U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY REGION 4 61 Forsyth Street Atlanta, Georgia 30303

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Jacksonville District 701 San Marco Blvd. Jacksonville, Florida 32207

July 3, 2025

JOINT PUBLIC NOTICE AND NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY

DRAFT SITE MANAGEMENT AND MONITORING PLAN for the JACKSONVILLE OCEAN DREDGED MATERIAL DISPOSAL SITE

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN: The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Jacksonville District (USACE), and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Region 4, have reviewed and revised the Jacksonville Site Management and Monitoring Plan (SMMP) to address the disposal of dredged material at the Jacksonville Ocean Dredged Material Disposal Site (ODMDS).

Pursuant to Section 102(c) of the Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act (MPRSA) of 1972, as amended, the EPA designated the Jacksonville ODMDS as an approved dumping site in 1984 (40 CFR 228.15(h)(9)). A SMMP was first developed for the Jacksonville ODMDS in June 1997 and further modified in 2010. Jacksonville's ODMDS was again updated in 2015, when the ODMDS was expanded to provide capacity for suitable dredged material for the next 50 years, increasing the site area to 4.56 nmi².

Under the MPRSA, it is the responsibility of the EPA and the USACE to monitor and manage ODMDSs to ensure that ocean dredged material placement activities will not unreasonably degrade the marine environment or endanger human health. The MPRSA requires the review and update of SMMPs at least every ten years. Following public review and comment, the SMMP provisions shall be requirements for all dredged material placement activities at the ODMDS. All Section 103 (MPRSA) ocean disposal permits or approvals shall be conditioned as necessary to ensure consistency with the updated SMMP for the ODMDS.

The proposed updated SMMP serves as revision to, and supersedes, the 2015 Jacksonville ODMDS SMMP. The 2025 draft SMMP is available at <u>https://www.saj.usace.army.mil/About/Divisions-Offices/Planning/Environmental-Branch/Environmental-Documents/</u> under Duval County. Copies may also be obtained through email request to: J. Aaron Lassiter, at james.a.lassiter@usace.army.mil.

The EPA and USACE encourage your participation to assure the plan provides necessary information for effective ODMDS management. Persons desiring to express their views or provide information to be considered in evaluating this document are requested to mail their comments to both of the following e-mail addresses or postal addresses. The public comment period closes at midnight August 2, 2025.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Jacksonville District (Attn.: Mr. J. Aaron Lassiter, CESAJ-PD-EQ) 701 San Marco Blvd. Jacksonville, FL 32207 telephone: (904) 945-1923 email: james.a.lassiter@usace.army.mil

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 4 (Attn.: Ms. Annie Whitley, Ocean and Estuarine Management Section) 61 Forsyth Street, SW Atlanta, Georgia 30303 telephone: (404) 562-9079 email: Whitley.Annie@epa.gov