

FIGURE 1

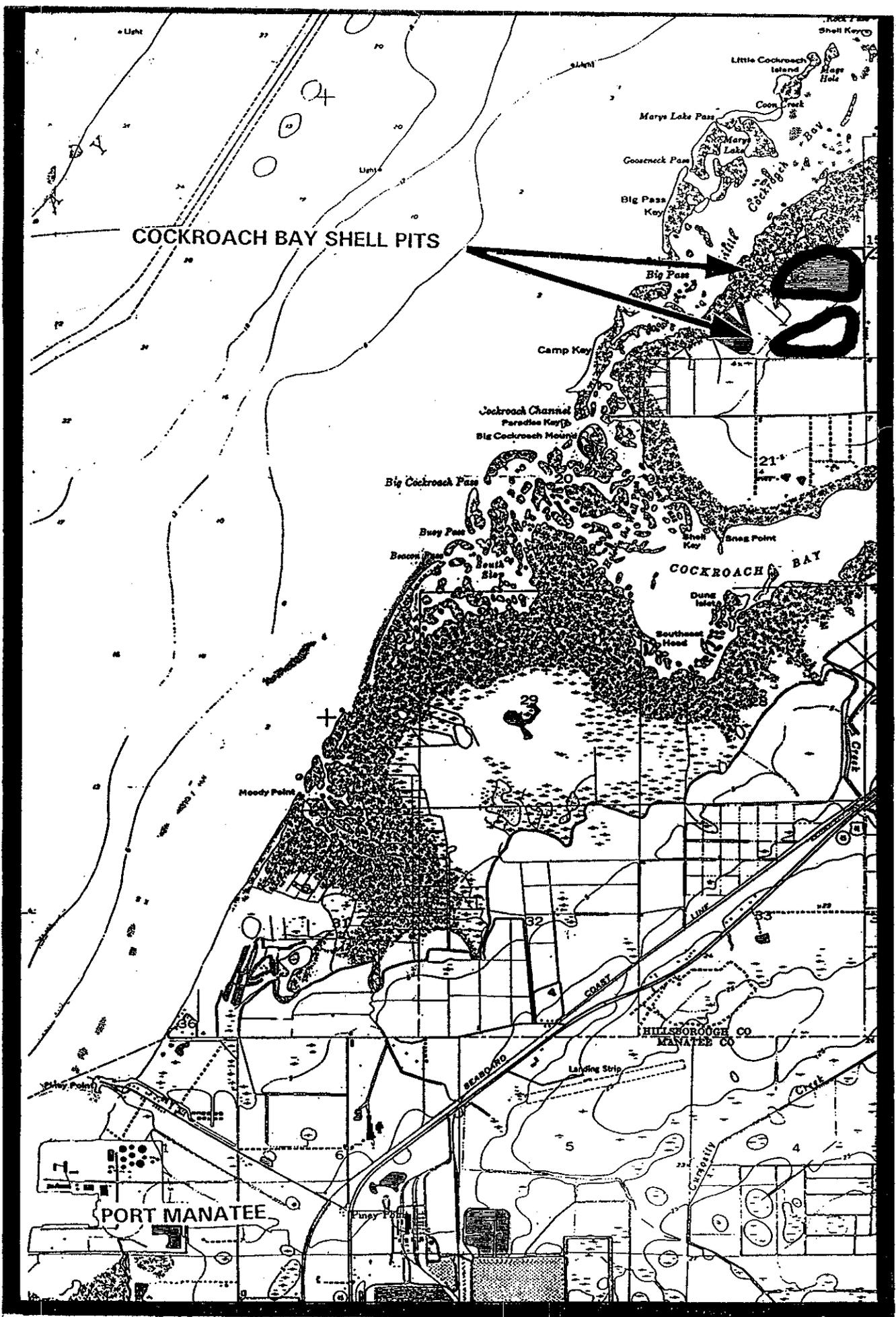
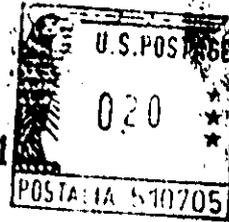


FIGURE 2

FLORIDA STATE CLEARINGHOUSE
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS
2655 SHUMARD OAK BOULEVARD
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA 32399-2100



23:04 01/28/98 TLH FL 32301



Department of the Army
Mr. Bill Fonferek
Jacksonville District Corps of Engineers
Post Office Box 4970
Jacksonville, FL 32232-0019

32232-0019



Department of the Army - Scoping Letter - Seeking
Information Regarding Concerns, Resources and
Opportunities About Cockroach Bay Restoration -
Hillsborough County, Florida.

SAI# FL9801280032C

The above-described project was received by the Clearinghouse on 1/28/98
and has been forwarded to the appropriate reviewing agencies. The clearance letter and
agency comments will be forwarded to you no later than 3/13/98
unless you are otherwise notified. Please refer to the above State Application Identifier
(SAI) number in all written correspondence with the Clearinghouse regarding this project.
If you have any questions, please contact the Clearinghouse at (904) 922-5438.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
Southeast Regional Office
9721 Executive Center Drive North
St. Petersburg, Florida 33702

February 24, 1998

Dr. John R. Hall, Acting Chief
Jacksonville District Corps of Engineers
Planning Division
P.O. Box 4970
Jacksonville, Florida 32232-0019

Dear Dr. Hall:

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) has reviewed your staff's letter dated January 26, 1998, requesting comments regarding the beneficial use of dredged material at Hillsborough County's Cockroach Bay Restoration site. The NMFS as a member of the Cockroach Bay Restoration Alliance (COBRA), a multi-agency coalition dedicated to the restoration of the Cockroach Bay site, has been actively involved with the on-going restoration of over 650 acres of lands previously altered by shell mining and agricultural activities. Currently there are two abandoned shell pits at the Cockroach Bay site that were created in areas that once supported valuable fishery habitats. COBRA has designed a restoration plan that calls for the raising of the bottom elevations of these pits up to the photic zone. Additionally, the pits would be interconnected and shallow littoral shelves would support submergent and emergent vegetation across a range of salinities. This plan includes the establishment of oligohaline habitats which have been extensively lost in the Tampa Bay estuary system. The restoration of valuable habitats within these pits, in association with the overall restoration plans at the Cockroach Bay site, is important to restoring and maintaining production of viable commercial and recreational fisheries in Tampa Bay.

In our capacity as a member of COBRA, in addition to our responsibilities as the primary Federal steward of the Nation's living marine resources, the NMFS strongly supports efforts of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Southwest Florida Water Management District in securing the necessary funding and dredged material for beneficial use at the Cockroach Bay site. If we can be of further assistance, please advise. Related comments, questions or correspondence can be directed to Mr. David N. Dale of our Panama City Office staff in St. Petersburg, Florida. He may be contacted at 813/570-5317 or at the letterhead address above.

Sincerely,

Andreas Mager, Jr.
Assistant Regional Administrator
Habitat Conservation Division



cc:

F/SER4

F/SER43

EPA-Atlanta

FWS-Jacksonville

DEP-Tallahassee

FGFWFC-Tallahassee

SWFWMD/SWIM-Tampa

From: bosenberg@pelican.gmpo.gov AT Internet on 05/22/98 06:01 PM
To: Annon I Bozeman
cc: vanaantwerpr@smtpgtwy.sad.usace.mil AT Internet@ccmail, Joe R Miller
Subject: Coastal America -Cockroach

Annan:

Congratulations. All of you from JAX that are involved can be proud of your efforts. Partnering does work....and well.

Bob Bosenberg
Co-chair (COE)
Coastal America Gulf RIT

From: Tippie@fas.usda.gov [SMTP:Tippie@fas.usda.gov]
Sent: Thursday, May 21, 1998 4:13 PM
To: barnettd@smtpgtwy.sad.usace.army.mil; bosenberg@pelican.gmpo.gov;
Eugene.J.Fleming@usace.army.mil; bess.gillelan@noaa.gov;
griffith@pelican.gmpo.gov; jeanne.hanson@noaa.gov;
william.a.hubbard@usace.army.mil; lovelace.norm@epamail.epa.gov;
Owen.J.Mason@usace.army.mil; jim.r.reese@usace.army.mil; seligman@nosc.mil;
john.s.wright@usace.army.mil; vallin@coasts.nos.noaa.gov;
beener.rebecca@hq.navy.mil; boicepl@acq.osd.mil; dail.brown@noaa.gov;
abryant/wo@fs.fed.us; gene.cleckley@fhwa.dot.gov; harvey_doerksen@ios.doi.gov;
barry.drucker@mms.gov; NORMAN.EDWARDS@usace.army.mil;
beverley.getzen@usace.army.mil; gary_hanna@ed.gov; carol.hartgen@mms.gov;
kasten.tim@epamail.epa.gov; ted.lillestolen@noaa.gov; nullm@af.pentagon.mil;
Antoinette_sebastian@hud.gov; shotton-lew@hq.secnv.navy.mil;
john_simmons@hud.gov; slaughter.eric@epamail.epa.gov; Dan_Smith@fas.usda.gov;
dan.smith@usda.gov; Joshua.Stearns@noaa.gov; vogt.craig@epamail.epa.gov;
william_walker@nps.gov; walkesj@hqda.army.mil
Subject: 5/20/98 Principals Meeting Actions

As you know, the Coastal America Principals Group met yesterday and made several key decisions on the following items:

1. Regional Support -

The Principals encouraged the partner agencies to provide the support requested by the RITs.

2. Partnership Awards -

The Principals approved 3 project awards 1) Ninigret NWR, RI, where the Army Reserves removed old runways and helped to restore a rare grassland habitat on a national wildlife refuge; 2) the Cockroach Bay Restoration Project, FL, in which nearly 200 acres of intertidal habitat is being restored by a large interagency team; and, 3) the Quaker Neck Dam removal in NC, where nearly 1000 miles of former spawning habitat has been opened up to migratory fish runs on the

Neuse River through a cooperative effort of federal, state and private sector interests.

The Principals approved 1 process award - the Coastal Ecosystem Learning Center team which developed and refined the Coastal Ecosystem Learning Center Concept.

3. Learning Centers -

The Principals approved designation of the Alaska SeaLife Center. (NOAA will be the designating official.) They also directed the NIT to review the selection criteria for designation (size, distance from coast etc).

4. Operational Issues -

The Principals approved establishment of a chair-elect position and approved the 1999 budget.

If you have any questions please give me or Bill Klesch a call.

Virginia



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
6620 Southpoint Drive South
Suite 310
Jacksonville, Florida 32216-0912

IN REPLY REFER TO:
FWS/R4/ES-JAFL

MAR 16 1999

James C. Duck
Chief, Planning Division
Jacksonville District Corps of Engineers
P.O. Box 4970
Jacksonville, FL 32232-0019

FWS Log No. 99-170

Dear Mr. Duck:

This is in response to your letter of February 24, 1999 regarding the potential effects of the Cockroach Bay Beneficial Use Project on threatened or endangered species. A project description and threatened and endangered species list is in the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act Report on this project that was submitted to the Corps of Engineers on November 3, 1998. The following comments are submitted in accordance with section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (Act)(16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*).

The Corps evaluated the impact this project would have on the Florida manatee (*Trichechus manatus latirostris*) and determined it is not likely to adversely affect the manatee. Based on our review, the Service concurs with this finding if the standard manatee construction precautions are implemented during construction activities.

Although this does not represent a biological opinion as described in section 7 of the Act, it does fulfill the requirements of the Act and no further action is required. If modifications are made in the project or additional information becomes available on listed species, reinitiation of consultation may be required.

If you need any additional information regarding these comments please contact Bryan Pridgeon at (727) 570-5398, extension 13.

Sincerely,

for David L. Hankla
Field Supervisor

cc: NMFS, St. Petersburg



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

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

Planning Division
Environmental Branch

MAR 29 2002

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

We are coordinating a Draft Environmental Assessment for the Beneficial Use of Dredged Material - Cockroach Bay Restoration Project and Draft Finding of No Significant Impact in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act. Based on the impacts of this proposal, we have preliminarily determined that an Environmental Impact Statement is not required.

The document can also be viewed at our Internet site at URL <http://www.saj.usace.army.mil/pd/env-doc.htm>.

We are circulating this document for a 30-day period from the date of this letter. If you have any questions or comments, please contact Mr. Bill Fonferok at the above address reference this project. Mr. Fonferok can also be reached at 904-232-2803.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James C. Duck".

James C. Duck
Chief, Planning Division

Enclosure

HONORABLE JOHN A GRANT
SENATE DISTRICT 13
610 W WATERS AVE SUITE A
TAMPA FL 33604

HONORABLE JOHN F LAURENT
SENATE DISTRICT 17
250 N CLARK AVENUE
BARTOW FL 33830

HONORABLE JIM SEBESTA
SENATE DISTRICT 20
9887 4TH STREET SUITE 319
ST PETERSBURG FL 33702

HONORABLE JAMES ARGRETT
SENATE DISTRICT 21
P O BOX 11025
TAMPA FL 33680

HONORABLE VICTOR CRIST
HOUSE DISTRICT 60
11814 N 56TH STREET SUITE C
TEMPLE TERRACE FL 33617

HONORABLE ROB WALLACE
HOUSE DISTRICT 47
P O BOX 274207
TAMPA FL 33688-4207

HONORABLE GUS MICHAEL BILIRAKIS
HOUSE DISTRICT 48
31608 U S 19 N
PALM HARBOR FL 34684

HONORABLE JIM DAVIS
HOUSE DISTRICT 56
3315 HENDERSON BLVD #100
TAMPA FL 33609-2913

HONORABLE FAYE B CULP
HOUSE DISTRICT 57
4519 W WATROUS AVENUE
TAMPA FL 33629-4231

HONORABLE ELVIN L MARTINEZ
HOUSE DISTRICT 58
2508 TAMPA BAY BLVD SUITE B
TAMPA FL 33607

HONORABLE CARL LITTLEFIELD
HOUSE DISTRICT 61
37818 STATE ROAD 54
ZEPHYRHILLS FL 33541-5428

HONORABLE JOHNNIE B BYRD, JR.
HOUSE DISTRICT 62
121 N COLLINS STREET SUITE 202
PLANT CITY FL 33566

HONORABLE JOHN LAURENT
HOUSE DISTRICT 66
250 N CLARK AVENUE
BARTOW FL 33830

HONORABLE MARK R OGLES
HOUSE DISTRICT 67
1101 6TH AVENUE W SUITE 212
BRADENTON FL 34205

HONORABLE JACK LATVALA
SENATE DISTRICT 19
35111 U S HWY 19 N SUITE 203
PALM HARBOR FL 34684

HONORABLE DONALD C SULLIVAN
SENATE DISTRICT 22
4020 PARK STREET N SUITE 204
ST PETERSBURG FL 33709

HONORABLE LARRY CROW
HOUSE DISTRICT 49
2432 BAYSHORE BLVD
DUNEDIN FL 34698

HONORABLE JOHN MORRONI
HOUSE DISTRICT 50
2331 BELLEAIR ROAD SUITE C
CLEARWATER FL 34624-1729

HONORABLE MARY BRENNAN
HOUSE DISTRICT 49
2432 BAYSHORE BLVD
DUNEDIN FL 34698

HONORABLE JOHN THRASHER
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE
HOUSE DISTRICT 52
2233 PARK AVE SUITE 302
ORANGE PARK FL 32073

HONORABLE LARS A HAFNER
HOUSE DISTRICT 53
P O BOX 47189
ST PETERSBURG FL 33743-7189

HONORABLE DENNIS L JONES
HOUSE DISTRICT 54
8940 SEMINOLE BLVD
SEMINOLE FL 34642-3850

HONORABLE RUDOLPH BRADLEY
HOUSE DISTRICT 55
THE TOWER
424 CENTRAL AVE SUITE 904
ST PETERSBURG FL 33701

HONORABLE MICHAEL BILIRAKIS
9TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
1100 CLEVELAND STREET SUITE 1600
CLEARWATER FL 34615

HONORABLE CW (BILL) YOUNG
10TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
360 CENTRAL AVE SUITE 1480
ST PETERSBURG FL 33701

HONORABLE SAM M GIBBONS
11TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
940 S STERLING AVE
TAMPA FL 33629-5127

HONORABLE CHARLES T CANADY
12TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
FEDERAL BLDG
124 S TENNESSEE AVENUE
LAKELAND FL 33801

HONORABLE DAN MILLER
13TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
1751 MOUNT STREET SUITE A-2
SARASOTA FL 34236

HONORABLE BOB GRAHAM
UNITED STATES SENATE
150 SE 2ND AVENUE SUITE 1025
MIAMI FL 32315

MR KIRBY GREEN
DIRECTOR DIV OF BEACHES & SHORES
FL DEPT OF ENV PROTECTION
3900 COMMONWEALTH BLVD
TALLAHASSEE FL 32399

FLORIDA DEPT OF ENV PROTECTION
FLORIDA MARINE RESEARCH INST
DIV OF MARINE RESOURCES
100 EIGHTH AVENUE SE
ST PETERSBURG FL 33701-5095

CHIEF
BUREAU OF WETLAND RESOURCES
FL DEPT OF ENV PROTECTION
2600 BLAIR STONE ROAD
TALLAHASSEE FL 32399-2400

REGIONAL ENV OFFICER
HOUSING & URBAN DEVELOPMENT
ROOM 600-C
75 SPRING STREET SW
ATLANTA GA 30303-3309 (2CYS)

ENV REVIEW SECTION
U S ENV PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION IV
61 FORSYTH STREET
ATLANTA GA 30303 (5 CYS
)

NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SVC
CHIEF PROTECTED SPECIES MGMT
BRANCH
9721 EXECUTIVE CENTER DRIVE N
SUITE 201
ST PETERSBURG FL 33702

MR JAMES B TERRY
CHIEF COASTAL/GIS MGMT SECTION
PINELLAS CO DEPT OF PUBLIC WORKS
440 COURT STREET
CLEARWATER FL 34616

CHIEF ENV IMPACTS BRANCH
U S ENV PROTECTION AGENCY
26 FEDERAL PLAZA ROOM 400
NEW YORK NY 10278-0001

GC SERVICE
P O BOX 22048
TAMPA FL 33607

MR PATRICK HO
TAMPA ELECTRIC COMPANY
P O BOX 111
TAMPA FL 33601-0111

MR GARY TOURTELLOTTE
ENV SCIENCE & ENGINEERING
5840 WEST CYPRESS STREET SUITE D
TAMPA FL 33607-1787

DIRECTOR
ORGANIZED FISHERMEN OF FLORIDA
CORTEZ CHAPTER
P O BOX 118
CORTEZ FL 34215

CHAIRMAN CLEARINGHOUSE REVIEW
TAMPA BAY REGIONAL PLANNING
COUNCIL
9455 KOGER BLVD
ST PETERSBURG FL 33702

MOTE MARINE LABORATORY
1600 KEN THOMPSON PARKWAY
SARASOTA FL 34236

NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
OFFICE OF THE REGIONAL DIRECTOR
9721 EXECUTIVE CENTER DRIVE N
SUITE 201
ST PETERSBURG FL 33702

DAVID HANKLA
U S FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
6620 SOUTHPOINT DRIVE SOUTH
JACKSONVILLE FL 32216

MR BILL SIMPSON
IMC - AGRICO COMPANY
BIG BEND TERMINAL
P O BOX 458
GIBSONTON FL 33534-5823

DIRECTOR
FEDERAL MARITIME COMMISSION
OFFICE OF ENERGY/ENV IMPACT
1100 L STREET
WASHINGTON DC 20005-4013

DR SUSAN S BELL
DEPT OF BIOLOGY
UNIV OF SOUTH FLORIDA
TAMPA FL 33620-5150

MR ROBIN LEWIS
LEWIS ENV SERVICES INC
P O BOX 20005
TAMPA FL 33622-0005

MARK THOMPSON
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SVC
ENV ASSESSMENT BRANCH
3500 DELWOOD BEACH ROAD
PANAMA CITY FL 32407-4799

CHARIPERSON
GULF OF MEXICO FISHERY
MANAGEMENT COUNCIL
3018 N U S HIGHWAY 301 STE 1000
TAMPA FL 33316-2266

FLORIDA STATE CLEARINGHOUSE
DEPT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS
2555 SHUMARD OAK BLVD
TALLAHASSEE FL 32399-2100
(16 CYS)

COMMANDER (OAN)
SEVENTH COAST GUARD DISTRICT
909 SOUTHEAST 1ST AVENUE
BRICKNELL PLAZA FEDERAL BLDG
MIAMI FL 33131-3050

REGIONAL DIRECTOR
U S FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
1875 CENTURY BLVD
ATLANTA GA 30345

DIRECTOR
DIVISION OF HISTORICAL RESOURCES
STATE HISTORIC PRESERV OFFICER
R A GRAY BUILDING
TALLAHASSEE FL 32399

DIRECTOR
OFFICE OF ENV PROJECT REVIEW
ROOM 4241
US DEPT OF THE INTERIOR
18TH AND C STREETS NW
WASHINGTON DC 20240 (12 CYS)

REGIONAL DIRECTOR
INSURANCE AND MITIGATION DIVISION
FEDERAL EMERG MGMT AGENCY
3003 CHAMBLEE TUCKER ROAD
ATLANTA GA 30309

MAYOR
CITY OF ST PETERSBURG BEACH
7701 BOCA CIEGA DRIVE
ST PETERSBURG BEACH FL 33706

MR FRNAK MOHR
U S ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
P O BOX 19247
TAMPA FL 33686-9247

MR E D SONNY VERGARA, EXEC DIR
PEACE RIVER MANASOTA WATER
SUPPLY
1645 BARBER ROAD #A
SARASOTA FL 34240-9392

MR BILL WADSWORTH P.E.
HDR ENGINEERING
5100 WEST KENNEDY BLVD #225
TAMPA FL 33609-1806

DR ROGER WATKINS
28752 COTTAGEWOOD DRIVE
WESLEY CHAPEL FL 33544

MS HOLLY GREENING
TAMPA BAY NATIONAL ESTUARY PROG
MAIL STATION I-1/NEP
100 - 8TH AVENUE SE
ST PETERSBURG FL 33701

MR MIKE PERRY
S W I M
7601 HWY 301 N
TAMPA FL 33637

MR ROGER JOHANSSON
WASTE WATER TREATMENT PLANT
CITY OF TAMPA
4700 MARITIME BLVD
TAMPA FL 33605

MR RICH PAUL
NATIONAL AUDUBON REPRESENTATIVE
FOR FLORIDA WEST COAST
410 WARE BLVD SUITE 500
TAMPA FL 33619

MR BOB STETLER
FL DEPT OF ENV PROTECTION
3804 COCONUT PALM DRIVE
TAMPA FL 33619-8318

MR STEVE FIDLER
OPERATIONS MANAGER
TAMPA PORT AUTHORITY
P O BOX 2192
TAMPA FL 33601

MS JULIE WESTON
CITY OF ST PETERSBURG
PLANNING DEPT
P O BOX 2842
ST PETERSBURG FL 33731

MR CARL FIELLAND
PORT ENGINEER
TAMPA PORT AUTHORITY
P O BOX 2192
TAMPA FL 33601

DR WILLIAM FEHRING GREINER INC
TAMPA PORT AUTH CONSULTANT
P O BOX 31646
TAMPA FL 33631-3416

MR BRIAN PRIDGEON
U S FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
9549 KOGER BLVD
SUITE 111
ST PETERSBURG FL 33702

MS NANCY JOINER
FL GAME AND FISH COMMISSION
3900 DANEFIELD ROAD
LAKELAND FL 33811

COMMISSIONER EDWIN TURANCHIK
HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY BOARD
OF COMMISSIONERS
P O BOX 1110
TAMPA FL 33601

MR JIM BEEVER
FL GAME AND FISH COMMISSION
29200 TUCKERS GRADE
PUNTA GORDA FL 33955

MS SUZANNE COOPER
TAMPA BAY REGIONAL PLANNING
COUNCIL AREA ON BAY MGMT
9455 KOGER BLVD
ST PETERSBURG FL 33702

MR TOM REIS
SOUTHWEST FL WATER MGMT DIST
7601 HWY 301 N
TAMPA FL 33637

MR GRAY GORDON
CARGILL FERTILIZER
8813 HWY 41 S
RIVERVIEW FL 33569

MR DANNY ALBERDI
HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY EPC
1900 9TH AVENUE
TAMPA FL 33605

ST PETERSBURG TIMES
490 FIRST AVENUE SOUTH
ST PETERSBURG FL 33731

TAMPA TRIBUNE
P O BOX 191
TAMPA FL 33601

MR MARK ALDERSON
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
SARASOTA BAY NATL EST PROGRAM
5333 N TAMiami TRAIL SUITE 4
SARASOTA FL 34234

DIVISION OF MARINE RESOURCES
FL DEPT OF ENV PROTECTION
SOUTHWEST DISTRICT OFFICE
3804 COCONUT PALM DRIVE
TAMPA FL 33613-8318

MR TOM ASH
HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY ENVIRON
PROTECTION COMMISSION
1900 NINTH AVENUE
TAMPA FL 33605

MR ROBERT C BROWN
WATER QUALITY ADMINISTRATOR
MANATEE COUNTY ENV ACTION COMM
P O BOX 1000
BRADENTON FL 34206

MS KATHLEEN BEEMAN
THE TAMPA TRIBUNE
1033 NINTH STREET NORTH SUITE 100
ST PETERSBURG FL 33701

MR MORIS CABEZAS
ENGINEERING SCIENCE
2901 WEST BUSCH BLVD SUITE 905
TAMPA FL 33618

MR ALLEN BURDETT
FL DEPT OF ENV PROTECTION
SOUTHWEST DISTRICT OFFICE
3804 COCONUT PALM DRIVE
TAMPA FL 33619

DR WAYNE ECHELBERGER JR
U S F COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING
DEPT OF CIVIL ENGINEERING
4202 E FOWLER AVE ENG 139
TAMPA FL 33620-5350

MS SARAH CHILDS
LYKES BROTHERS INC
SEVEN LYKES ROAD
LAKE PLACID FL 33852

MS SANDY COLBERT
EGMONT KEY ALLIANCE
6601 FIRST AVENUE NORTH
ST PETERSBURG FL 33710

COMMANDING OFFICER
MARINE SAFETY OFFICE
U S COAST GUARD
ATTN: LT DAVE NICHOLS
155 COLUMBIA DRIVE
TAMPA FL 33606

MS DAWN ELSWORTH
1295 28TH STREET SOUTH
ST PETERSBURG FL 33712

MR JERRY KESSEL
FL DEPT OF ENV PROTECTION
SOUTHWEST DISTRICT OFFICE
3804 COCONUT PALM DRIVE
TAMPA FL 33619

MR ALAN WRIGHT, PLANNER
THE PLANNING COMMISSION
601 E KENNEDY BLVD
TAMPA FL 33602

DR PENNY HALL
FL DEPT OF ENV PROTECTION
AQUATIC PRESERVES
100 EIGHTH AVENUE SE
ST PETERSBURG FL 33701

MR ROB HEATH
HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY PARKS & REC
1101 EAST RIVERCOVE AVENUE
TAMPA FL 33604

DR BRANDT HENNINGSEN
SWIM PROGRAM
SOUTHWEST FL WATER MGMT DIST
7601 HIGHWAY 301 NORTH
TAMPA FL 33637

MR ROBERT STEINER
PORT DIRECTOR
TAMPA PORT AUTHORITY
P O BOX 2192
TAMPA FL 33601

PUBLIC INFORMATION COORD
NATIONAL ESTUARY PROGRAM
111 SEVENTH AVENUE SOUTH
ST PETERSBURG FL 33701

MS SUE LANDRY
ST PETERSBURG TIMES
P O BOX 1121
ST PETERSBURG FL 33731

MR JORDAN LEWIS
ENV HEALTH SERVICES
HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY HEALTH DEPT
P O BOX 5135
TAMPA FL 33675-5135

MR STU MARVIN
HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY
CITY-COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION
601 EAST KENNEDY BLVD
TAMPA FL 33602

MR JACK MERRIAM
HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY
ENGINEERING CONST SERVICES
601 E KENNEDY BLVD 23RD FLOOR
TAMPA FL 33602

DR EDWARD PROFFITT
CENTER FOR MARINE CONSERVATION
BAYFRONT TOWER
ONE BEACH DRIVE SUITE 304
ST PETERSBURG FL 33701

THOMAS W REESE ESQ
BROOKER CREEK PRESERV INC
MANASOTA 88
2951 - 61ST AVENUE SOUTH
ST PETERSBURG FL 33712

MR CAMERON SHAW, REFUGE MGR
CHASSAHOWITZKA NAT'L WILDLIFE
REFUGE
1502 SE KINGS BAY DRIVE
CRYSTAL RIVER FL 34429

CAPT RUSS SIRMONS
P O BOX 7773
ST PETERSBURG FL 33704

MS JANE URQUHART-DONNELLY
FL DEPT OF ENV PROTECTION
8407 LAUREL FAIR CIRCLE
TAMPA FL 33610

DR SANDRA VARGO
FL INSTITUTE OF OCEANOGRAPHY
830 FIRST STREET SOUTH
ST PETERSBURG FL 33701

MR COSTA S VATIKIOTIS P.E.
CITY MANAGER
CITY OF TARPON SPRINGS
P O BOX 5004
TARPON SPRINGS FL 34688-5004

MR WILLIAM J VEON JR
SR STORMWATER MANAGING ENGR
HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY INFRA PLNG
& DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT
601 EAST KENNEDY BLVD
TAMPA FL 33602

MS HALLIE CALIG
ENV COORDINATION
CITY OF TAMPA
306 EAST JACKSON STREET
TAMPA FL 33602

MS JANET AUSTIN, MANAGER
NATURAL RESOURCES PLANNING
HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY PLANNING &
DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT
P O BOX 1110
TAMPA FL 33601

MR VIRGINIA LITTREL
FLORIDA CONSUMER ACTION
NETWORK
4100 WEST KENNEDY BLVD #128
TAMPA FL 33609-2243

MR RICHARD BRIGHTMAN
P O BOX 6526
TALLAHASSEE FL 32314

MR FLOYD L DEFOREST, DIRECTOR
HILLSBOROUGH CHAPTER
ORGANIZED FISHERMEN OF FLORIDA
1235 LAKE COMO DRIVE
LUTZ FL 33549

MR TOM DAHL
U S FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE
9720 EXECUTIVE CENTER DRIVE #101
ST PETERSBURG FL 33702

MR WILLIAM B CAREY, PRESIDENT
BRA ENVIRONMENTAL INC
3910 U S HIGHWAY 301 N #190
TAMPA FL 33619

MS DAWN CATE
ST PETERSBURG TIMES
CITY DESK
P O BOX 1121
ST PETERSBURG FL 33731

MR BOB ELEK
DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT
LOWRY PARK ZOO
7530 NORTH BLVD
TAMAP FL 33604

DR ERNEST D ESTEVEZ
SENIOR STAFF SCIENTIST
MOTE MARINE LABORATORY
1600 CITY ISLAND PARK
SARASOTA FL 33577

COMMISSIONER BRUNO FALKENSTEIN
CITY OF ST PETERSBURG BEACH
7701 BOCA CIEGA DRIVE
ST PETERSBURG BEACH FL 33706

MR DICK FLETCHER
200 24TH AVENUE N
ST PETERSBURG FL 33704-3440

MS LEE FOX
PINELLAS SEABIRD
REHABILITATION CENTER
840 THIRD AVENUE SOUTH
TIERRA VERDE FL 33715

MR BOB HENDERSON, PRESIDENT
ENGINEERING ECONOMETRICS
2951 ELYSIUM WAY
CLEARWATER FL 34619

MS CHARLANN MASON
11448 72ND TERRACE NORTH
SEMINOLE FL 34642

MR EDWARD W POLLOCK
MANAGER-INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT
CSX TRANSPORTATION
565 ADAMO DRIVE
TAMPA FL 33619

MR JULIUS HOBBS
TAMPA ELECTRIC COMPANY
P O BOX 111
TAMPA FL 33601-0111

JOHN G HUBBARD ESQ
CITY OF DUNEDIN
595 MAIN STREET
DUNEDIN FL 34698

MR DAVID A PARSCHE
ENV MANAGER
TAMPA PORT AUTHORITY
P O BOX 2192
TAMPA FL 33601

MR DON MOORES
2208 RIVERSIDE DRIVE NORTH
CLEARWATER FL 34624

MR CHARLES R O'NEAL III
SUNCOAST FISHERMAN'S GUIDE
P O BOX 273187
TAMPA FL 33688

MR JIM SHINHOLSER
PINELLAS COUNTY MOSQUITO
CENTRAL
4100 - 118TH AVENUE NORTH
CLEARWATER FL 34622

MR KEITH PATTERSON
GEONEX MARTEL
8950 NINTH STREET NORTH
ST PETERSBURG FL 33702

COMMANDER WILLIAM H RYAN
CLEARWATER POWER SQUADRON INC
1000 CLEVELAND STREET
CLEARWATER FL 34615-4514

MR JOHN RYAN
LEAGUE OF ENV ORGANIZATIONS
P O BOX 773
WINTER HAVEN FL 33882-0773

MR FRANK SARGENT
TAMPA TRIBUNE
OUTDOORS SECTION
P O BOX 191
TAMPA FL 33601

MAJOR JENNA VENERO
FL DEPT OF ENV PROTECTION
TAMPA MARINE PATROL DIST 4
5110 GANDY BLVD
TAMPA FL 33611-3036

MR CRAIG SMITH
WFLA-TV CHANNEL 8
905 EAST JACKSON STREET
TAMPA FL 33602

MR MICHAEL P SMITH
BROWN & CALDWELL
5110 EISENHOWER BLVD #230
TAMPA FL 33634

DR EILEEN SULLIVAN
FL DEPT OF ENV PROTECTION
MAIL STATION 240
3900 COMMONWEALTH BLVD
TALLAHASSEE FL 32399-3000

MR TERRY TOMALIN
ST PETERSBURG TIMES
SPORTS DEPT
BOX 1121
ST PETERSBURG FL 33731



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE

Southeast Regional Office
9721 Executive Center Drive North
St. Petersburg, Florida 33702

April 26, 2002

Colonel James G. May
District Engineer, Jacksonville District
Department of the Army, Corps of Engineers
Planning Division, Environmental Branch
P.O. Box 4970
Jacksonville, Florida 32232-0019

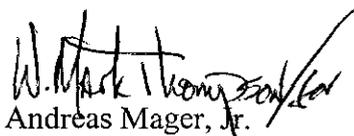
Dear Colonel May:

The National Marine Fisheries Service reviewed your staff's letter dated March 29, 2002, requesting our review of the March 2002 Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) and Finding of No Significant Impact for the Beneficial Use of Dredged Material - Cockroach Bay Restoration, Hillsborough County, Florida.

We find that the description of fishery resources and habitats in the project area and the assessment of potential adverse impacts associated with the proposed activities are adequate. Furthermore, based on this information, we anticipate that any adverse effect that might occur on marine and anadromous fishery resources would be minimal and, therefore, we do not have any additional comments to make on the EA or objections to the proposed action.

Pursuant to the Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) provisions of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, no further coordination is necessary unless the project design is modified and you determine that implementation of those revisions could result in adverse impacts to EFH and dependent fishery resources. We appreciate the opportunity to provide you with our comments. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Mark Thompson of our Panama City Office at 850/234-5061.

Sincerely,



Andreas Mager, Jr.
Assistant Regional Administrator
Habitat Conservation Division

cc:
FSER4



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LEGAL & WATER MANAGEMENT DIVISION
THE ROGER P. STEWART ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER
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PHONE (813) 272-5960 • FAX (813) 272-5157

AIR MANAGEMENT DIVISION
FAX (813) 272-5605

WASTE MANAGEMENT DIVISION
FAX (813) 276-2256

WETLANDS MANAGEMENT DIVISION
FAX (813) 272-7144

1410 N. 21ST STREET • TAMPA, FLORIDA 33605

April 11, 2002

Mr. Bill Fonferek
Department of the Army
Jacksonville District Corps of Engineers
P.O. Box 4970
Jacksonville, FL 32232-0019

**SUBJECT: COCKROACH BAY / REVIEW OF USACOE ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION
REPORT AND DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT / RECEIVED
04-01-02 / EPC WETLANDS MANAGEMENT DIVISION COMMENTS /
STR 16, 21-32-18**

Dear Mr. Fonferek:

Environmental Protection Commission (EPC) Wetlands Management Division staff has completed its review of the subject document and offers the preliminary comments. The comments are made for informational purposes only. Future EPC review is not limited to the following, and EPC may identify other legitimate concerns at any time prior to construction plan approval.

1. The proposed project area contains EPC jurisdictional wetlands. Construction activities in and around wetlands of Hillsborough County must be reviewed and approved by this agency. Prior to review of wetland impacts or construction plans, all wetlands existing within the project boundary must be field delineated or depicted on Specific Purpose Wetland Surveys considered valid by this agency.
2. Chapter 1-11.01, Rules of the EPC, states that development requiring mitigation be an avenue of last resort when reasonable use of the property is otherwise unavailable. The applicant shall seek to first avoid all impacts to wetlands. If avoidance is impossible, then minimization of the impact to the least amount of encroachment necessary will be considered. In addition, the EPC Executive Director must specifically approve all wetlands proposed for temporary or permanent impact. EPC requires the applicant to make all efforts to site the pipeline corridor to avoid wetland impacts. If avoidance of wetland impacts is not possible, minimization of wetland impacts will be required.
3. A wetland impact justification and mitigation proposal must be submitted to the EPC. In addition, the project will also need to be submitted to the Tampa Port Authority for review.

www.epchc.org

E-Mail: epcinfo@epchc.org



Mr. Bill Fonferek

April 11, 2002

Page 2

4. The EPC will review any proposal and consider it based on its own merit. A submittal provides no reliance that the wetlands may be developed as proposed. An impact justification and mitigation proposal must include, at a minimum, the following:
 - a) A narrative describing the need for the project and the justifications for the wetland impacts necessary for its development and the mitigation proposed to compensate for the impacts. Any measures taken to demonstrate wetland impact avoidance must also be shown. A description of the wetlands should be included in the package and the wetlands targeted for impact must be clearly identified on the plans.
 - b) The wetland limits must be labeled as EPC Wetland Line or EPC/SWFWMD Wetland Line. Wetlands must be labeled "Wetland Conservation Area" or "Wetland Preservation Area."
 - c) Detailed construction plans, to include plan views, cross-sections, soil borings and drainage calculations.
 - d) Normal water level, design low water, design high water and top of bank should be shown for all lakes, and detention or retention ponds.
5. All efforts must be undertaken to prevent any erosion or turbid water from being discharged into wetlands and/or waters of the County. Turbid discharges that exceed 50 JTU's (Jackson Turbidity Units) or 29 NTU's (Nephelometric Turbidity Units) above background levels are a violation pursuant to Chapter 1-5, the EPC Water Quality Rule. The erosion or discharge of sediments into wetlands is a violation of Chapter 1-11, the EPC Wetland Rule. Hay bales, silt screens or other EPC approved methods or erosion/turbidity control may be required
6. Any activity interfering with the integrity of wetland(s), such as clearing, excavating, draining or filling, without written authorization from the Executive Director of the EPC or his authorized agent, pursuant to Section 1-11.07, Rules of the Commission, would be a violation of Section 17 of the Environmental Protection Act of Hillsborough County, Chapter 84-446, and of Chapter 1-11, Rules of the EPC.

If you have any questions or need further assistance, please feel free to call me.

Sincerely,



Mark A. Howard
Environmental Supervisor
Wetlands Management Division
Environmental Protection Commission
of Hillsborough County

mah/jk/wr



Hillsborough County
Florida

Office of the County Administrator
Daniel A. Kleman

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April 10, 2002

Bill Fonferek
Department of the Army
Jacksonville District Corps of Engineers
P.O. Box 4970
Jacksonville, Florida 32232-0019

Dear Bill Fonferek,

**Subject: Section 204 Ecosystem Restoration Report and Draft Environmental Assessment:
Cockroach Bay, Hillsborough County, FL**

The Hillsborough County Public Works Department, Stormwater Management Section has reviewed your report entitled, **Section 204, Ecosystem Restoration Report and Draft Environmental Assessment: Cockroach Bay, Hillsborough County, Florida**. My department supports the recommendation that, "the dredged material from the Manatee Harbor - Phase II Construction Project be transported to fill the Leisey Shell Pits under the authority of Section 204 of the 1992 Water Resources Development Act (WRDA), for the purpose of creating 128.8 acres of estuarine habitat at the Cockroach Bay Ecosystem Restoration Project, Hillsborough County, Florida, with such modifications at the discretion of the Chief of Engineers may be advisable."

The following section serves to outline the concerns or comments that were identified by Hillsborough County staff members. Comments are referenced in the following format; Page, Section, Line (Subsection), and are then followed by the individual comment.

- 1) Page 19, Section B. Alternative 2, Environmental Considerations
 - a) Line states "Detailed in Table 5." Table five is located on page 42 and is labeled "Table 5: Construction Cost Estimate." There is an apparent reference error in this line that must be addressed.
- 2) Page 41, Section 84
 - a) This section states that, "Costs for any mitigation needed to replace environmental resources lost during construction...no mitigation costs were necessary to be computed." The report lacks any documentation from the Hillsborough County

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Environmental Protection Commission (EPC) to corroborate this statement. The EPC Wetlands Management Division should be contacted in order to secure a statement of "No Impacts" or an exemption from any such mitigation.

- 3) Page 41, Section 85
 - a) "The estimated first cost of the selected plan is found in the following table, Table 5." The referenced table appears to have been omitted from the report, and it would seem that the correct referenced table should be, "Table 6 Project First Cost."
- 4) Page 42, Table 5: Construction Cost Estimate
 - a) Table 5 appears to have been omitted from the report.

If you should have any questions regarding these comments please contact county staff member Martin Montalvo, Environmental Scientist II, for further clarification. He can be reached at the following phone number (813) 307-1787.

Thank you for the opportunity to review your Ecosystem Restoration Report and Draft Environmental Assessment, and we look forward to working with your organization in the future.

Sincerely,



Bernardo Garcia, Director
Public Works Department

BG/mm

ES cc: Eduardo Tapia, P.E., Manager, Stormwater Management Section
Jack Merriam, Environmental Manager, Stormwater Management Section
Martin Montalvo, Environmental Scientist II, Stormwater Management Section



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Washington, D.C. 20240

ER 02/296

APR 5 2002

Mr. James B. Duck
Chief, Planning Division
Department of the Army
Jacksonville District Corps of Engineers
P.O. Box 4970
Jacksonville, Florida 32232-0019

Dear Mr. Duck:

This is in regard to the request for the Department of the Interior's comments on the Section 204 Ecosystem Report and Draft Environmental Assessment, Cockroach Bay, Hillsborough County, Florida.

This is to inform you that the Department will have comments, but will be unable to reply within the allotted time. Please consider this letter as a request for an extension of time in which to comment.

Our comments should be available by May 13, 2002.

Sincerely,

Terence N. Martin, P.E.
Team Leader, Natural Resources
Management
Office of Environmental Policy
and Compliance



Apr 14, 2002

Port Dredging Project Would Boost Ongoing Cockroach Bay Restoration

RUSKIN - A plan to pipe dredged material from a Port Manatee project to a state environmental effort at Cockroach Bay got a nod last week from the natural resources committee of the Agency on Bay Management.

The group agreed Thursday to write a letter supporting the plan after hearing from representatives of the Army Corps of Engineers, which is circulating a draft plan and environmental assessment that finds the project poses no significant adverse environmental effects.

The agency, an arm of the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council, is made up largely of scientists, regulators and representatives of environmental advocacy groups.

The corps is proposing a pipeline from the channel improvement project northwest of Manatee Harbor, which is just south of the Hillsborough-Manatee county line, through Tampa Bay to the Cockroach Bay site in Ruskin.

The pipeline - likely to be 3 feet in diameter - would shuttle sandy slurry from the dredge site to two former shell mines at Cockroach Bay.

The fill, estimated to be about 600,000 cubic yards, is intended to create a more natural estuary habitat.

The plan is contingent on federal funding of about \$5.2 million and a match of about \$1.7 million from the Southwest Florida Water Management District.

Brandt Henningsen, who has overseen early Cockroach Bay restoration efforts for the district's Surface Water Improvement and Management (SWIM) program, told the group the price is higher than the district had anticipated.

He said later the district had expected to spend about \$400,000 to \$500,000, based on earlier estimates. But he said corps officials told him they were going to try to reduce the price.

``The corps is still sharpening its pencil," Henningsen said. ``They said, `Just don't get too excited.'"

He said he hopes to use the imported sediment and some planned control structures to fashion three distinct types of watery environment, each with a different level of salinity.

The corps is required to put dredged material to beneficial use whenever possible, said Bill Fonferek, a corps biologist working on the project.

``It extends the life of the normal disposal areas that we have," he said.

To avoid disturbing seagrass beds, much of the pipeline route would follow an existing boating corridor that links Tampa Bay's main shipping channel to the boat ramp at the west end of Cockroach Bay Road, Fonferek said.

State and federal scientists investigated the route and discovered only a small patch of seagrass there, he said.

``We thought we could get through it," without destroying the environmentally prized underwater habitat, Fonferek said.

The route wouldn't preclude boating in the area but would require slow speeds during construction, he said. If approved, the earliest work could start in this fall, Fonferek told the group.

Hillsborough Commissioner Jan Platt, who sits on the committee, asked whether the dredged sediment might be contaminated.

``There's no source of toxic material out there," Fonferek said. Tom Ashe, a scientist with Hillsborough's Environmental Protection Commission, said past sediment studies in that part of Tampa Bay have turned up no pollution problems.

The Cockroach Bay restoration project began in the early 1990s. Henningsen said after the meeting there's still about \$3.5 million to \$4 million worth of work to be done there, including the corps project.

The Tampa-Hillsborough County Expressway Authority is expected to break ground shortly on a 25-acre marsh and a series of tidal creeks estimated to cost more than \$900,000. The project is intended to replace wetlands destroyed to make way for Brandon feeder roads off the Lee Roy Selmon Expressway.

The district has an additional \$800,000 to \$900,000 in the till for Cockroach Bay work and hopes to finish the restoration effort in the next two years, Henningsen said.

This story can be found at : <http://tampatrib.com/News/MGAPE28R20D.html>

nine days to drain the water to the desired level, Talhouk said.

The two-month project is one of many steps that the county and state are taking to improve the lake. Plans for the \$15-million project include getting rid of 850,000 cubic yards of muck coating the bottom, refurbishing existing retention ponds so they work better to filter runoff from the 3,500-acre watershed around the lake and injecting alum into the runoff to combine it with the sediment, forcing it to settle out in the ponds before the water flows into the lake.

For decades, Lake Seminole was a great place to ski and fish. But 60 years after turning the brackish estuary off Long Bayou into a freshwater lake, the water has turned an ugly green, muck lines the bottom and shore, and nuisance plants have grown out of control.

Over the years, stormwater carrying lawn fertilizer, motor oil, sewage and other chemicals has washed in, clogging the lake bottom with silt and damaging its

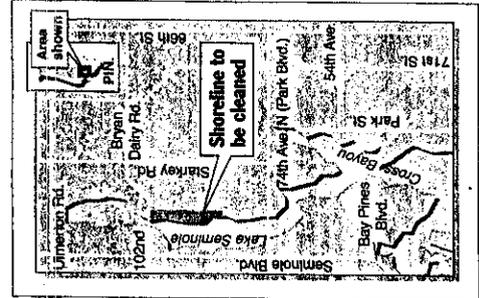


Times photo — JIM DAMASKE

The water level in Lake Seminole will drop by 1½ to 2 feet when the county drains it, a process that has begun. The next step: removing muck and exotic plants on the lake's eastern shoreline.

ecosystem. County engineers and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and the Southwest Florida Water Management District are working to reverse that trend and make the lake a viable fishery once again.

"The purpose here is to develop a good habitat for fishery," Talhouk said of the \$400,000 shoreline project that will be funded equally by



Times art

create a seal on the lake's bottom. Once the water is gone, workers using bulldozers and other heavy machinery will remove the muck and exotic plants that clog the edge of the lake.

"You'd be amazed at how much stuff needs to be removed," said

Edwin Roman, a biologist for the Aquatic Resource, Enhancement and Conservation Commission. "There aren't a lot of good plants that grow in the muck. Not a lot of fish and wildlife can survive in it."

The project will be divided into two sections totaling nearly half a mile. Workers will remove about 30,000 cubic yards of muck, a drop in the bucket compared with the 850,000 cubic yards of muck that eventually will be removed from the lake. Workers also will remove exotic vegetation such as cattails and replace them with more desirable plants, such as eelgrass and giant bullrush.

The sediment will be stored on a 1-acre site in Lake Seminole Park, which borders the eastern edge of the lake. The organic materials eventually will break down and turn into a rich, sandy material. The county will use the sand as a fill for park grounds.

Roman said other areas of the lake's shoreline could use a cleanup. "The county could do this around the whole lake if they had the money," he said.

County lowers lake for cleaning

By MAUREEN BYRNE AHERN
Times Staff Writer

SEMINOLE — The county is pulling the plug on Lake Seminole. Workers are draining some of the water in the 684-acre lake so a construction crew can begin cleaning a section of the eastern shoreline next week.

The freshwater lake is shaped like an hourglass. The water is about 5 feet deep in the northern lobe. It will drop to 3½ feet in the southern lobe, the depth of the water is between 7 and 8 feet. It will fall to between 5 and 6 feet.

The draining will be most noticeable in the narrow part of the lake, where it will drop from 3 feet to 1½ feet.

Be careful on the water, said David Talhouk, a county engineer overseeing a \$15-million cleanup of the lake.

"Since the lake will be lower, we want to caution boaters and all users of the lake to be aware that areas of the lake that may have been navigable may not be at this time," Talhouk said. "There may be objects that they would encounter that normally would be submerged."

Workers will open the weir at the south end of the lake to let some of the water escape. They'll turn a wheel that will open the dam, slowly releasing the water. It will take about

Please see **CLEANING** Back page

BE

OUTDOORS



FRANK SARGEANT
Outdoors Columnist
fsargeant@tampabay.rr.com

#21 Tribune

Proposal Should Help Enrich Cockroach Bay

One of the ways civilization damages estuaries, and the gamefish they produce, is by eliminating the shallow nursery habitat where both the bait species and the baby fish spend their early months.

Thousands of acres of this vital habitat have been lost due to waterfront developments along Tampa Bay during the last century. But an effort proposed for the shores of Cockroach Bay, south of Ruskin, has promise of creating several new marshes, and also of safely disposing dredged material from elsewhere in the bay.

Under a proposal by the Corps of Engineers, which does most of the ship channel dredging in Tampa Bay, some 600,000 cubic yards of bottom would be transported via a 3-foot-diameter pipe from the Port Manatee harbor area north to uplands east of Cockroach Bay, where several deep shell pits are currently located.

The fill would be used to raise the bottom of the pits so that depths would vary from a few inches to a few feet. Saltmarsh grasses would be planted and narrow channels opened to the bay to allow saltwater to enter.

If all goes as planned — and many similar efforts have already brought spectacular successes both around Cockroach and in other areas along the bay shore — the pits would be turned into nursery areas sure to produce tons of baby shrimp, crabs, killifish and particularly baby redfish, which seem to have a special affinity for this type of shallow, marshy habitat. The new marshes would also be beneficial to wading birds.

The plan would be put into place beginning this fall if funding, about \$6.9 million, is approved by federal and local agencies.

The pipeline would follow the existing Cockroach Bay boat ramp channel.

According to **Bill Fonferek** of the Corps of Engineers, the pipeline area temporarily would be designated a slow-speed zone during the time it is being constructed. The pipe would be removed after the pits are filled.

Biologists are hopeful this project, along with several others close by, will increase the overall productivity of Cockroach Bay and surrounding waters by providing more of the nursery habitat development has taken away.

Risks From Toxins In Air Exceed EPA Standards, Study Finds

12 MILLION AMERICANS AT HIGHER CANCER RISK

By SETH BORENSTEIN
Knight Ridder Newspapers
WASHINGTON — Americans have a cancer risk from toxic chemicals in the air that is at least 10 times the Environmental Protection Agency's acceptable level, and 12 million people experience risks 100 times higher, according to an unreleased Environmental Protection Agency study.

"Millions of people live in areas where air toxics may pose potentially significant health concerns," says the report, portions of which were obtained by Knight Ridder. "Although air quality continues to improve, we feel that more needs to be done to reduce the potential for harm from exposures to these chemicals."

The study, whose release is nearly a year overdue, modeled the effects of powerful poisons, including benzene, formaldehyde, arsenic and chromium. These chemicals are produced mainly by vehicles and industry and cause an estimated 150 cancer cases yearly. An additional 350 cases a year are believed to be caused by chemicals in diesel exhaust.

Overall, the added cancer risk from toxics in air — most of them lung cancer cases, experts think — is small, on the order of one case per 10,000.

By comparison, smokers have a one-in-nine lifetime lung cancer rate, according to the American Cancer Society.

The EPA considers acceptable an added lifetime cancer risk of one in a million. For diesel chemicals, the added risk of getting cancer is between 10 and 1,000 times higher. For the other chemicals, the national average risk is 45 times higher.

Release of the report is being slowed to allow EPA Administrator Christie Whitman to review it, air quality officials said. EPA spokesman Dave Ryan declined to comment on the study, which is based on data taken across the country in 1996.

Localized figures for exposure to toxics were not available in materials provided to Knight Ridder, but will be contained in the final report. Based on a one-page map of the United States that depicts the risks, they appear to be concentrated in metropolitan areas.

The Northeast Corridor from Boston to Washington, the Pacific Northwest, the Great Lakes coastline, much of the Gulf Coast and Florida's central and southern coasts appear to have high risks. So do central and northern Minnesota, central and western North and South Carolina, and Southern California.

Other hot spots are around San Francisco; Atlanta; Phoenix; Indianapolis; Pittsburgh; Salt Lake City; Little Rock, Ark.; St. Louis; and Kansas City, Mo.

While the entire nation has a risk at least 10 times the EPA's acceptable level, 12 million people experience risks 100 times higher.

Because they've gone unnoticed, compared with soot and smog, toxins in the air are "the sleeping horror," said private atmospheric chemist Paullette Middleton, who reviewed the data as part of the EPA's Scientific Advisory Board.

"Some of the impacts of these hazardous air pollutants could be a lot worse than some of the things we tend to worry about, like ozone," she said.

Several states already are curbing air toxics. California is switching its public vehicle fleets from diesel to other fuels. Connecticut banned vehicles with diesel engines from idling

near school children. Diesel-powered school buses make risks to children especially high, said David R. Brown, a toxicology consultant on the EPA study.

"Air toxins is no longer a mystery," Brown said. "We know where it's coming from. We know what it's doing to us. Now all we have to do is fix it."

Officials of industries that face regulation questioned the validity of the science behind the EPA's findings.

"After many, many years of research, the EPA has still not been able to classify diesel exhaust and diesel particulates as a known carcinogen," said Joe Suchecki, spokesman for the Engine Manufacturers Association.

Noting the net ban's success

4/19 5p Times

The arrival of spring brings the best seasonal fishing in Florida — and with it, an annual reminder of how the state's net ban has improved the environment and fisheries stocks. Many species of fish, in large part because of the ban, are increasing in numbers off the Gulf and Atlantic coasts, and this success has had the effect of popularizing other conservation campaigns.

Powerful arguments against the nets led 72 percent of Florida voters to approve a constitutional ban in 1994. The ban forbids the use of gill and entangling nets in state waters, and restricts the size and use of other nets near shore. The move was designed to help the fish stocks recover, and to reduce the bycatch killed when dolphins, sea turtles and other marine life wander into nets.

But removing the nets was one step in fixing a larger problem, and the people behind the ban promised then to follow up with more conservation efforts. That promise was honored, and Florida's marine resources are better for it. Mullet have rebounded; so have Spanish mackerel. Trout are healthy. Redfish, which benefit from harvesting rules separate from the ban, are doubly helped by not having the nets around.

The resurgence of the mullet population is

especially encouraging. The overfishing of mullet got the net-ban movement going; they are bait fish and food, a key player in the food chain for birds and an integral part of the coastal ecosystem. When the mullet are cleaned out, other fish go away. Bringing their numbers back in the Gulf of Mexico and Atlantic is an achievement that can be appreciated by residents and visitors to the Sunshine State.

There's still work to do. Pompano stocks show signs that illegal netting is taking place. Some recreational fishermen still haven't changed their abusive and wasteful practices. Private groups, such as Coastal Conservation Association Florida, have done a good job of drawing attention to the need for tougher anti-poaching enforcement. But it's still worth pausing to note the success.

The net ban has done for fishing what the teary-eyed Indian did for the cause of highway cleanup — force people to think before they spoil the nation's natural resources. The fisheries' turnaround is all the more remarkable given the state's rapid growth, which underscores the need for keeping conservation a political priority and a personal value. It's a credit worth teaching every Florida resident and every visitor.

FLORIDA FISH AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COMMISSION



DAVID K. MEEHAN
St. Petersburg

H.A. "HERKY" HUFFMAN
Deltona

JOHN D. ROOD
Jacksonville

QUINTON L. HEDGEPEETH, DDS
Miami

EDWIN P. ROBERTS, DC
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Palm Beach

ALLAN L. EGBERT, Ph.D., Executive Director
VICTOR J. HELLER, Assistant Executive Director

BRADLEY J. HARTMAN, DIRECTOR
OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES
(850)488-6661 TDD (850)488-9542
FAX (850)922-5679

May 9, 2002

Ms. Cindy Cranick
Florida State Clearinghouse
Department of Community Affairs
2555 Shumard Oak Boulevard
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-2100

RE: SAI #FL200204041784C,
Jacksonville District U.S. Army
Corps of Engineers – Ecosystem
Restoration Report and Draft
Environmental Assessment for the
Beneficial Use of Dredged Material
– Cockroach Bay Restoration,
Hillsborough County

Dear Ms. Cranick:

The Office of Environmental Services of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) has reviewed the Ecosystem Restoration Report and Draft Environmental Assessment for the referenced project, and offers the following comments and recommendations.

The purpose for the study is to examine potential environmental impacts resulting from the proposed use of dredged material for ecosystem restoration, and to evaluate associated alternative plans. Cockroach Bay is the study area along the southeast shoreline of greater Tampa Bay. The recommended plan proposes to transport dredged material by pipeline from the Manatee Harbor--Phase II Construction Project as fill for both the North and South Leisey Shell Pits, and construct nine water control structures to allow freshwater inflow and tidal saltwater exchange between the pits and surrounding estuarine habitat. Project benefits include the reestablishment of approximately 75 acres of salt marsh/mangrove habitat as well as improvements to the adjacent aquatic habitats.

The decommissioned Leisey Shell pits, previous mined upland sites, are presently ponds with vertical sides and bottom depths ranging from 9 to 15 feet. Emergent vegetation along the steep sides of these ponds is limited, and consists primarily of scattered white mangroves, Brazilian pepper, Australian pine, cabbage palm, cattails, and white sweet clover. Submerged aquatic vegetation does not occur in either of the ponds. Monitoring for fish use and water

Ms. Cindy Cranick
May 9, 2002
Page 2

quality in both ponds revealed seven species of killifish (Cyprinodontidae) and two species of livebearers (Poeciliidae) as the only residents. Ninety-three species of birds have been confirmed to use the ponds. The little blue heron and tricolored heron (species of special concern), along with anhingas, double-crested cormorants, cattle egrets, great egrets, and black-crowned night-herons have been documented as nesting on two small islands, vegetated with Brazilian pepper and cabbage palm, in the northern pond.

As reported, the primary adverse impacts would occur to water quality via the placement of slurred dredged material into the pits. The deposition of dredged material, sedimentation of suspended particles, and reduced water quality would eliminate the existing freshwater benthic organisms and fish. Additionally, there could be adverse impacts to birds if the deposition of dredged material is conducted during the nesting season. If work cannot be conducted outside of the nesting season, then the Corps of Engineers' Migratory Bird Protection Policy, which includes monitoring and avoidance of the nesting areas, would be implemented to minimize this potential impact. Projected long-term benefits include increased biodiversity and biomass from estuarine benthic organisms, increased estuarine habitat including seagrass beds, improved water quality entering Cockroach Bay, and potentially increased feeding and nesting habitat for birds.

We support the habitat restoration and environmental improvement goals for this ecosystem restoration project, and recommend that dredge material disposal activities be conducted outside of waterbird the nesting season. If avoidance is not possible, then the Corps should coordinate with the FWC regarding authorization for impacts to nesting birds or nest areas.

If you have any questions concerning these comments, please contact me, or Mr. Jim Beaver or Mr. Bill Smith at (941)575-5765.

Sincerely,



Bradley J. Hartman, Director
Office of Environmental Services

BJH/JWB/WRS
ENV 1-3-2

a:\CockroachBay.doc

cc: Mr. James C. Duck
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
P.O. Box 4970
Jacksonville, Florida 32232-0019

Mr. Peter M. Benjamin
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Ms. Cindy Cranick
May 9, 2002
Page 3

6620 Southpoint Drive South, Suite 310
Jacksonville, Florida 32216-0912

Mr. Brandt F. Henningsen
Southwest Florida Water Management District
2379 Broad Street (US Highway 41 South)
Brooksville, Florida 34609-6899

Mr. Randy Runnels
Department of Environmental Protection
Tampa Bay Aquatic and Buffer Preserve
3804 Coconut Palm Drive
Tampa, Florida 33619

FL200204041784C



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

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

Planning Division
Environmental Branch

MAR 29 2002

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

We are coordinating a Draft Environmental Assessment for the Beneficial Use of Dredged Material - Cockroach Bay Restoration Project and Draft Finding of No Significant Impact in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act. Based on the impacts of this proposal, we have preliminarily determined that an Environmental Impact Statement is not required.

The document can also be viewed at our Internet site at URL <http://www.saj.usace.army.mil/pd/env-doc.htm>.

We are circulating this document for a 30-day period from the date of this letter. If you have any questions or comments, please contact Mr. Bill Fonferék at the above address reference this project. Mr. Fonferék can also be reached at 904-232-2803.

Sincerely,

James C. Duck
Chief, Planning Division

Enclosure

RECEIVED
APR 04 2002

State of Florida Clearinghouse



Jeb Bush
Governor

Department of Environmental Protection

Marjory Stoneman Douglas Building
3900 Commonwealth Boulevard
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-3000

David B. Struhs
Secretary

May 6, 2002

Ms. Jasmin Raffington
Florida State Clearinghouse
Department of Community Affairs
2555 Shumard Oak Boulevard
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-2100

RE: USACOE – Ecosystem Restoration Report and Draft EA for the Beneficial Use of
Dredged Material – Cockroach Bay Restoration, Hillsborough County
SAI # FL200204041784C (Reference SAI # FL200110151124C)

Dear Ms. Raffington:

The Department has reviewed the above referenced U. S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACOE) Ecosystem Restoration Report and Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for the proposed Section 204 Cockroach Bay Restoration Project. We fully support the combined goals of ecosystem restoration, water quality improvement and beneficial use of dredged material. While the federal restoration project and the Draft EA analysis appear to be consistent with the Department's authorities under the Florida Coastal Management Program, the project will be reviewed by the Department as part of the environmental resource permitting (ERP) and water quality certification (WQC) process. Accordingly, the Department must defer the project consistency determination until completion of that review process – final agency action on the permit application will constitute the State of Florida's final consistency determination.

We recommend that the USACOE and Southwest Florida Water Management District coordinate with the Department's Office of Beaches and Coastal Systems and Southwest District office to resolve any outstanding issues related to: sediment quality and composition; sediment placement; dredging and disposal turbidity; pipeline corridors; and mangrove, seagrass bed, hardbottom, shellfish, manatee, marine turtle, and migratory bird protection. Submerged aquatic resources (seagrass beds, soft corals, oyster beds, etc.) located within, and a minimum of 500 feet from, the proposed pipeline corridor(s) and any construction anchorage areas should be identified and mapped prior to submittal of the permit/WQC application. Please be advised that the Department may determine that permitting of the restoration project would best be handled as a Noticed General ERP application processed in the Southwest District office.

The project area is located within/adjacent to submerged lands designated as Outstanding Florida Waters (OFWs), the Cockroach Bay Aquatic Preserve and Cockroach Bay State Buffer Preserve, which are afforded the highest level of protection under sections 62-4.242(2) and 62-

"More Protection, Less Process"

Printed on recycled paper.

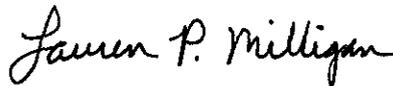
Ms. Jasmin Raffington
SAI # FL200204041784C
Page 2

302.700, *Florida Administrative Code*. Best Management Practices are required during dredging and Leisey Shell Pit restoration activities to prevent degradation of water quality within the receiving OFWs.

For information on permitting requirements, please contact Mr. Kent Edwards in the Office of Beaches and Coastal Systems at (850) 487-4471, ext. 141. We also suggest that the applicant contact Mr. Allen Burdett in our Southwest District office in Tampa at (813) 744-6100, ext. 436, to facilitate coordination of the restoration effort.

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Draft EA. If I may be of further assistance, please contact me at (850) 487-2231.

Sincerely,



Lauren P. Milligan
Environmental Specialist
Office of Intergovernmental Programs

/lpm

cc: Lori Collins, DEP, Southwest District
Allen Burdett, DEP, Southwest District
Randy Runnels, DEP, OCAMA
Kent Edwards, DEP, OBCS

FLORIDA FISH AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COMMISSION



DAVID K. MEEHAN
St. Petersburg

H.A. "HERKY" HUFFMAN
Deltona

JOHN D. ROOD
Jacksonville

QUINTON L. HEDGEPEETH, DDS
Miami

EDWIN P. ROBERTS, DC
Pensacola

RODNEY BARRETO
Miami

SANDRA T. KAUPE
Palm Beach

ALLAN L. EGBERT, Ph.D., Executive Director
VICTOR J. HELLER, Assistant Executive Director

BRADLEY J. HARTMAN, DIRECTOR
OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES
(850)488-6661 TDD (850)488-9542
FAX (850)922-5679

May 9, 2002

Ms. Cindy Cranick
Florida State Clearinghouse
Department of Community Affairs
2555 Shumard Oak Boulevard
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-2100

RE: SAI #FL200204041784C,
Jacksonville District U.S. Army
Corps of Engineers – Ecosystem
Restoration Report and Draft
Environmental Assessment for the
Beneficial Use of Dredged Material
– Cockroach Bay Restoration,
Hillsborough County

RECEIVED
MAY 10 2002
Office of Florida Clearinghouse

Dear Ms. Cranick:

The Office of Environmental Services of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) has reviewed the Ecosystem Restoration Report and Draft Environmental Assessment for the referenced project, and offers the following comments and recommendations.

The purpose for the study is to examine potential environmental impacts resulting from the proposed use of dredged material for ecosystem restoration, and to evaluate associated alternative plans. Cockroach Bay is the study area along the southeast shoreline of greater Tampa Bay. The recommended plan proposes to transport dredged material by pipeline from the Manatee Harbor--Phase II Construction Project as fill for both the North and South Leisey Shell Pits, and construct nine water control structures to allow freshwater inflow and tidal saltwater exchange between the pits and surrounding estuarine habitat. Project benefits include the reestablishment of approximately 75 acres of salt marsh/mangrove habitat as well as improvements to the adjacent aquatic habitats.

The decommissioned Leisey Shell pits, previous mined upland sites, are presently ponds with vertical sides and bottom depths ranging from 9 to 15 feet. Emergent vegetation along the steep sides of these ponds is limited, and consists primarily of scattered white mangroves, Brazilian pepper, Australian pine, cabbage palm, cattails, and white sweet clover. Submerged aquatic vegetation does not occur in either of the ponds. Monitoring for fish use and water

Ms. Cindy Cranick

May 9, 2002

Page 2

quality in both ponds revealed seven species of killifish (Cyprinodontidae) and two species of livebearers (Poeciliidae) as the only residents. Ninety-three species of birds have been confirmed to use the ponds. The little blue heron and tricolored heron (species of special concern), along with anhingas, double-crested cormorants, cattle egrets, great egrets, and black-crowned night-herons have been documented as nesting on two small islands, vegetated with Brazilian pepper and cabbage palm, in the northern pond.

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We support the habitat restoration and environmental improvement goals for this ecosystem restoration project, and recommend that dredge material disposal activities be conducted outside of waterbird the nesting season. If avoidance is not possible, then the Corps should coordinate with the FWC regarding authorization for impacts to nesting birds or nest areas.

If you have any questions concerning these comments, please contact me, or Mr. Jim Beaver or Mr. Bill Smith at (941)575-5765.

Sincerely,

Brian Barnett, for

Bradley J. Hartman, Director
Office of Environmental Services

BJH/JWB/WRS

ENV 1-3-2

a:\CockroachBay.doc

cc: Mr. James C. Duck
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
P.O. Box 4970
Jacksonville, Florida 32232-0019

Mr. Peter M. Benjamin
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Ms. Cindy Cranick

May 9, 2002

Page 3

6620 Southpoint Drive South, Suite 310
Jacksonville, Florida 32216-0912

Mr. Brandt F. Henningsen
Southwest Florida Water Management District
2379 Broad Street (US Highway 41 South)
Brooksville, Florida 34609-6899

Mr. Randy Runnels
Department of Environmental Protection
Tampa Bay Aquatic and Buffer Preserve
3804 Coconut Palm Drive
Tampa, Florida 33619



An Equal Opportunity Employer

Southwest Florida Water Management District

Tampa Service Office
7601 Highway 301 North
Tampa, Florida 33637-6759
(813) 985-7481 or
1-800-836-0797 (FL only)
SUNCOM 578-2070

Bartow Service Office
170 Century Boulevard
Bartow, Florida 33830-7700
(863) 534-1448 or
1-800-492-7862 (FL only)
SUNCOM 572-6200

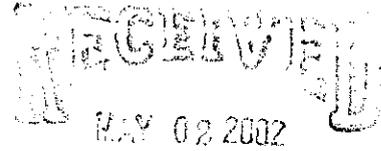
2379 Broad Street, Brooksville, Florida 34604-6899
(352) 796-7211 or 1-800-423-1476 (FL only)
SUNCOM 628-4150 TDD only 1-800-231-6103 (FL only)
On the Internet at: WaterMatters.org

Sarasota Service Office
6750 Fruitville Road
Sarasota, Florida 34240-9711
(941) 377-3722 or
1-800-320-3503 (FL only)
SUNCOM 531-6900

Lecanto Service Office
3600 West Sovereign Path
Suite 226
Lecanto, Florida 34461-8070
(352) 527-8131
SUNCOM 667-3271

April 29, 2002

Ms. Jasmin Raffington
Florida State Clearinghouse
Department of Community Affairs
2555 Shumard Oak Boulevard
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-2100



State of Florida Clearinghouse

Subject: Department of the Army-District Corps of Engineers- Ecosystem Restoration Report and Draft Environmental Assessment for the Beneficial Use of Dredged Material- Cockroach Bay Restoration-March 2002-Hillsborough County, Florida; SAI:# FL20020404041784C

Dear Ms. Raffington:

The staff of the Southwest Florida Water Management District (District) has conducted a consistency evaluation for the referenced project. Consistency findings are divided into four categories and are based solely on the information provided in the subject application.

FINDING	CATEGORY
X	Consistent/No Comment
	Consistent/Comments Attached
	Inconsistent/Comments Attached
	Consistency Cannot be Determined Without an Environmental Assessment Report/Comments Attached

The District appreciates the opportunity to participate in the review of this application. Please be advised that our review does not constitute permit approval under Chapter 373, Florida Statutes, or any rules promulgated thereunder, nor does it stand in lieu of normal permitting procedures in accordance with Florida Statutes and District rules.

- Ronnie E. Duncan**
Chair, Pinellas
- Thomas G. Dabney, II**
Vice Chair, Sarasota
- Janet D. Kovach**
Secretary, Hillsborough
- Watson L. Haynes, II**
Treasurer, Pinellas
- Edward W. Chance**
Manatee
- Monroe "Al" Coogler**
Citrus
- Maggie N. Dominguez**
Hillsborough
- Pamela L. Fontress**
Highlands
- Ronald C. Johnson**
Polk
- Heidi B. McCree**
Hillsborough
- John K. Renke, III**
Pasco

- E. D. "Sonny" Vergara**
Executive Director
- Gene A. Heath**
Assistant Executive Director
- William S. Bilenky**
General Counsel

Ms. Jasmin Raffington
April 29, 2002
Page 2

If you have any questions or if I can be of further assistance, please contact me in the District's Planning Department.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Trisha Neasman".

Trisha Neasman, AICP
Government Planning Coordinator

COUNTY: HILLSBOROUGH

DATE: 4/4/02

COMMENTS DUE DATE: 5/4/02

Message:

CLEARANCE DUE DATE: 6/3/02

SAI#: FL200204041784C

STATE AGENCIES

WATER MNGMNT. DISTRICTS

OPB POLICY UNITS

COMMUNITY AFFAIRS
FISH and WILDLIFE COMMISSION
STATE
X TRANSPORTATION
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

SOUTHWEST FLORIDA WMD

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY UNIT

The attached document requires a Coastal Zone Management Act/Florida Coastal Management Program consistency evaluation and is categorized as one of the following:

- Federal Assistance to State or Local Government (15 CFR 930, Subpart F). Agencies are required to evaluate the consistency of the activity.
- Direct Federal Activity (15 CFR 930, Subpart C). Federal Agencies are required to furnish a consistency determination for the State's concurrence or objection.
- Outer Continental Shelf Exploration, Development or Production Activities (15 CFR 930, Subpart E). Operators are required to provide a consistency certification for state concurrence/objection.
- Federal Licensing or Permitting Activity (15 CFR 930, Subpart D). Such projects will only be evaluated for consistency when there is not an analogous state license or permit.

Project Description:

Department of the Army - District Corps of Engineers - Ecosystem Restoration Report and Draft Environmental Assessment for the Beneficial Use of Dredged Material - Cockroach Bay Restoration - Draft Finding of No Significant Impact - March 2002 - Cockroach Bay, Hillsborough County, Florida. Also online at www.saj.usace.army.mil/pd/env-doc.htm

To: Florida State Clearinghouse

EO. 12372/NEPA

Federal Consistency

AGENCY CONTACT AND COORDINATOR (SCH)
2555 SHUMARD OAK BLVD
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA 32399-2100
(850) 414-6580 (SC 994-6580)
(850) 414-0479

- No Comment
- Comment Attached
- Not Applicable

- No Comment/Consistent
- Consistent/Comments Attached
- Inconsistent/Comments Attached
- Not Applicable

From:

Division/Bureau:

Modal Planning + Development

Reviewer:

Robin Rhines

Date:

5/2/02

STATE OF FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
**INTERGOVERNMENTAL COORDINATION AND REVIEW
ROUTING SHEET**

FORM 525-010-20
STATE TRANSPORTATION PLANNER
05/01

DATE: 4/11/02
TO: Debbie Hunt, D1; Dave Byrd, D2; Marvin Stuckey, D3; Gerry O'Reilly, D4; Carolyn Ismart, D5;
Gary Donn, D6; Don Skelton, D7; Irwin, EMO; Alexander, Seaport; Ashbaker, Aviation; Lee, Rail
SAI#: F1 3002 04041784C
Application Description: Coastal Bay
Date Response Due to the Clearinghouse: 3/4/2

Please review and comment regarding the attached application in accordance with Department Procedure 525-010-205. A response to the Director of the Clearinghouse and this routing sheet should be completed and returned as directed in the procedure.

The following criteria, as appropriate to the project, should be used to evaluate the application and develop your comments:

- Florida Transportation Plan
- Adopted Work Program
- Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)
- Right of Way Preservation and Advanced Acquisition
- Transit Development Program
- MPO Comprehensive Transportation Plan and 20 Year Transportation Plan
- Florida Rail System Plan
- Florida Aviation System Plan
- Local Airport Master Plan
- Florida Seaport Mission Plan
- Environment Commitments
- Unified Planning Work Program
- Level of Service
- Access Management

2002 APR 15 AM 8:27
RECEIVED
2002 APR 15 AM 8:57
RECEIVED ENVIRONMENTAL
MANAGEMENT OFFICE

If comments are warranted based on other criteria, they should be included.

Application Type: General Aviation Rail Transit Environmental Seaport

Financial Project Identifier: _____ (if applicable).

(Name:) Sandra Whitmire
Central Office ICAR Coordinator - MS #28
Phone: (850) 414-4812 / SC 994-4812
FAX: (850) 413-7640 / SC 293-7640

FLORIDA STATE CLEARINGHOUSE LOCAL GOVERNMENT COORDINATION ROUTING SHEET

SAI#: FL200204041784C

DATE: 4/4/02

COMMENTS DUE TO RPC:

~~4/4/02~~ 4/27/02

AREA OF PROPOSED ACTIVITY:

COUNTY: HILLSBOROUGH

CITY:

FEDERAL ASSISTANCE DIRECT FEDERAL ACTIVITY FEDERAL LICENSE OR PERMIT OCS

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Department of the Army - District Corps of Engineers - Ecosystem Restoration Report and Draft Environmental Assessment for the Beneficial Use of Dredged Material - Cockroach Bay Restoration - Draft Finding of No Significant Impact - March 2002 - Cockroach Bay, Hillsborough County, Florida. Also online at www.saj.usace.army.mil/pd/env-doc.htm

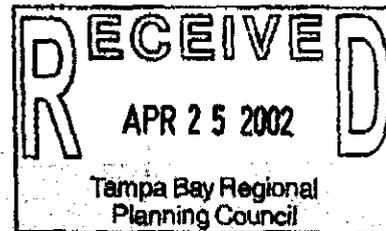
ROUTING:

RPC

Local Governments

TAMPA BAY RPC

HILLSBOROUGH



IF YOU HAVE NO COMMENTS, PLEASE CHECK HERE AND RETURN FORM TO RPC :

ALL CONCERNS OR COMMENTS REGARDING THE ATTACHED PROJECT SHOULD BE SENT IN WRITING BY THE DUE DATE TO THE REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL SHOWN BELOW. PLEASE REFER TO THE SAI # IN ALL CORRESPONDENCE:

Ms. ANGELA HURLEY
9455 KOGER BOULEVARD
SUITE 219
ST. PETERSBURG, FLORIDA 337022491

IMPORTANT: PLEASE DO NOT SEND COMMENTS DIRECTLY TO THE CLEARINGHOUSE!

IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS REGARDING THE ATTACHED PROJECT OR THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL COORDINATION PROCESS, PLEASE CONTACT THE STATE CLEARINGHOUSE. IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS REGARDING THE FEDERAL CONSISTENCY REVIEW PROCESS, PLEASE CONTACT THE FLORIDA COASTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAM. THE TELEPHONE NUMBER FOR BOTH PROGRAMS IS (50) 414-6580 OR SUNCOM 994-6580.

SAI#: FL200204041784C

DATE: 4/4/02

COMMENTS DUE TO CLEARINGHOUSE: 4/4/02 5/4/02

AREA OF PROPOSED ACTIVITY: COUNTY: HILLSBOROUGH CITY:

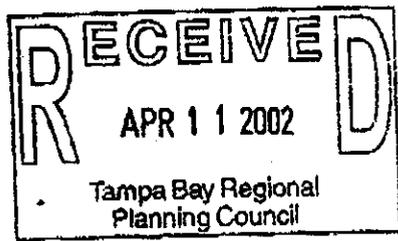
FEDERAL ASSISTANCE DIRECT FEDERAL ACTIVITY FEDERAL LICENSE OR PERMIT OCS

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

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ROUTING:

RPC
- X TAMPA BAY RPC



PLEASE CHECK ALL THE LOCAL GOVERNMENTS BELOW FROM WHICH COMMENTS HAVE BEEN RECEIVED; ALL COMMENTS RECEIVED SHOULD BE INCLUDED IN THE RPC'S CLEARINGHOUSE RESPONSE PACKAGE. IF NO COMMENTS WERE RECEIVED, PLEASE CHECK "NO COMMENT" BOX AND RETURN TO CLEARINGHOUSE.

COMMENTS DUE TO RPC: 4/4/02 4/27/02

 HILLSBOROUGH

NO COMMENTS:

(IF THE RPC DOES NOT RECEIVE COMMENTS BY THE DEADLINE DATE, THE RPC SHOULD CONTACT THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT TO DETERMINE THE STATUS OF THE PROJECT REVIEW PRIOR TO FORWARDING THE RESPONSE PACKAGE TO THE CLEARINGHOUSE.)

NOTES:

ALL CONCERNS OR COMMENTS REGARDING THE ATTACHED PROJECT (INCLUDING ANY RPC COMMENTS) SHOULD BE SENT IN WRITING BY THE DUE DATE TO THE CLEARINGHOUSE. PLEASE ATTACH THIS RESPONSE FORM AND REFER TO THE SAI # IN ALL CORRESPONDENCE. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS REGARDING THE ATTACHED PROJECT, PLEASE CONTACT THE STATE CLEARINGHOUSE AT (850) 414-6580 OR SUNCOM 994-6580.

COUNTY: HILLSBOROUGH

DATE: 4/4/02

COMMENTS DUE DATE: 5/4/02

Message:

CLEARANCE DUE DATE: 6/3/02

SAI#: FL200204041784C

STATE AGENCIES

WATER MNGMNT. DISTRICTS

OPB POLICY UNITS

COMMUNITY AFFAIRS
FISH and WILDLIFE COMMISSION
X STATE
TRANSPORTATION
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

SOUTHWEST FLORIDA WMD

01-11012 Corp - no sites CH
01-10533 SAI-clear CH
01-9521 Survey Cleared MBF
99-4283
48-3659
3622
32/18/16,21
✓ COCK-27V

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY UNIT

Hillsborough
SAI - ARMYCORPS
2002-3489

RECEIVED

MAY 08 2002

State of Florida Clearinghouse

The attached document requires a Coastal Zone Management Act/Florida Coastal Management Program consistency evaluation and is categorized as one of the following:

Federal Assistance to State or Local Government (15 CFR 930, Subpart F). Agencies are required to evaluate the consistency of the activity.

X Direct Federal Activity (15 CFR 930, Subpart C). Federal Agencies are required to furnish a consistency determination for the State's concurrence or objection.

Outer Continental Shelf Exploration, Development or Production Activities (15 CFR 930, Subpart E). Operators are required to provide a consistency certification for state concurrence/objection.

Federal Licensing or Permitting Activity (15 CFR 930, Subpart D). Such projects will only be evaluated for consistency when there is not an analogous state license or permit.

Project Description:

Department of the Army - District Corps of Engineers - Ecosystem Restoration Report and Draft Environmental Assessment for the Beneficial Use of Dredged Material - Cockroach Bay Restoration - Draft Finding of No Significant Impact - March 2002 - Cockroach Bay, Hillsborough County, Florida. Also online at www.saj.usace.army.mil/pd/env-doc.htm

To: Florida State Clearinghouse

EO. 12372/NEPA

Federal Consistency

AGENCY CONTACT AND COORDINATOR (SCH)

2555 SHUMARD OAK BLVD

TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA 32399-2100

(850) 414-6580 (SC 994-6580)

(850) 414-0479

No Comment

Comment Attached

Not Applicable

No Comment/Consistent

Consistent/Comments Attached

Inconsistent/Comments Attached

Not Applicable

From:

Division of Historical Resources

Division/Bureau:

Bureau of Historic Preservation

Reviewer: SARAH JALVING

Deputy SHPO

Date: 5/1/02

5/3/02

02 APR -9 AM 8:55

HISTORIC PRESERVATION BUREAU OF

RECEIVED

SAI Routing Sheet

COUNTY: HILLSBOROUGH

DATE: 04/04/2002

Message:

SAI#: FL200204041784C

PROJECT TO BE REVIEWED BY: (Div/Program)	ASSIGNED REVIEWERS (Print Last Name)	IS PROJECT LOCATED IN APPROVED DRI? (Circle Yes/No)				Is Project CONSISTENT w/ COMPLAN?		Is Project CONSISTENT w/ FCMP?		Do you have any COMMENTS on project?		DATE REVIEW COMPLETED	RVWR/SUPV INIT
		YES		NO		YES	NO	YES	NO	YES	NO		
		Is Project Consistent with DO?	Is Project DRI Scale?	Monitoring Letter?	Monitoring Letter?								
DCP	RWD	YES	NO	YES	NO							4/21/02	MD
4/8/02 <small>Date Rec'd</small>													
Complete and forward to Div/Prog Below no later than: 5/4/02													
CMP	Jones	Wetlands?		Stormwater?							✓	4/24/02	D
4/22/02 <small>Date Rec'd</small>		YES	NO	YES	NO								
Complete and forward to ACC Coordinator no later than: 5/4/02													

UNIT COORDINATORS for Intergovernmental Coordination and Review:

CMP COASTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAM
DCP COMMUNITY PLANNING

Ms. VANESSA HOLMES

2555 SHUMARD OAK
BLVD
2555 SHUMARD OAK
BLVD

(850) 414-6563
(850) 488-2356

The attached document requires a Coastal Zone Management Act/Florida Coastal Management Program consistency evaluation and is categorized as one of the following:

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EO. 12372/NEPA No Comment Comments Attached Not Applicable
Federal Consistency No Comment/Consistent Consistent/Comments Attached Inconsistent/Comments Attached N/A

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. UNIT COORDINATORS are responsible for logging in, logging out, and hand-carrying/mailling project packages to the next reviewing unit on this form, or to the ACC if all review requirements have been met. Failure to meet internal suspense dates may result in loss of opportunity to comment on critical issues.
2. Requests for EXTENSIONS should be made prior to due date, especially if COMMENTS will be submitted. Contact your UNIT COORDINATOR, who will request the EXTENSION from the ACC.
3. Agency COMMENTS on SAIs will be sent to the State Clearinghouse (SCH) and should be prepared in LETTER format for the Secretary's signature. Forward the project package to the next review unit while your COMMENTS are being drafted. Coordinate your comments with other reviewers prior to finalizing.



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY AND COMPLIANCE

Richard B. Russell Federal Building

75 Spring Street, S.W.

Atlanta, Georgia 30303

May 7, 2002

ER 02/296

Mr. James B. Duck
Chief, Planning Division
Department of the Army
Jacksonville District Corps of Engineers
P.O. Box 4970
Jacksonville, FL 32232

RE: Section 204 Ecosystem Report and Draft Environmental Assessment, Cockroach Bay,
Hillsborough County, FL

Dear Mr. Duck:

The Department of the Interior has reviewed the referenced document. We ask that you coordinate your planning efforts with the Seminole Tribe (904-966-6300) and the Miccosukee Tribe (303-223-8380) to seek their consultation on sites that may be of cultural and/or historical significant to them.

If you have any questions concerning these comments, I can be reached at 404-331-4524.

Sincerely,

Gregory Hogue
Regional Environmental Officer

cc:
OEPC, WASO
FWS-R4, Atlanta
BIA, ERO



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY AND COMPLIANCE

Richard B. Russell Federal Building
75 Spring Street, S.W.
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

May 8, 2002

ER 02/296

Mr. James B. Duck
Chief, Planning Division
Department of the Army
Jacksonville District Corps of Engineers
P.O. Box 4970
Jacksonville, FL 32232

RE: Section 204 Ecosystem Report and Draft Environmental Assessment, Cockroach Bay,
Hillsborough County, FL

Dear Mr. Duck:

The Department of the Interior submitted comments to you for the above referenced project dated May 7, 2002. We have the following additional comments to provide for your consideration.

GENERAL COMMENTS:

The Draft Environmental Assessment addresses the proposed restoration of the Cockroach Bay Aquatic Preserve, which is located on the southeast shoreline of Tampa Bay between Cockroach Bay and Little Cockroach Bay. Dredged materials from a preferred material source site in Tampa Bay will be used for filling two adjacent mined pits (Leisey Shell Pits) with a total surface area of 128 acres in the aquatic preserve area. An item of concern that needs to be addressed is an inconsistency regarding the source of dredge materials that will be used to fill the Leisey Shell Pits.

SPECIFIC COMMENTS:

Page EA-5, Chapter 2 Alternatives, Section 2.5 Description of Cockroach Bay Restoration Alternatives, 2.5.4 Alternative 6-North and South Pit Dredged Material Placement:

“This alternative includes filling of the North and South Pits within the Cockroach Bay Restoration Area with approximately 600,000 cubic yards of dredged material from the Manatee Harbor Phase II Construction.”

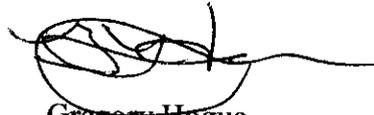
Page EA-5, Chapter 2 Alternatives, Section 2.6 Preferred Alternative:

"The preferred alternative is the placement of Dredged Material from the Manatee Harbor Phase II Construction in both the North and the South Pit with all the applicable culverts for freshwater input and saltwater exchange."

The above-quoted information indicates that the dredged material from the Manatee Harbor Phase II Construction Site, which is about 5 miles south from the Leisey Shell Pits area, will be used for filling the Leisey Shell Pits, North and South Pits as part of the Cockroach Bay Restoration Project. Appendix I [Section 404 (b) (1) Evaluation Dredge Material] of the Draft EA, however, indicates that the source of the dredged material for filling the Leisey Shell Pits will be from offloading of the Alafia River Navigation Project Dredged Material Management Areas (Page 404-1, Section 1 Project Description, d. General Description of Dredged or Fill Material), which is about 12 miles north from the Leisey Shell Pits area. The statements in the main body of text in the Draft EA regarding the source of dredged material seem to disagree with the statements made in Appendix I. We suggest that the discrepancy regarding the source of dredge materials (Manatee Harbor Phase II Construction Site or the Alafia River Navigation Project Dredged Material Management Areas) be corrected to eliminate the noted inconsistency and any confusion in the information presented in the Draft EA. If the source of material is from the Manatee Harbor Phase II Construction Site, then the source analysis presented in Appendix I should also be done for the Manatee Harbor Phase II Construction Site.

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on these documents. If you have any questions concerning these comments, I can be reached at 404-331-4524.

Sincerely,



Gregory Hogue
Regional Environmental Officer

cc:

OEPC, WASO

FWS-R4, Atlanta

BIA, ERO

USGS, WRO, Atlanta



STATE OF FLORIDA
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

"Dedicated to making Florida a better place to call home"

JEB BUSH
Governor

STEVEN M. SEIBERT
Secretary

June 24, 2002

Mr. James C. Duck
Chief, Planning Division
Department of the Army
Jacksonville District Corps of Engineers
Post Office Box 4970
Jacksonville, Florida 32232-0019

RE: U.S. Department of the Army - District Corps of Engineers - Ecosystem
Restoration Report and Draft Environmental Assessment for the Beneficial Use of
Dredge Material - Cockroach Bay Restoration - Draft Finding of No Significant
Impact - March 2002 - Cockroach Bay, Hillsborough County, Florida
SAI#: FL200204041784C

Dear Mr. Duck:

The Florida State Clearinghouse, pursuant to Presidential Executive Order 12372, Gubernatorial Executive Order 95-359, the Coastal Zone Management Act, 16 U.S.C. §§ 1451-1464, as amended, and the National Environmental Policy Act, 42 U.S.C. §§ 4321, 4331-4335, 4341-4347, as amended, has coordinated a review of the above-referenced project.

The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) recommends that the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers coordinate with the DEP's Office of Beaches and Coastal Systems and the Southwest Florida Water Management District, to resolve any outstanding issues related to sediment quality and composition, sediment placement, dredging and disposal turbidity, pipeline corridors, mangrove, seagrass bed, hardbottom, shellfish, manatee, marine turtle, and migratory bird protection. Submerged aquatic resources and all construction anchorage areas should be identified and mapped prior to submittal of the permit and water quality certification process. In addition, Best Management Practices are required during dredging and Leisey Shell Pit restoration activities. Permitting requirements can be obtained from Mr. Kent Edwards in the Office of Beaches and Coastal Systems at (850) 487-4471, ext. 141. In a continued attempt to coordinate the restoration efforts, the applicant is encouraged to contact Mr. Allen Burdett in the DEP's Southwest District office in Tampa at (813) 744-6100, ext. 436. The DEP notes that the final decision regarding the consistency of the project will be made when the applicant completes the Environmental Resource Permitting process. Please refer to the enclosed DEP comments.

2555 SHUMARD OAK BOULEVARD • TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA 32399-2100

Phone: 850.488.8466/Suncom 278.8466 FAX: 850.921.0781/Suncom 291.0781

Internet address: <http://www.dca.state.fl.us>

CRITICAL STATE CONCERN FIELD OFFICE
2796 Overseas Highway, Suite 212
Marathon, Florida 33050-2227
(305) 289-2402

COMMUNITY PLANNING
2555 Shumard Oak Boulevard
Tallahassee, FL 32399-2100
(850) 488-2356

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
2575 Shumard Oak Boulevard
Tallahassee, FL 32399-2100
(850) 413-9969

HOUSING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
2555 Shumard Oak Boulevard
Tallahassee, FL 32399-2100
(850) 488-7956

Mr. James C. Duck

June 24, 2002

Page Two

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) recommends that the dredge material disposal activities be conducted outside of waterbird nesting season and/or implement the Corps of Engineers' Migratory Bird Protection Policy, i.e., monitoring and avoidance of nesting areas. The applicant is encouraged to coordinate with the FWC regarding authorization for impacts to nesting birds or nest areas. Please refer to the enclosed FWC comments.

Based on the information contained in the referenced public notice and the enclosed comments provided by our reviewing agencies, the state has determined that, at this stage, the referenced project is consistent with the Florida Coastal Management Program. However, the applicant is required to provide the Florida State Clearinghouse with the environmental assessment prepared for the project and fully comply with the conditions identified by DEP and FWC during the permitting process.

Thank you for the opportunity to review this project. Should questions arise regarding this letter, please call Ms. Jasmin Raffington at (850) 922-5438.

Sincerely,



for Shirley W. Collins, Acting Administrator
Florida Coastal Management Program

SWC:jj

Enclosures

cc: Lauren P. Milligan, Department of Environmental Protection
Bradley J. Hartman, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission