



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

MAR 3 0 2015

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) regulation (33 CFR 230.11), this letter constitutes the Notice of Availability of the draft Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) and draft Environmental Assessment (EA) of additional sand sources for the Lido Key Hurricane and Storm Damage Reduction Project, Sarasota County, Florida. The Preferred Alternative includes the use of material from the Big Sarasota Pass ebb shoal for placement on 2.4 miles of shoreline.

The draft EA/FONSI is available online at:

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

We welcome your views, comments, and information about resources and important features within the described project area. **Please provide any written comments within 45 days of the date of this letter to:**

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Jacksonville District  
Planning and Policy Division, Environmental Branch  
Attn: Aubree Hershorin, Ph.D.  
P.O. Box 4970  
Jacksonville, FL 32232-0019

Or via email to:

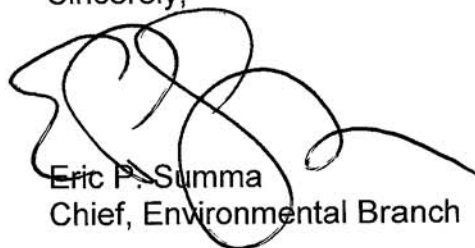
[Aubree.G.Hershorin@usace.army.mil](mailto:Aubree.G.Hershorin@usace.army.mil)

The Corps will hold a public meeting to offer opportunity for input and to answer questions. Please join us at the following date, time, and location:

4:00 to 6:30 PM  
Wednesday, April 15, 2014  
Sarasota City Hall, Room 112  
1565 1<sup>st</sup> Street  
Sarasota, Florida 34236

Individuals with disabilities who require assistance to participate in the public meeting or to provide comments on the document should contact the project ecologist, Aubree Hershori, at (904) 232-2136 or [Aubree.G.Hershori@usace.army.mil](mailto:Aubree.G.Hershori@usace.army.mil).

Sincerely,



Eric P. Summa  
Chief, Environmental Branch

Enclosure

## **FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**

### **ADDITIONAL SAND SOURCES HURRICANE AND STORM DAMAGE REDUCTION PROJECT LIDO KEY, SARASOTA COUNTY, FLORIDA**

I have reviewed the Environmental Assessment (EA) of the Preferred Alternative and the No Action Alternative for the Lido Key Hurricane and Storm Damage Reduction project. This Finding incorporates by reference all discussions and conclusions contained in the EA attached hereto. Based on information analyzed in the EA, reflecting pertinent information obtained from other agencies and special interest groups 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. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Jacksonville District (Corps), will take measures to minimize the effects to threatened and endangered species, including sea turtles. There will be no unauthorized impacts to threatened and endangered species. The project will not jeopardize the continued existence of any federally listed species or adversely modify designated critical habitat, and the Preferred Alternative will have beneficial effects to protected species habitat within the project area.
- b. I have determined that the Preferred Alternative, as proposed, will have no adverse affect on significant historic properties. Coordination with the Florida State Historic Preservation Officer and appropriate federally recognized tribes has been initiated. As stated in the EA, identified targets will be buffered where possible; otherwise, additional investigations will be conducted prior to construction.
- c. State water quality standards will be met. A Water Quality Certification (WQC) permit application was submitted for issuance by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP).
- d. The Corps has determined that the proposed project is consistent with the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA). The final concurrence from the State will be issued with the FDEP permit.
- e. The proposed project has been evaluated pursuant to the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. The Jacksonville District's Migratory Bird Protection procedures will be implemented for this project. These procedures have been coordinated with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the State of Florida.

- f. Benefits to the public will include the restoration of habitat for protected species, fish, and wildlife; protection of upland structures from storm damage; and enhanced opportunity for recreation.
- g. Measures in place during construction to eliminate, reduce, or avoid adverse impacts to below the threshold of significance to fish and wildlife resources include the following:
  - 1. Dredging and placement activities will occur within the template of authorized and permitted areas;
  - 2. Water-based activities will follow standard sea turtle protection measures and the conditions of the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Gulf of Mexico Regional Biological Opinion (GRBO);
  - 3. Dredged material placement will comply with the shoreline protection measure conditions of any biological opinion issued by the USFWS; and
  - 4. Any water based activity would follow standard manatee protection measures.

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. This document will be available to the public on the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Jacksonville District, website at:

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

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Alan Dodd  
Colonel, U.S. Army  
District Engineer

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Date