



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

REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF

Planning and Policy Division  
Environmental Branch

**APR 15 2014**

To Whom It May Concern:

Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) Regulation (33 CFR 230.11), this letter constitutes the Notice of Availability of the Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) to evaluate the suitability of four borrow areas for future nourishing of Venice Beach as part of the Venice Beach Hurricane and Storm Damage Reduction project in Sarasota County, Florida. The initial project construction occurred in 1996, and the first renourishment was conducted in 2005. The second renourishment is proposed to occur in 2015. The four borrow areas evaluated in this EA contain suitable material in sufficient quantities for placement at Venice Beach for the next two nourishment events.

The draft EA and the draft Finding of No Significant Impact are available on the Corps, Jacksonville District website at the following address for your review:

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

At this time, we are inviting agencies, interest groups, and the public to provide input on the proposed alternatives and to identify significant resource concerns. Your comments will be incorporated into the final EA. Comments should be addressed to the Corps at the following address:

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Jacksonville District  
Attention: Aubree Hershoin (CESAJ-PD-EC)  
Post Office Box 4970  
Jacksonville, FL 32232-0019

**Please provide written comments within 30 days of the date of this letter.**

If you have any questions or comments, please contact the project ecologist, Aubree Hershorin, at (904) 232-2136 or [Aubree.G.Hershorin@usace.army.mil](mailto:Aubree.G.Hershorin@usace.army.mil).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'E. Summa', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Eric P. Summa  
Chief, Environmental Branch

Enclosure

## **FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**

### **BEACH NOURISHMENT HURRICANE AND STORM DAMAGE REDUCTION PROJECT VENICE BEACH, SARASOTA COUNTY, FLORIDA**

I have reviewed the Environmental Assessment (EA) for the proposed action. Based on information analyzed in the EA enclosed hereto, reflecting pertinent information obtained from cooperating Federal agencies having jurisdiction by law and/or special expertise, I conclude that the proposed action will have no significant impact on the quality of the human environment. Reasons for this conclusion are in summary:

- a. Sites of cultural or historical significance will not be affected.
- b. Terms and Conditions by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service to prevent or minimize impacts to sea turtles and to piping plover will be implemented during and after project construction. There will be no adverse impacts to other endangered or threatened species. The project will not jeopardize the continued existence of any federally listed species if a hopper dredge is used.
- c. State water quality standards will be met.
- d. Measures to eliminate, reduce, or avoid potential impacts to fish and wildlife resources, including minimization of impacts to hardbottom communities, will be implemented during project construction.
- e. The proposed project has been determined to be consistent to the maximum extent practicable with the Florida Coastal Zone Management Program.
- f. The proposed project has been evaluated pursuant to the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, and the Migratory Bird Protection Policy will be implemented for this project. The Policy has been coordinated with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the State of Florida.

In consideration of the information summarized, I find that the proposed action will not significantly affect the human environment and does not require an Environmental Impact Statement.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Alan Dodd  
Colonel, U.S. Army  
District Engineer