

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

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

REPLY TO ATTENTION O

Planning and Policy Division Environmental Branch

2 2 JUL 2013

To Whom It May Concern:

The U.S. Army Corp of Engineers (Corps), Jacksonville District and Miami-Dade Department of Environmental Resources Management are proposing to examine the feasibility of using sand from a variety of potential borrow sources for the renourishment of beaches in Miami-Dade County for the remaining life of the Federal Project. Corps is gathering information to define issues and concerns that will be addressed in an Assessment to be prepared in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The sand sources are based on the "Southeast Florida Sediment Assessment and Needs Determination (SAND) Study" prepared in partnership between the State, the Corps and the effected Counties and completed in 2013. A copy of the Report is posted on the Corps' website: http://www.saj.usace.army.mil/Missions/CivilWorks/ShoreProtection.aspx

A scoping meeting to present and discuss the production of an Environmental Assessment (EA) document for the proposed project will be held in each of the five counties between Miami-Dade and St. Lucie (to include Miami-Dade, Broward, Palm Beach, Martin and St.Lucie). Examination of the impacts of the proposed dredging of the sand from the proposed borrow areas will be the major focus of the assessment.

The alternatives being considered include: 1) no action; 2) beach renourishment with a new sand source not previously considered in the Corps planning documents. Alternative sand sources may include, but are not limited to:

- material remaining in previous Miami-Dade County borrow areas
- upland sand sources
- deepwater sites offshore of Miami-Dade County
- borrow areas offshore of Palm Beach County
- borrow areas offshore of Martin County
- borrow areas offshore of St. Lucie County
- borrow areas offshore of Broward County
- flood and ebb shoal at Bakers Haulover Inlet
- sand relocation from the accreting South Beach area to eroding areas
- carbonate materials (aragonite) from foreign sources.

Issues that are anticipated include concern for nearshore hardbottom communities, water quality, threatened and endangered species, and cultural, commercial, and recreational resources.

We welcome your questions, comments, concerns and suggestions. The USACE believes that this study will benefit significantly from your involvement. If you have questions, please contact Ms. Terri Jordan-Sellers at phone number (904) 232-1817, or email at Terri.Jordan-Sellers@usace.army.mil. Thank you in advance for your participation.

Sincerely,

Eric P. Summa

Chief, Environmental Branch

Enclosures

Meeting Dates, Time and Locations.

Monday , August 12, 2013 - Dade County - 630-800pm

City of Miami Beach Commission Chambers 1700 Convention Center Drive, 3rd Floor Miami Beach, FL

Tuesday, August 13, 2013 - Palm Beach County - 630-800pm

Town of Palm Beach Council Chambers 360 South County Road Palm Beach, Florida

Wednesday, August 14, 2013 - Martin County - 630-800pm

Wolfe Center Room at Indian River State College 2400 SE Salerno Road Stuart, FL 34997

Thursday, August 15, 2013 - Broward County - 630-800pm

Fort Lauderdale Beach Community Center 3351 NE 33rd Avenue Fort Lauderdale, FL 33308

Friday, August 16, 2013 - St. Lucie County - 630-800pm

St. Lucie County Commission Chambers Roger Poitras Administration Annex 2300 Virginia Avenue Fort Pierce, FL 34982