ENVIROMNETAL CONSIDERATIONS

NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT (NEPA) OF 1969

NEPA requires a federal agency to disclose its actions and evaluate the effects of those actions on the environment.

- Applies to all federal actions
- Does not manage or protect one or more specific resources (unlike Endangered Species Act, Clean Water Act, Clean Air Act, etc.)
- Federal agencies consider and document the environmental impacts of their proposed actions as part of an agency’s overall planning and decision-making
- Action agencies cooperate with federal, state, and local governments, and other concerned public and private organizations and citizens during planning

For shore protection projects using federal sand sources, the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) serves as a cooperating agency under NEPA to negotiate and issue leases for the sand.

TIERING FROM PREVIOUS NEPA DOCUMENTS

CEQ regulations: “1502.20 – Agencies are encouraged to tier their environmental impact statements to eliminate repetitive discussions of the same issues and to focus on the actual issues ripe for decision at each level of environmental review.”

Section 1.4 of the current Dade County Beach Erosion Control and Hurricane Protection (BEC-HPP) Environmental Assessment – Identification of Alternative Sand Sources for the Remaining Period of Federal Participation lists previous environmental studies related to the Dade County BEC-HPP.

10 FACTORS OF SIGNIFICANCE

If it is determined that a federal action will significantly affect the quality of the human environment under any one of the ten items below, an environmental impact statement is prepared:

1) Beneficial and Adverse Effects *
2) Public Health and Safety
3) Uniqueness of Area
4) Controversy *
5) Uncertain, Unique, or Unknown Risks
6) Precedent for Future Actions
7) Cumulative Impact *
8) Scientific, Cultural, or Historic Resources
9) Endangered or Threatened Species *
10) Threaten Violation of Federal Environmental Law

* Most common issues in USACE projects

ENVIROMENTAL ASSESSMENT

SAND SOURCE INVESTIGATION RESULTS FOR MIAMI-DADE COUNTY

PROJECT BENEFITS DADE COUNTY BEC-HPP PROJECT

- Storm damage reduction
- Protection of vegetation and dunes
- Nesting and foraging habitat for sea turtles and shorebirds
- Protection for culturally and historically significant resources
- Continued income from tourist revenue
- Recreation

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS SAND SOURCE ALTERNATIVES

OFFSHORE SOURCES

Dredging, Pipeline & Pumping Activity
- Coral, Hardbottom & EFH
- Sea Turtle

UPLAND SOURCES

Transport & Multiple Delivery of Sand to Project Site
- Temporary Access

EXISTING DADE SOURCES

AVOID/MINIMIZE

- Standard Monitor, Sea Turtle. Smallmouth Sawfish Protection Protocols
- Protection of habitat
- Relocation of threatened areas & large story areas from pipeline corridor
- Marking of pipeline corridor by divers
- Use of pipeline “filters” on hardbottom & reef areas
- Shorebird & Sea Turtle daily monitoring during nesting season
- Monitoring of outfalls
- Monitoring of outfalls

MONITORING

- Monitoring of outfall edge offshore of the placement area
- Swimming pipeline at least 2x per week to check for leakage
- Turbidity monitoring (waters around the dredging & placement site)

Table 1: Summary of Direct and Indirect Impacts, page 32

NOT TO SCALE

DADE COUNTY BEACH EROSION CONTROL & HURRICANE PROTECTION PROJECT

IDENTIFICATION OF ALTERNATIVE SAND SOURCES FOR THE REMAINING PERIOD OF FEDERAL PARTICIPATION

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, JACKSONVILLE DISTRICT

COMMENTS ARE DUE OCTOBER 2, 2015

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