agencies having jurisdiction by law and/or special expertise, I conclude that the proposed action will not significantly impact the quality of the human environment and does not require an Environmental Impact Statement. Reasons for this conclusion are in summary:

- a. The proposed action would be conducted in accordance with the Endangered Species Act, and specifically in compliance with the 2007 Gulf Regional Biological Opinion issued by the National Marine Fisheries Service and the 2011 Statewide Programmatic Biological Opinion (SPBO) and 2013 Programmatic Piping Plover Biological Opinion (P3BO) issued by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). The work would not jeopardize the continued existence of any threatened or endangered species or adversely modify critical habitat.
- b. This project was coordinated with the State of Florida, and all applicable water quality standards are addressed in Joint Coastal Permit (JCP) 0221569-008-JM issued 29 March 2010 and modification 0221569-010-JN dated 20 December 2012.
- c. The State concurred with the Corps' Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) consistency determination that the proposed action is consistent with the enforceable policies of the Florida Coastal Management Program through issuance of JCP modification 0221569-010-JN.

d. In accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, Section 106 consultation is ongoing. The Project is anticipated to have no effects to properties listed on or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. In addition, the project specifications will include protections for the USS Narcissus underwater archaeological preserve adjacent to the Egmont Shoal borrow area.

e. Public benefits will be provided with hurricane and storm damage reduction and beach recreation.

f. Measures will be taken during construction to eliminate, reduce, or avoid impacts below the threshold of significance to fish and wildlife resources including the following:

1. Dredging would occur within the authorized footprint of the Egmont Shoal borrow area and beach placement would occur within the template of previously permitted and authorized placement areas;
2. All water based activities would follow standard manatee, sea turtle and smalltooth sawfish protection measures per the conditions of the NMFS GRBO and dredged material placement would comply with the conditions of the USFWS SPBO and P3BO;
3. The Jacksonville District's Migratory Bird Protection Plan would be followed during the nesting season.

In consideration of the information summarized, I find that the proposed Federal beach erosion control project, Treasure Island and Long Key, Pinellas County, FL, will not significantly affect the human environment and does not require an Environmental Impact Statement. A copy of these documents will be made available to the public at the following website:

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



Alan M. Dodd
Colonel, U.S. Army
District Commander

17 June 2013

Date