

APPENDIX A
PUBLIC SCOPING REPORT

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**SOUTHERN PALM BEACH ISLAND
COMPREHENSIVE SHORELINE STABILIZATION PROJECT
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

PUBLIC SCOPING REPORT

PREPARED FOR:

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

PREPARED BY:

CB&I COASTAL PLANNING & ENGINEERING, INC.

**OCTOBER 2013
REVISED JULY 2014**

SOUTHERN PALM BEACH ISLAND COMPREHENSIVE SHORELINE STABILIZATION PROJECT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

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1.0. INTRODUCTION

The Town of Palm Beach and Palm Beach County (County) have each proposed shoreline stabilization projects that are adjacent to one another. These projects will require Department of the Army (DA) permits authorizing the discharge of dredge or fill material into waters of the United States (US), under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (CWA). Additionally, DA authorization in accordance with Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (RHA) (33 U.S.C. 403) is required for dredging or installation of structures within tidal waters. These shore stabilization projects include the placement of beach nourishment and dune restoration along portions of the ocean front shoreline along with the construction of seven (7) low profile, shore-perpendicular groins intended to reduce the erosion rate within the project area. Sand is proposed to be transported to the site via truck haul. The two projects being considered and their Department of the Army file numbers are the Town of Palm Beach - Reach 8 South (SAJ-2005-07908) and the Palm Beach County - Central Palm Beach County Comprehensive Erosion Control (SAJ-2008-04086). The Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) utilizes range monuments (R-monuments), a statewide network of survey monuments, to more closely identify specific locations on the state's sandy beach shoreline. The projects overlap (i.e., both projects had proposed the discharge of fill in the same location) along approximately 2,000 linear feet from approximately R-132 to R-134 when initially submitted. The USACE determined that the proposed beach nourishment projects are connected actions and is evaluating the environmental effects of these connected actions together. The comprehensive project, meeting the purpose and needs of both applicants, has been named the Southern Palm Beach Island Comprehensive Shoreline Stabilization Project (Project).

The shoreline between Lake Worth Inlet and South Lake Worth Inlet has been divided into 11 beach segments known as "reaches". The proposed site for the Project comprises approximately 2.07 miles of shoreline and nearshore environment within the southern extent of Reach 8, throughout all of Reach 9, and the northern extent of Reach 10. The beach project construction area recognized in this Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) as the applicant's preferred alternative extends from the north at R-128+955 (south of Lake Worth Municipal Beach) and extends southward to R-138+551 (the Eau Palm Beach Resort and Spa in Manalapan). The proposed project site is situated directly adjacent to extensive hardbottom resources and experiences year-round recreational usage. The proposed activities may result in localized shoreline accretion or erosion on the adjacent beach segments, and may result in potential adverse effects on federally listed species. Issuance of Federal authorizations for the proposed activities would constitute a "Major Federal Action". As such, the USACE is preparing an EIS in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) to identify and assess the effects of the proposed action and its alternatives in order to provide a basis for rendering an informed decision on the proposed project. The USACE's decision will be to either issue, issue with modifications, or deny Department of the Army permits for the Proposed Action. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) is intended to be sufficient in scope to address federal, state, and local environmental requirements concerning the Proposed Action.

The Council of Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations (40 CFR 1501.7) require an early and open process for determining the scope of an EIS and for identifying significant issues related to the Proposed Action. NEPA regulations require an early and open process for deciding what should be discussed within any Environmental Assessment (EA) or EIS, and the scope of the evaluations to be performed. The objectives of this Scoping Report are to: 1) describe the EIS public scoping process, and 2) summarize the comments received from agencies, other stakeholder groups, and the public during the early stages of the EIS.

2.0. EIS PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

The CEQ regulations direct Federal agencies, which have made a decision to prepare an EIS, to engage in a public scoping process. Scoping is intended to ensure that issues of concern are identified early and are subsequently properly studied, that issues of little significance do not consume time and effort, that the DEIS is thorough and balanced, and that delays occasioned by an inadequate DEIS are avoided. The scoping process should:

- Identify the public and agency concerns.
- Clearly define the environmental issues and alternatives to be examined in the EIS and eliminate insignificant issues.
- Identify related issues which originate from separate legislation, regulation, or Executive Order (e.g., historic preservation or endangered species concerns).
- Identify state and local agency requirements which must be addressed.

An effective scoping process can help reduce unnecessary paperwork and time delays in preparing and processing the EIS by clearly identifying all relevant procedural requirements. The list of stakeholders and other interested parties is also updated and generally expanded during the scoping process.

This section of the scoping report describes the processes applied during the preparation for, and facilitation of, the public scoping meeting, and the methods applied to encourage receipt of public comments from all interested parties.

2.1. Notice of Intent

On July 3, 2013, the USACE published a Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare the EIS in the Federal Register (Appendix A). As stated within the NOI, the EIS must comply with all provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended; Council on Environmental Quality regulation implementing NEPA; Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (33 U.S.C. 403), Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (CWA) (33 U.S.C. 1344), and other associated laws and regulations. This NOI announced the initiation of a 45-day scoping and commenting period which requested the public's involvement in the scoping and evaluation process of the DEIS.

2.2. Public Scoping Meeting

Pursuant to NEPA requirements, a scoping meeting was held to obtain suggestions and information on the scope of issues and an opportunity to provide reasonable alternatives to be included in the DEIS. The NOI included a notification to stakeholders and all parties who expressed interest in the public scoping meeting, which convened on August 12, 2013 at the Town of Palm Beach Town Hall. The USACE invited Federal agencies, American Indian Tribal Nations, state and local governments, and other interested private organizations and parties to attend the public scoping meeting and provide comments in order to ensure that all significant issues are identified and the full range of issues related to the permit request are addressed. Notifications of the public scoping meeting were announced in several local media outlets. These included advertisements made in the Palm Beach Post, Palm Beach Daily News, as well as on the Town of Palm Beach and the Palm Beach County websites. In addition, Palm Beach County's Department of Environmental Resources Management July 2013 Project Status Report included a notification of the meeting. Additionally, targeted stakeholders including property owners within the project area were notified by mail (see Section 3.0).

The Public Scoping meeting commenced at 5:30 pm with an opportunity for attendees to view posters depicting aspects of the proposed project including the beach fill limits, location of the groin field, cross section profiles, and the location of hardbottom resources in proximity to the project. USACE and Third Party Contractor (TPC) representatives were available to informally answer questions posed by attendees regarding the proposed project and the EIS process. At 6:00 pm, Lieutenant Colonel Greco, Deputy District Commander for the Jacksonville District of the USACE, welcomed the attendees and introduced Garrett Lips, the Project Manager from the USACE Palm Beach Gardens Regulatory Section. Mr. Lips gave a presentation providing an overview of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process and a description of the proposed project (Appendix B). Leah Oberlin, Section Chief for the USACE Palm Beach Gardens Regulatory Section, provided additional information regarding the project and answered general project-related questions following Mr. Lips' presentation. After the presentation, the public commenting portion of the hearing began. Of the thirty-eight (38) attendees who signed the sign-in sheet, a total of five (5) attendees provided oral comments and six (6) written comments were submitted during the scoping meeting. The complete transcript of the Public Scoping Meeting is available in Appendix C. All comments received during the meeting, along with others received during the 45-day commenting period, are summarized in Section 5.0 below.

2.3. Future Opportunities for Public Involvement

The EIS process will include additional opportunities for public involvement. Specifically, a public notice will be published in the Federal Register in conjunction with the release of the DEIS. A 45-day commenting period will commence at that time and a public hearing will be convened. All comments received during the commenting period and the public hearing will be incorporated into the Final EIS (FEIS).

3.0. STAKEHOLDER / EIS RECIPIENT LIST

Appendix D provides the list of those people and organizations identified by the USACE, the Town of Palm Beach, and Palm Beach County as stakeholders or potential stakeholders and those individuals or organizations requesting involvement in the EIS process through submittal of comments or requests for EIS documents. All individuals and organizations were notified of the August 12, 2013 Public Scoping Meeting via postcard mailed through the US Postal Service. The USACE will continue to add new names to the list as necessary or requested until completion of the Record of Decision.

4.0. COMMENTS RECEIVED

The public scoping period began on July 3, 2013 when the NOI was published in the Federal Register. The scoping period closed on September 3, 2013. During this time, the USACE accepted comments related to the project via mail, email, or oral comments delivered during the August 12, 2013 Public Scoping Meeting. During the scoping period, a total of one (1) comment was submitted via mail, one (1) comment was submitted via email, five (5) comments were submitted orally at the public scoping meeting, and six (6) written comments were submitted at the Public Scoping Meeting. In addition, the meeting minutes from a conference call with the USACE, TPC, and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) was submitted as a comment. Finally, the TPC contacted an attendee from the public scoping meeting via telephone to clarify his comments further. The summary of the telephone conversation was also submitted as a public comment. Together, a total of fifteen (15) comments were received as part of the public record. Appendix C, the Public Scoping Meeting Transcript, includes the oral comments received during the meeting. Appendix E includes all other comments received including the written comments submitted at the Public Scoping Meeting, letters, emails, and meeting minutes.

Of the comments received, specific issues were raised by more than one commenter (Table 1). Four individuals made comments regarding the project alternatives under consideration. This included the request for the inclusion of the shoreline protection project entitled “Coalition to Save Our Shoreline, Inc. (SOS) Beach Nourishment Plan & Design for Reach 8” designed by Erickson Consulting Engineers, Inc. as a potential alternative. The SOS comment was submitted both as an oral and written comment at the meeting and by mail. Other comments included concerns over the methodologies used to assess impacts to hardbottom communities and coral species, downdrift impacts, sea level rise, the quality of fill material, impacts to recreational opportunities including surfing, impacts to property values, and impacts to wildlife habitat (specifically, sea turtle nesting habitat).

Table 1. The nature and number of the comments received.

Nature of Comment	Number of Comments
Project Alternatives	4
Hardbottom Impact Evaluation	3
Downdrift Impacts	3
Coral Survey Methodologies	2
Sea Level Rise	1
Quality of Fill Material	1
Recreational Opportunities	1
Property Values Impacts	1
Wildlife Habitat Impacts (Sea Turtle Nesting)	1

4.1. Analysis of Issues

Each issue raised during the Public Scoping Meeting and throughout the entire scoping period was reviewed and determined to warrant a continuation of analysis within the EIS. The level of analysis will be unique to each specific issue. Regardless, each issue will be addressed within a specific chapter or section within the EIS as depicted in Table 2.

Issues pertaining to the Project Alternatives will be discussed in Chapter 2 (Alternatives). Several questions were raised regarding the specific nature of the various alternatives. Section 2.4. will include a comprehensive description of each of the proposed alternatives including the Applicants Preferred Alternative, the No Action Alternative, amongst others.

Comments regarding Hardbottom Impact Evaluation will be addressed in Chapter 4, specifically within Sections 4.4. Any impact to the hardbottom communities within the project area (or lack thereof) as a result of each alternative will be described within.

Comments that raise issues with Downdrift Impacts will be addressed within various sections in Chapter 4 (Environmental Consequences) and the Engineering Report which will be an Appendix to the EIS.

Issues that addressed Coral Survey Methodologies will be discussed in Chapter 5; specifically within Section 5.2.3. and 5.2.4. A hardbottom monitoring plan will be developed and described within these sections. All monitoring plans will be reviewed by NMFS representatives for approval prior to implementation.

Comments pertaining to Sea Level Rise will be discussed in Section 3.2.7. Data obtained from proximate sea level gauges will be included within.

Information regarding the Quality of Fill Material will be included within Chapter 2 under the description of each alternative that involves the utilization of fill material. In addition, the impacts of the fill material on various resources will be described in Sections 4.2. through 4.8.

Comments regarding Recreational Opportunities will be addressed in Section 3.13. and 4.14. A description of the types of recreational opportunities that occur within the project area will be included as well as the potential impacts to them.

Property value impacts will be described in Section 4.28. and 4.34. The total cost of each project will be evaluated as will the value of potential losses to properties lost as a result of implementing the “No Action” alternative.

Impacts to sea turtle nesting habitat, herein described as wildlife habitat impacts, will be addressed in Section 4.3. under Threatened and Endangered Species.

Table 2. The location of the analysis of issues within the EIS.

	Section within the EIS
Project Alternatives	2.4.1. through 2.4.6.
Hardbottom Impact Evaluation	4.4.
Downdrift Impacts	Chapter 4 and Appendix G
Coral Survey Methodologies	5.2.3. and 5.2.4.
Sea Level Rise	3.2.7.
Quality of Fill Material	2.5., 4.2. through 4.8.
Recreational Opportunities	3.13. and 4.14.
Property Values Impacts	4.28. and 4.34.
Wildlife Habitat Impacts (Sea Turtle Nesting)	4.3.

Appendix A

Notice of Intent

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Department of the Army; Corps of Engineers

Notice of Intent to Prepare a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Reaches 8, 9, and 10 Comprehensive Shoreline Stabilization Project in Palm Beach County, Florida

AGENCY: Department of the Army, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, DoD.

ACTION: Notice of Intent (NOI).

SUMMARY: The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), Jacksonville District, has received two permit applications for Department of the Army permits under Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (33 U.S.C. 403) Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (CWA) (33 U.S.C. 1344) from the Town of Palm Beach (Town) and Palm Beach County (County) to discharge fill in Waters of the United States for the purpose of shoreline stabilization. The two projects being considered and their Department of the Army file numbers are the Town of Palm Beach—Reach 8 South (SAJ–2005–07908) and the Palm Beach County—Central Palm Beach County Comprehensive Erosion Control (SAJ–2008–04086). The projects overlap (i.e. had proposed the discharge of fill in the same location) along approximately 2,000 linear feet from approximately R–132 to R–134 (see Location for further information) when initially submitted and now abut one another. The Corps determined that the proposed beach nourishment projects are connected actions and is evaluating the environmental effects of these connected actions together.

The primary Federal involvement associated with the Proposed Activities is the discharge of fill within Waters of the United States and the construction of low profile groins within Navigable Waters of the United States. The proposed project site is a beach situated directly adjacent to extensive hardbottom resources and experiences year-round recreational usage. The Proposed Activities may result in localized shoreline accretion or erosion on the adjacent beach segments and potential adverse effects on federally listed species. Issuance of Federal authorizations for the Proposed Activities would constitute a “Major Federal Action.” The Corps is preparing an EIS in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) to identify and assess the effects of the Proposed Action and its alternatives, including the No Action Alternative, in order to provide a basis for rendering an

informed decision on the proposed project.

The Corps’ decision will be to either issue, issue with modifications, or deny Department of the Army permits for the Proposed Action. The Draft EIS (DEIS) is intended to be sufficient in scope to address federal, state, and local requirements and environmental issues concerning the Proposed Action and permit reviews.

DATES: The Corps plans to hold a public scoping meeting on August 12, 2013, at 5:30pm Eastern Standard Time (EST).

ADDRESSES: The public scoping meeting will be held at Town of Palm Beach Council Chambers, 2nd floor, Town Hall, 360 South County Road, Palm Beach, Florida.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Questions about the Proposed Action and Draft EIS should be directed to Mr. Garrett Lips, Corps Regulatory Project Manager, by telephone at (561) 472–3519 or by email at Garrett.G.Lips@usace.army.mil. Written comments should be addressed to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Attn: Mr. Garrett Lips, 4400 PGA Boulevard, Suite 500, Palm Beach Gardens, Florida 33410.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

a. Project Location, Background. The Corps will study the environmental impacts of the Proposed Action within Central Palm Beach County. The area between the Palm Beach Inlet and the South Lake Worth Inlet has been roughly divided into 11 beach segments known as “reaches” to facilitate area location. Reaches 1–8 fall mainly within the Town of Palm Beach. Reaches 9–11 are associated with the Town of South Palm Beach, Town of Lantana, and Town of Manalapan. The Study Area comprises approximately 2.07 miles of shoreline and nearshore environment within the southern extent of Reach 8, throughout all of Reach 9, and the northern extent of Reach 10. The Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) utilizes range monuments (R-monuments), a statewide network of survey monuments, to more closely identify specific locations on the state’s sandy beach shoreline. The northern limit of the Study Area is located at R–128+955 (south of Lake Worth Municipal Beach located within the Town) and extends south to R–138+551 (the Ritz Carlton Hotel in Manalapan). The existing structural armoring in the Study Area includes rock revetments, concrete seawalls, steel sheet pile walls, a small wood retaining structure, a concrete ramp, and a concrete waffle revetment. The Town and the County have completed dune nourishments

within the Study Area on several occasions and have planted native dune vegetation at several locations.

b. Purpose and Need. The basic purpose of the Proposed Action is to stabilize the shoreline. The overall purpose is to stabilize the shoreline within the southern portion of Reach 8, all of Reach 9, and the northern portion of Reach 10.

c. Prior EAs, EISs. The FDEP and the Corps, under the Coast of Florida Study, conducted an extensive offshore geotechnical investigation of the region which extended south to R–132, but did not cover the entire Study Area.

The Corps issued a Notice of Intent for the Central Palm Beach County Comprehensive Erosion Control Project EIS on Monday, May 3, 2010. The project was subsequently withdrawn and no authorization was issued.

d. Proposed Action. The Applicants’ Proposed Action is to construct beach nourishment and dune restoration projects between R–128+955 and R–138+551 with sand placement and the construction of seven (7) low profile, shore-perpendicular groins (groin field). All sand is proposed to be sourced from an upland sand mine. The Proposed Action consists of the following two projects:

The Town of Palm Beach—South Reach 8 Project—does not include structures and extends from FDEP monument R–128+955 to R–134+135. The Town proposes to place approximately 74,300 cubic yards of beach quality sand in this area.

Palm Beach County—Central Palm Beach County Comprehensive Erosion Control Project—includes construction of a groin field as well as sand placement between approximately R–135+195 and R–137. The groins would be located landward of the nearshore and offshore hardbottom. Approximately 75,000 cubic yards of beach quality sand is proposed to be placed between R–134+135 and R–135+551 to elevate the existing berm and help offset any potential impacts to downdrift beaches from capture of sand by the groins. The current proposed project does not include structures within Manalapan.

Between 2000 and 2012, the quantity of the exposed hardbottom within the Study Area has varied significantly. Reach 8 has averaged 6.28 acres of exposed hardbottom with a low of 0.45 acre and a high of 11.37 acres. Reach 9 has averaged 6.94 acres with a low of 0.61 acre and a high of 18.77 acres. Reach 10 has averaged 20.86 acres with a low of 3.27 acres and a high of 38.48 acres. Construction of the Applicants’ proposed projects would impact 0.6 acre

of intertidal and subtidal hardbottom in Reach 8 and 1.05 acres of nearshore hardbottom in Reaches 9 and 10 based on in-water surveys conducted in 2010 and 2012, respectively.

e. *Alternatives.* An evaluation of alternatives to the Applicants' Proposed Action initially being considered includes a No Action alternative; beach nourishment and dune restoration through filling activities, groins, upland coastal structural reinforcement/replacement, and combinations of these alternatives; alternatives that would avoid, minimize, and mitigate impacts to the aquatic resources; alternative practices or analysis methods for minimizing or evaluating cumulative effects of shoreline stabilization; and other reasonable alternatives that will be developed through the project scoping process which may also meet the identified purpose and need.

f. *Issues.* The following issues have been identified for analysis in the DEIS. This list is preliminary and is intended to facilitate public comment on the scope of the DEIS. The DEIS will consider the effects on Federally listed threatened and endangered species, Essential Fish Habitat, cumulative impacts, geology/soils, environmental justice, socioeconomic issues, traffic/circulation, noise/vibration, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands and other aquatic resources, historic properties, cultural resources, fish and wildlife values, recreation, air quality, water quality, considerations of property ownership, sediment budget, in general, the needs and welfare of the people, and other issues identified through scoping, public involvement, and interagency coordination. At the present time, the primary areas of concern are the loss of hardbottom and coral habitat, adequate characterization of impacts, mitigation of the loss of aquatic resources, the proposed projects' effect on fisheries and essential fish habitat and on Federally-listed threatened and endangered species, the potential effect of structures on downdrift beaches, and potential cumulative effects. The issues of concern and the methods used to evaluate those issues will be defined through the scoping process.

g. *Scoping Process.* CEQ regulations (40 CFR 1501.7) require an early and open process for determining the scope of an EIS and for identifying significant issues related to the Proposed Action. The Corps is furnishing this notice to advise other Federal and State agencies, affected federally recognized Tribes, and the public of our intentions. This notice announces the initiation of a 45-day scoping period which requests the

public's involvement in the scoping and evaluation process of the DEIS. Stakeholders will be notified through advertisements, public notices and other means. All parties who express interest will be given an opportunity to participate in this process. The process allows the Corps to obtain suggestions and information on the scope of issues and an opportunity to provide reasonable alternatives to be included in the Draft EIS. (See **DATES** and **ADDRESSES** for meeting schedules)

h. *Public Involvement.* The Corps invites Federal agencies, American Indian Tribal Nations, state and local governments, and other interested private organizations and parties to attend the public scoping meetings and provide comments in order to ensure that all significant issues are identified and the full range of issues related to the permit request are addressed.

i. *Coordination.* The Proposed Action is being coordinated with a number of Federal, state, regional, and local agencies including but not limited to the following: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. National Marine Fisheries Service, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Florida State Historic Preservation Officer, local cities, and other agencies as identified in scoping, public involvement, and agency coordination.

j. *Agency Role.* The Corps will be the lead agency for the EIS. The Corps expects to receive input and critical information from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. National Marine Fisheries Service, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and other federal, state, and local agencies.

k. *Availability of the Draft EIS.* The Corps currently expects the DEIS to be made available to the public by April 2014. A public meeting will be held during the public comment period for the DEIS. Written comments will be accepted at the meeting.

Donald W. Kinard,
Chief, Regulatory Division.

[FR Doc. 2013-16027 Filed 7-2-13; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3710-58-P

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

[Docket ID ED-2013-OESE-0016]

Request for Information (RFI) to Gather Technical Expertise Pertaining to the Identification and Placement of Native American Students Who Are English Learners in Language Instruction Educational Programs

AGENCY: Office of Elementary and Secondary Education, U.S. Department of Education.

ACTION: Request for information; notice to reopen the public comment period.

SUMMARY: On March 4, 2013, we published in the **Federal Register** an RFI that established a May 3, 2013, deadline for the submission of written comments. We are reopening the public comment period to give interested parties additional time to submit written comments.

DATES: Written submissions must be received by the Department on or before August 2, 2013.

ADDRESSES: Submit your comments through the Federal eRulemaking Portal or via U.S. mail, commercial delivery, or hand delivery. We will not accept comments submitted by fax or by email or those submitted after the comment period. To ensure that we do not receive duplicate copies, please submit your comments only once. In addition, please include the Docket ID and the term "Identification of English Learner Native American Students response" at the top of your comments.

- *Federal eRulemaking Portal:* Go to www.regulations.gov to submit your comments electronically. Information on using Regulations.gov, including instructions for accessing agency documents, submitting comments, and viewing the docket, is available on the site under "Are you new to the site."

- *U.S. Mail, Commercial Delivery, or Hand Delivery:* If you mail or deliver your comments about this RFI, address them to Supreet Anand, Office of Elementary and Secondary Education, Attention: Native American English Learner RFI, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue SW., Room 3W106, Washington, DC 20202-6132.

- *Privacy Note:* The Department's policy is to make all comments received from members of the public available for public viewing in their entirety on the Federal eRulemaking Portal at www.regulations.gov. Therefore, commenters should be careful to include in their comments only information that they wish to make publicly available.

Appendix B

Scoping Meeting Presentation

Public Scoping Meeting

August 12, 2013

Southern Palm Beach Island Comprehensive Shoreline Stabilization Environmental Impact Statement

Presented by:
Garett Lips
US Army Corps of Engineers



US Army Corps of Engineers
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JACKSONVILLE DISTRICT



Southern Palm Beach Island Comprehensive Shoreline Stabilization

- What do we hope to achieve tonight?
 - ▶ National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)
 - ▶ The Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Process
 - ▶ What is the Proposed Project?
 - ▶ What are the Major Sections of the EIS?
 - ▶ We answer your questions about the process.
 - ▶ Public Comments
 - What do you want us to consider in the EIS?



BUILDING STRONG®

National Environmental Policy Act

- The Nation's basic environmental protection charter.
- Primary purpose is to ensure that Federal Agencies **consider the environmental consequences** of their actions.
 - ▶ To Foster and promote the general welfare
 - ▶ Create/maintain conditions under which man and nature can exist in productive harmony
 - ▶ Fulfill social, economic, and other requirements of present/future generations



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Why is NEPA required here?

- USACE is the Federal agency responsible for permits (a Major Federal Action)
- The proposed project requires a permit
 - ▶ Placement of fill requires a Section 404 authorization
 - ▶ Structures or work in tidal waters requires Section 10 authorization.



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Types of NEPA Analysis

Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations provide three types of NEPA analysis **based upon potential for significant impact:**

- Categorical Exclusions
- Environmental Assessments
- Environmental Impact Statements



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Why is an EIS required?

- Federal Agencies must **prepare** a detailed environmental impact statement (EIS) that **assesses** the proposed action and all reasonable alternatives for:

- ▶ “major Federal actions

- ▶ significantly affecting the quality of the human environment”.



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NEPA Creates:

- **Transparency:** NEPA creates a public process.
- **Informed decision making:** Supported by systematic, interdisciplinary, reproducible (objective) documented evaluation of potential impacts for a range of alternatives.
- **Involvement:** An opportunity for all stakeholders/interested and affected parties to inform the decision with broader base of information and approaches and an opportunity to for all affected parties to:
 - ☐ Identify alternatives, mitigation, impacts
 - ☐ Recommend conditions
 - ☐ Plan for future needs
- **Opportunity for Sustainability:** An opportunity to achieve a more sustainable, balanced outcome Integrating environmental, economic and social objectives, short and long term concerns .



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Southern Palm Beach Island Comprehensive Shoreline Stabilization

- What do we hope to achieve tonight?
 - ▶ National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)
 - ▶ **The Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Process**
 - ▶ What is the Proposed Project?
 - ▶ What are the Major Sections of the EIS?
 - ▶ We answer your questions about the process.
 - ▶ Public Comments
 - What do you want us to consider in the EIS?



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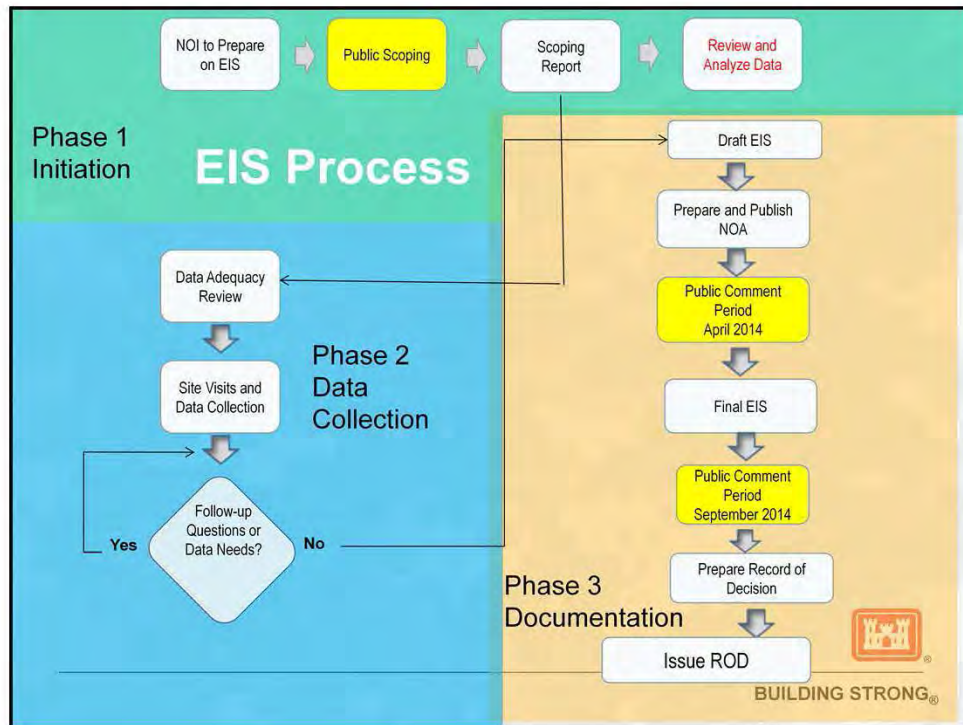
Who is conducting this EIS?

► Lead Federal Agency

- United States Army Corps of Engineers - Regulatory Division
- Garrett Lips, Project Manager



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The Public's Role In EIS Process?

- Provide input
 - ▶ What should we consider?
- Participate by attending public meetings
- Reviewing the Draft EIS and submit comments
- Reviewing the Final EIS and submit comments

Under NEPA guidelines, all comments received from the public during the comment period(s) are considered.



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Southern Palm Beach Island Comprehensive Shoreline Stabilization

- What do we hope to achieve tonight?
 - ▶ National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)
 - ▶ The Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Process
 - ▶ **What is the Proposed Project?**
 - ▶ What are the Major Sections of the EIS?
 - ▶ We answer your questions about the process.
 - ▶ Public Comments
 - What do you want us to consider in the EIS?



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Project Area

The map displays the coastline of Palm Beach, Florida, with the Atlantic Ocean to the north. The area is divided into four reaches: REACH 7, REACH 8, REACH 9, and REACH 10. A large black arrow labeled "PROJECT AREA" spans from the western edge of REACH 8 to the eastern edge of REACH 9. Key landmarks and locations labeled include:

- City of Lake Worth Municipal Beach (pointing to the western edge of the project area)
- R.G. Kreutzer Memorial Park (pointing to a park area within the project area)
- Town of Palm Beach (spanning REACH 8 and REACH 9)
- Town of South Palm Beach (within REACH 9)
- Town of Lantana (within REACH 9)
- Town of Manalapan (spanning the eastern edge of REACH 9 and REACH 10)

Other visible features include the S Ocean Boulevard, Atlantic Drive, and various residential and commercial buildings along the shore. The map also shows the locations of several parks and recreational areas.

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Southern Palm Beach Island Comprehensive Shoreline Stabilization

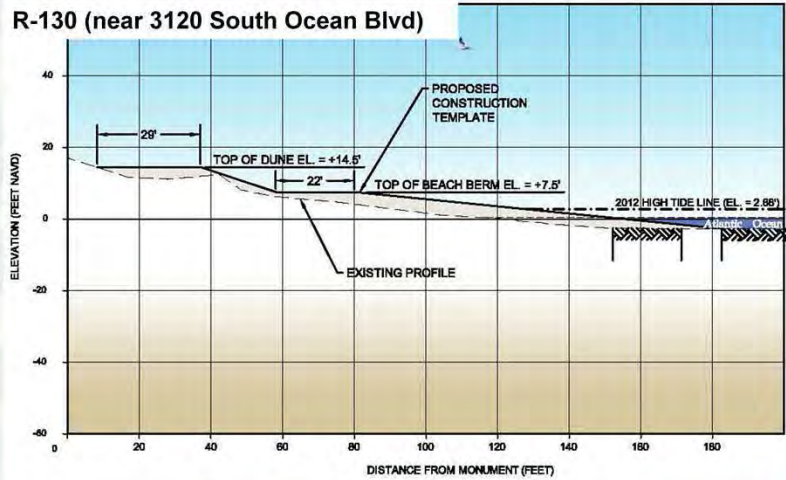
- Dune Restoration and Beach Fill
 - ▶ FDEP Monument R-129-188' to R-131 (Town of Palm Beach)
- Dune Restoration Only
 - ▶ R-131 to R-134 (Town of Palm Beach)
- Beach Fill and Short Low Profile Groins
 - ▶ R-134 to R138+500 (Town of South Palm Beach, Town of Lantana and Town of Manalapan)
 - ▶ Low Profile Concrete King Pile and Panel Groins
- Upland sand source, truck haul project-150K yards



BUILDING STRONG®

Typical Cross-Section North

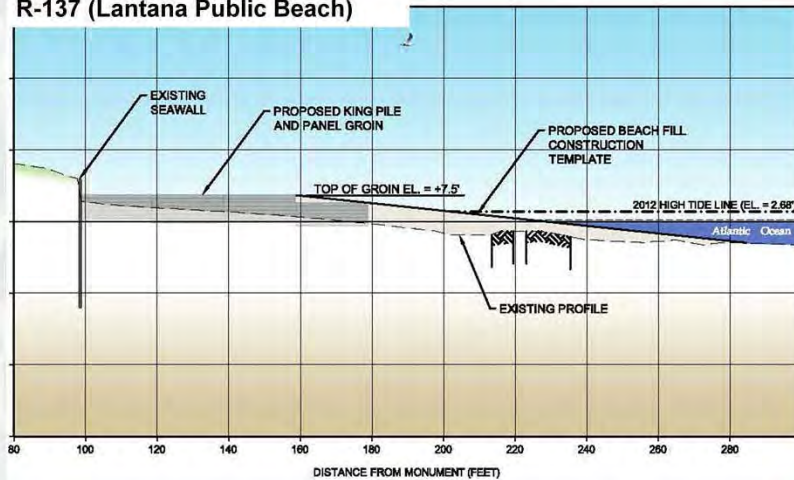
R-130 (near 3120 South Ocean Blvd)



BUILDING STRONG®

Typical Cross-Section South

R-137 (Lantana Public Beach)



BUILDING STRONG®

Southern Palm Beach Island Comprehensive Shoreline Stabilization

- What do we hope to achieve tonight?
 - ▶ National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)
 - ▶ The Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Process
 - ▶ What is the Proposed Project?
 - ▶ **What are the Major Sections of the EIS?**
 - ▶ We answer your questions about the process.
 - ▶ Public Comments
 - What do you want us to consider in the EIS?



BUILDING STRONG®

Major Sections of the EIS

- Purpose and Need
- Description of Alternatives
- Affected Environment
- Impact Assessments of Alternatives
- Endangered species



BUILDING STRONG®

Purpose and Need

- ▶ Town of Palm Beach: “Use cost effective beach fill placement and/or coastal protection structures when environmentally possible, which may enhance stability to existing seawalls and enhance the existing beach and dune system for 15-year storm protection to upland property, and, at a minimum, demonstrate 25-year storm protection to habitable buildings currently without seawalls in areas where seawalls cannot be state qualified and the combination of upland property with the existing beach and dune system serves as the habitable buildings last line of defense from the ocean.”



BUILDING STRONG®

Purpose and Need

- **Palm Beach County:** Palm Beach County proposes construction of seven (7) low-profile groins placed perpendicular to the shoreline extending from the existing seawalls to the post-construction waterline. Construction of these structures will help stabilize the shoreline by disrupting a portion of the sand flowing south along the beach and depositing it on the updrift side of the structure. The project also includes optimized placement of approximately 75,000 CY of material along the most critically eroded areas within the project template.



BUILDING STRONG®

Alternatives

- Alternatives must be
 - ▶ Reasonable (practicable and feasible)
 - ▶ Meet the purpose and need
- Potential Alternatives:
 - ▶ No Action Alternative
 - ▶ Dune Restoration
 - ▶ Applicants' Proposed Alternative
 - ▶ Others?



BUILDING STRONG®

Affected Environment



Dune Vegetation



Intertidal Hardbottom



Wrack Line



Subtidal Hardbottom



BUILDING STRONG®

Effects of the alternatives on the existing environment:

What should we look at?

Effects of the alternatives on the existing environment:

24

Affected Environment



BUILDING STRONG®

Effects of the alternatives on the existing environment:

What should we look at?

Impact Assessments of Alternatives

- Direct effects of the proposed action occur at the same time and place as the action.
- Indirect effects are reasonably foreseeable effects caused by the action that occur later in time or farther in distance, such as changes in land use patterns, effects on air, water, or natural resources.
- Cumulative effects are those which result from the incremental impact of the action when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions



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Threatened or Endangered Species

- Swimming and nesting sea turtles
- Acropora spp.
- Candidate coral species
- Piping plover
- Smalltooth sawfish
- West Indian manatee
- Others?



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Southern Palm Beach Island Comprehensive Shoreline Stabilization

- What do we hope to achieve tonight?
 - ▶ National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)
 - ▶ The Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Process
 - ▶ What is the Proposed Project?
 - ▶ What are the Major Sections of the EIS?
 - ▶ We answer your questions about the process.
 - ▶ Public Comments
 - What do you want us to consider in the EIS?



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Questions about
the EIS process?

Need clarification on the
proposed project?



BUILDING STRONG®

General Schedule

- Notice of Intent in Federal Register: July 03, 2013
- Public Notice: July 24, 2013
- Scoping Meeting: Aug 12, 2013
- Scoping Period ends:(extended) **September 3, 2013**

- Milestones:
 - ▶ Notice of Availability of the DEIS ~ April 2014
 - ▶ Notice of Availability of the FEIS ~ September 2014
 - ▶ Record of Decision ~ mid October 2014



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Southern Palm Beach Island Comprehensive Shoreline Stabilization

- What do we hope to achieve tonight?
 - ▶ National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)
 - ▶ The Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Process
 - ▶ What is the Proposed Project?
 - ▶ What are the Major Sections of the EIS?
 - ▶ We answer your questions about the process.
 - ▶ **Public Comments**
 - What do you want us to consider in the EIS?



BUILDING STRONG®

4 Ways for Public to Comment

1. Comment Publicly

2. Comment Form

Fill out the paper form and submit it tonight (drop boxes at the Comments Station)

3. Electronic Entry

Email comments to Garett.G.Lips@usace.army.mil

4. Mail Comments

please send to:

US Army Corps of Engineers
4400 PGA Boulevard, Suite 500
Palm Beach Gardens, Florida 33410



BUILDING STRONG®

**Southern Palm Beach Island
Comprehensive Shoreline Stabilization**

Comments?

**What should the
EIS consider?**

**What are your
concerns?**



Appendix C

Scoping Meeting Transcript

0001
1 DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
JACKSONVILLE DISTRICT CORPS OF ENGINEERS

2
3 4400 PGA BOULEVARD, SUITE 500
PALM BEACH GARDENS, FL 33410
4 (561) 472-3500

5
6 PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING
7 August 12, 2013
8 5:30 p.m.

9 Town of Palm Beach Council Chambers, 2nd Floor
10 Town Hall
360 South County Road
11 Palm Beach, Florida

12 APPEARANCES:

13 LIEUTENANT COLONEL THOMAS M. GRECO, Deputy District Commander
South Florida, Jacksonville District
14 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
15 LEAH OBERLIN, Chief
Palm Beach Gardens Section
16 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
17 GARETT LIPS, Regulatory Project Manager
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

18
19
20
21
22 REPORTED BY:

JORDAN M. BRUCE, COURT REPORTER
23 NOTARY PUBLIC, STATE OF FLORIDA

24
25
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1 (The following proceedings were had:)

2 LT. COL. GRECO: Good evening. I'm pleased
3 to be here; and certainly, I welcome all of you to
4 this public meeting. As you can see, we are doing
5 the Public Scoping Meeting for a draft
6 Environmental Impact Statement that affects the
7 projects on the screen up there.

8 My name is Lieutenant Colonel Tom Greco. I'm
9 the Deputy District Commander for the Jacksonville
10 District U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Again, I'd
11 like to welcome all of you, our elected officials,
12 also, for coming out tonight and seeing what's
13 going to be presented and providing your comments,
14 which are very valuable in this process.

15 I'm going to turn it over, in a moment here,
16 to Garrett Lips, to provide an overview of the

17 project, a brief overview of the project, and talk
18 about the NEPA process, and kind of what tonight
19 means in terms of the path forward to seeing this
20 project move forward.

21 So, with that, I'm going to turn it over to
22 Garrett. He is going to provide a briefing, as I
23 mentioned, and walk you through the NEPA process;
24 and again, when he's done briefing, there will be
25 an opportunity for you to comment. You don't have

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1 to necessarily comment in here; he'll also show
2 you ways to submit comments electronically, via
3 mail, or by just leaving them here, but with that,
4 I'll turn it over to Garrett.

5 MR. LIPS: Thank you. All right, thank you,
6 Colonel Greco. My name is Garrett Lips, Project
7 Manager for this project. Right over here is Leah
8 Oberlin. She is the Section Chief, Palm Beach
9 Gardens Section. We do permitting in South
10 Florida, here.

11 We have third-party contractors, as well, who
12 are working for -- they are -- they are working
13 for us as our consultants, basically. The Town is
14 paying for them; they work for us, they answer to
15 us. They'll be providing the engineering analysis
16 and preparing the Environmental Impact Statement,
17 with us reviewing all those documents. All right.

18 Just one clarification is that we changed the
19 name for the project. It is now the Southern Palm
20 Beach Island Comprehensive Shoreline
21 Stabilization. It was originally Reach 8, 9, 10,
22 but since nobody realized, you know, outside of
23 this small area, what that actually means, we
24 changed it for -- just for awareness.

25 I just want to touch on one thing, also, is

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1 that, a couple years ago, there was a Palm Beach
2 County project. It was related to Breakwaters,
3 down south. That was -- that application was
4 actually withdrawn. That is no longer a proposed
5 action by the County, but there are two distinct
6 projects here. One is proposed by the Town of
7 Palm Beach; one is by Palm Beach County, and both
8 -- the fact that they're directly adjacent to each
9 other, they are being reviewed by the Corps as one
10 project because they're connected.

11 So, here we are talking about what we want to
12 achieve tonight. We're going to give a brief
13 overview of the NEPA process, and we're going to
14 go -- there's basically three parts where we're
15 going to give you information, and then a couple
16 parts where we're going to give you an opportunity
17 to clarify, if you need more information, to help
18 you, so we can give you more information on how to

19 make good comments, but the main focus tonight is
20 for you all to be able to provide comments. We
21 want to get a clear understanding of what your
22 concern -- concerns are. Any information that you
23 have can help our study.

24 So, in essence, the National Environmental
25 Policy Act is a federal law. It requires federal

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1 agencies to look at all projects when there is a
2 major federal action. We have to disclose the
3 effects and we have to consider the environmental
4 consequences, which you can see here, the
5 information.

6 Why is NEPA required? In this case, because
7 they submitted an application, two projects
8 requires a permit; therefore, because they are
9 putting fill on the beach, it requires a permit
10 from the Department of the Army, and also
11 structures.

12 Just a brief overview of NEPA, the classes of
13 action, categorical exclusions, environmental
14 assessments; our normal permit decisions are based
15 on those. Environmental Impact Statements are
16 related to projects where there's potential for
17 significant impacts on the human environment, and
18 you may ask yourself why is any of this required?
19 It's required because there is a major federal
20 action which is tied to the Department of the Army
21 authorization, which is the permit, and in this
22 case, there is a potential for significant impacts
23 that could affect the human environment.

24 And this is a basic rundown of why NEPA is
25 required. It provides transparency. It allows

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1 you, the stakeholders, the public, public
2 officials, the public in general, to provide
3 input, to be a part of this process for us, which
4 is involvement, which is why you're here tonight.
5 We want your comments. We want you to be part of
6 the process.

7 So, now, I'm going to touch on the just basic
8 EIS -- that's what we call an Environmental Impact
9 Statement -- process. Just so you know, in this
10 case, tied to NEPA, we are the lead federal
11 agency. We are issuing a permit, potentially
12 issuing a permit, we're reviewing it, and I'm the
13 project manager.

14 So, if you see here, on the top left, Notice
15 of Intent, that went out in the federal register,
16 basically our clearinghouse, to let everybody
17 know, in the country, the Corps is issuing -- you
18 know, they're going to be -- they're going to be
19 started the EIS process. And then, the next slide
20 here, in yellow, is where we are tonight. So,

21 we're going to go through the whole process, but
22 the yellow is where -- is what's important for you
23 all to recognize, is that those are your
24 opportunities to comment. You can comment
25 tonight, up until the 3rd of September. You can

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1 comment sometime in April; we're hoping to get a
2 draft Environmental Impact Statement ready for
3 review. And then, the following of the draft is
4 the final Environmental Impact Statement, which is
5 sometime next fall.

6 From tonight's meeting, all your comments,
7 all your recommendations, anything you're
8 concerned about would be wrapped up into a scoping
9 report, and that will be part of our first step in
10 the EIS process. That allows us to define the
11 scope of analysis. So, from here, we'll go forward
12 and get into alternatives and data collection, and
13 that's -- it's also important for you to, if
14 you're aware of information that we could use,
15 feel free to let us know. Comment cards are
16 available. That's for you to let us know.

17 So, then, we move to -- from scoping, we go
18 to review and analyze the data, which you're going
19 to help us with that scope of analysis. We're
20 going to define our scope, prepare and publish
21 NOA. So, sometime next year, before we actually
22 have the draft available, we have to publish it in
23 the federal register that the drafting of
24 environmental statement will be available, and
25 that kicks off about a 30-day comment period, and

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1 you all, if you want to be notified of that, if
2 you're not on the state voter list already, you
3 need to let us know and you can just sign in and
4 let it be known that you want a copy.

5 And then, we go into the next public comment
6 period, which is the draft. We'll have a document
7 ready and available for you to review; and then,
8 you make comments on that, as well. You can check
9 back to see that your comments made tonight are in
10 that draft, and if they were addressed or not, and
11 you can let us know if we missed anything. And
12 then, we proceed to the record decision, once the
13 final Environmental Impact Statement is completed.

14 So, this is -- this is the role that you all
15 are part of tonight. We want you to provide
16 input. We want your information that you have
17 specific to the area. If you're aware of any
18 other information, signs, documents, anything like
19 that, alternatives, we'll consider all the
20 comments that you provide, and we request that you
21 participate tonight in the draft Environmental
22 Impact Statement comment period, and the final,

23 you also will be able to make comments.
24 So, right now, we're going to kick off into
25 the proposed project the County and the Town have

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1 submitted for permit application. So, in general,
2 Lake Worth Pier is right there by that black line,
3 you can see, and the proposed dune restoration
4 starts about 400 feet south of the pier, and that
5 extends for about 400 feet, where it's dune only,
6 and then it tapers into a little bit of a beach
7 fill for about 1,000 feet, or so. The exhibits
8 actually show it in the back, if you need a closer
9 look. And then, for a long stretch, it's dune
10 only. Now, that's the Town of Palm Beach's
11 proposal.

12 Once you hit Town of South Palm, and the
13 portion out of the Town of Palm Beach, there are
14 some groins that are proposed. There are -- there
15 is beach fill proposed, but there is no dune
16 restoration proposed in that area. The red area,
17 where there's actually signs of the hard bottom in
18 the area, if you can see the red, that represents
19 hard bottom, nearshore hard bottom.

20 Just as a quick summary, what I just talked
21 about, dune restoration and beach fill on the
22 north end; dune restoration only from about --
23 from 131 to 134. You can see it specifically on
24 the exhibits in the back; that's the best way to
25 look. And then, County, their proposed -- are

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1 some groins that are going to be constructed with
2 -- they're concrete panels.

3 One thing to note is, is that it is an upland
4 sand source that they're proposing, which means
5 there is a truck haul. Between the two projects,
6 it's a total of about 150,000 cubic yards.

7 This is a closer view of the project. As you
8 can see, the dune fill, you can see the pier, and
9 about 800 feet to the south of the pier there is
10 beach fill, and then there's nothing, and then,
11 you know, the County is proposing those groins and
12 stuff and the beach fill at the end. Just one
13 thing to note is, on the north end, that the
14 amount that's proposed in the water there is about
15 12,000 yards. The rest of the about 75,000 is all
16 going to be dunes. There's only about 12,000
17 yards they're proposing right now, south of here.

18 Here is a typical cross section. You can see
19 they -- there's a range monument there,
20 representing where it is, approximately 3120
21 address, South Ocean Boulevard. As you can see,
22 there is just a little bit of beach fill and a
23 dune, and little hatch marks represent hard bottom
24 just offshore, and it has that waterline there, so

25 you can get an idea of what the project would look

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1 like if it was constructed, if you're looking at
2 her from the side.

3 This is part of the County's proposal where
4 it has panels extending seaward from the existing
5 seawall, and there is also hard bottom offshore in
6 that. It extends about 100 feet or so. It
7 depends exactly how long, but they are spaced
8 between 250 feet, but these are just conceptual
9 plans right now. These are not anything more than
10 that.

11 So, we're going to talk about the nature
12 section of the EIS, so you can get an idea of what
13 exactly the document is going to look like. One
14 of the most important things for us is purpose and
15 need, because all the alternatives that we're
16 going to be looking at or evaluating have to tie
17 back into the purpose and need. When there is an
18 alternative, it has to achieve the project
19 purpose; that's the most important thing for us,
20 to make it a reasonable, practical alternative.
21 If it doesn't achieve the purpose, then that's
22 something that we would look at and, you know, we
23 may not carry that forth.

24 Very important thing is the description of
25 the alternatives and what -- what alternatives are

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1 available that could actually achieve the goal,
2 other than what the County and Town have currently
3 proposed. Are there alternatives, because our
4 role is to find the alternative, or potentially
5 identify one that's the least environmentally
6 damaging practicable alternative. That's our --
7 that's what we hope to do. We have to do that.
8 We won't authorize anything other than the least
9 environmentally damaging practicable alternative,
10 which we call LEDPA.

11 So, for all these alternatives that we're
12 going to be looking at, we're going to go through
13 a couple quick ones after this line, but we'll
14 look at the effects of all those alternatives.
15 So, this is the current purpose and need provided
16 by the Town, and this is the purpose from the
17 County.

18 MS. OBERLIN: And don't be alarmed -- let me
19 butt in real quick.

20 Don't be alarmed if you don't have time to
21 read through this. We'll make this presentation
22 available, so you can see it at a later date,
23 okay?

24 MR. LIPS: So, this is the alternatives.
25 This is the main crux of the whole NEPA process,

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1 is alternatives. Are we doing the right thing?
2 Are we looking at and finding alternatives that
3 could potentially achieve the project purpose as
4 well? But it has to be reasonable.

5 Right now, we have the no action, dune
6 restoration only, and the applicants proposed.
7 The dune restoration only would be an alternative
8 that the Corps of Engineers wouldn't require any
9 authorization because it would be above the high
10 tide line, but if there's others that you're aware
11 of, we have -- we have received other alternatives
12 from other stakeholders, so this is an opportunity
13 for you to come up with anything. Put it on the
14 comment card; let us know.

15 Here are some of the environments that we're
16 going to be looking at. We have the human
17 environment, building in the upland areas. We
18 have the dune intertidal hard bottom, sub-tidal
19 hard bottom, sea turtle nesting beach, stuff like
20 that.

21 Here's about five years of data on the hard
22 bottom within the project area. As you can see,
23 the different colors represent different amounts
24 of exposure, so you can see it changes drastically
25 from year-to-year, and that's one of the things

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1 that we'll be dealing with is how do we assess the
2 impacts, and you're welcome to provide comments on
3 that, on how best we should -- we should consider
4 looking at it. Here are some pictures of the
5 project for both the human aspect, and from the
6 beach view.

7 Direct effects; direct, indirect, and
8 cumulative effects, we are required to look at
9 those, review those, identifying the impacts
10 associated with each one of those types. Direct
11 would be the effects that occur during
12 construction; when they're out there placing fill,
13 that's a direct effect. Indirect would be over
14 time, as the sand equilibrates due to natural
15 coastal processes, that would be indirect, so
16 we're going to be looking at all these.

17 Here is just a list of the threatened
18 endangered species that we're aware of. These are
19 the ones we would be consulting with either Marine
20 Fisheries, Fish and Wildlife Service, if there is
21 any potential adverse effects on those. And if
22 you're aware of any particular resources out
23 there, please let us know.

24 Okay. Now, we're going to go over any kind
25 of clarification you all may need, to be able to

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1 provide the best comments for us to go forward.
2 So, if you have questions about the EIS, if you

3 have a question about the process, or anything
4 like that, the proposed project, now is the time
5 that you can ask and we can clarify for you.

6 Go ahead.

7 AUDIENCE SPEAKER ONE: Lew Crampton. I just
8 want to ask, do you already have a set of
9 alternatives in mind, right now, that you're going
10 to evaluate, or are you starting tabula rasa, with
11 a completely clean slate?

12 MR. LIPS: We have -- we went back a couple
13 slides and we have -- we always have a no-build,
14 and we looked at the proposal by the applicant,
15 which is Town of Palm Beach, which is the current
16 application we have in.

17 AUDIENCE SPEAKER ONE: Are those the only
18 two?

19 MR. LIPS: Those are the ones we're looking
20 at now. We're going to look at a whole suite of
21 alternatives that could potentially achieve the
22 project purpose.

23 AUDIENCE SPEAKER ONE: So, other proposals
24 that have been developed --

25 MR. LIPS: Yes, absolutely.

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1 AUDIENCE SPEAKER ONE: -- will also be
2 evaluated using the same criteria?

3 MR. LIPS: Yes.

4 AUDIENCE SPEAKER ONE: Okay, thank you.

5 MR. LIPS: Any other questions?

6 MS. OBERLIN: Can I add to that, real quick?
7 If you have--

8 AUDIENCE SPEAKER: Can you give her the
9 microphone?

10 MS. OBERLIN: Sorry. I was trying to avoid
11 microphones.

12 If you have a specific proposal that you want
13 us to look at, because we do only look at what we
14 would consider to be reasonable alternatives, if
15 there is a proposal that you would suggest, or at
16 least want us to consider, we will do that in the
17 document. It may not be a proposal that
18 ultimately gets carried forward, but it will be
19 justified why, if not.

20 We have already received one alternative
21 possible in the Town of Palm Beach area, so we
22 will bring that into our scope of analysis, along
23 with all the other comments, and then create,
24 okay, now, what alternatives are we carrying
25 forward, and you will also have an opportunity to

0017

1 see those when we come out with the draft, as
2 well.

3 AUDIENCE SPEAKER ONE: And the rationale for
4 what you didn't do?

5 MS. OBERLIN: Absolutely.
6 AUDIENCE SPEAKER ONE: Great.
7 MS. OBERLIN: Absolutely.
8 AUDIENCE SPEAKER TWO: Could you mention the
9 specific alternative that you have that you are
10 going to consider?
11 MR. LIPS: Right.
12 MS. OBERLIN: Here, let me -- sorry.
13 MR. LIPS: Yeah, go ahead.
14 MS. OBERLIN: We don't -- we won't determine
15 the alternatives until we're done with scoping,
16 because we want to have the opportunity --
17 AUDIENCE SPEAKER TWO: Well, I thought --
18 MS. OBERLIN: -- to take the comments in.
19 AUDIENCE SPEAKER TWO: I thought I heard you
20 say that you had another alternative --
21 MS. OBERLIN: Yes.
22 AUDIENCE SPEAKER TWO: -- that you might
23 consider?
24 MS. OBERLIN: Yes.
25 AUDIENCE SPEAKER TWO: Is that the Erickson
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1 Report?
2 MR. LIPS: Yes.
3 MS. OBERLIN: Yes.
4 AUDIENCE SPEAKER TWO: So, you are
5 specifically going to look at the Erickson Report
6 as an alternative?
7 MS. OBERLIN: We are going to consider it,
8 yes, but we need to see what other alternatives we
9 have, as well.
10 AUDIENCE SPEAKER TWO: Well, I understand
11 that, but that is one of the alternatives?
12 MS. OBERLIN: Oh, sure. Sure, sure, sure.
13 AUDIENCE SPEAKER TWO: Okay, thank you.
14 MS. OBERLIN: Yes, sorry. But that -- but
15 this is not to -- this is not to --
16 Not to shut down comments. We want,
17 regardless of us getting a suggested alternative
18 from another stakeholder, if you have more
19 alternatives or more suggestions or things you'd
20 like to see, please continue to make those types
21 of comments at the comment time period.
22 MR. LIPS: Yes, sir?
23 AUDIENCE SPEAKER THREE: I don't know if you
24 can hear me, but--
25 AUDIENCE SPEAKER: Can you bring him a
0019
1 microphone?
2 MR. LIPS: Sure.
3 AUDIENCE SPEAKER: Bring him the microphone.
4 He needs the microphone. Give him the microphone.
5 Get a box.
6 AUDIENCE SPEAKER TWO: But take it away from

7 the two minutes.

8 AUDIENCE SPEAKER THREE: I need a pulpit to
9 stand on, too.

10 Just to clarify what your role is in going
11 through the EIS process, when you -- when I look
12 at the diagram that you showed about what the
13 projects look like now, to me, it becomes evident
14 that -- well, I'll go back.

15 The intent of the project is to provide
16 protection from storm damage. When you look at
17 what has been proposed, you have to question
18 whether you get a 15-year dune protection in
19 there, or 25-year beach storm protection, or
20 exactly what in there, you know.

21 So, the question, in terms of adequacy of
22 protection against the storm that you're trying to
23 protect against: Do you have any flexibility at
24 the core level to look at what is being proposed
25 and say, hey, these guys really aren't providing
0020 storm protection, that's what the project is
1 supposed to do? Can you initiate some kind of an
2 alternative, yourselves, that you would consider
3 on your own, that better gives us more protection,
4 and then judge that in terms of what environmental
5 impacts does that develop into and how do you
6 mitigate for that? Or maybe it requires no
7 mitigation, but you know, whatever the answer is.

9 So, I guess the question basically is: Can
10 you initiate your own alternatives while you're
11 going through this, trying to remember what this
12 project is supposed to be doing?

13 MS. OBERLIN: Yes. The answer is yes.

14 AUDIENCE SPEAKER THREE: We'll look forward
15 to seeing those.

16 MS. OBERLIN: Like if we went through the
17 whole scoping meeting and no one gave us any
18 suggested alternatives, we would ask them to look
19 at certain alternatives, regardless.

20 AUDIENCE SPEAKER THREE: Okay.

21 MS. OBERLIN: So, I mean, we want you guys to
22 have an opportunity to have input on that, but,
23 regardless, we're going to look at some
24 alternatives to the proposed project.

25 AUDIENCE SPEAKER THREE: Good. Of your own?
0021

1 MS. OBERLIN: Well, we -- the applicants --
2 it's alternatives to the applicant's proposal.

3 AUDIENCE SPEAKER THREE: Yeah, but I mean--

4 MS. OBERLIN: It's not the -- it's not the
5 Corps doing the project --

6 AUDIENCE SPEAKER THREE: I understand that.

7 MS. OBERLIN: -- but the Corps will require
8 the applicant to look at maybe this alternative

9 versus that one.
10 AUDIENCE SPEAKER THREE: I just was wondering
11 how much flexibility you have in saying, hey, this
12 is not doing the job, why don't you consider -- we
13 will consider this, if it's acceptable to all the
14 people involved and all the communities involved.
15 MS. OBERLIN: It seems to me that you may
16 want to make a comment associated with what you
17 think the purpose of this project should be.
18 AUDIENCE SPEAKER THREE: I'll do that. I
19 have some other comments that I will leave with
20 you on some other subjects that are -- I think
21 maybe the Corps will have some flexibility in
22 trying to address things like hard bottom coverage
23 and how do you analyze the impact, and what
24 freedom do you have when you go into analyzing
25 hard bottom impacts, and maybe come up with some

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1 more flexibility than we seem to have now, because
2 we seem to be pretty fixed right now on looking at
3 what -- how the hard bottom is impacted, where did
4 it come from --

5 MS. OBERLIN: Can I--

6 AUDIENCE SPEAKER THREE: -- what does
7 covering it up mean?

8 MS. OBERLIN: Can I get the next question, if
9 you don't mind? Sorry.

10 AUDIENCE SPEAKER THREE: I don't mind.

11 MS. OBERLIN: Okay.

12 AUDIENCE SPEAKER THREE: I'd better leave my
13 comments.

14 MR. LIPS: You can leave your questions right
15 there.

16 AUDIENCE SPEAKER FOUR: Connie Gasway (ph).
17 Am I being led to believe that you're going to use
18 just trucked-in sand?

19 MS. OBERLIN: That is the proposal. If you
20 would like to make a comment about something else?

21 AUDIENCE SPEAKER FOUR: No, I just, you know,
22 when you look to Judge Meale's decision on Reach
23 8, I don't know anything about --

24 MS. OBERLIN: Okay. I don't -- I don't--

25 AUDIENCE SPEAKER FOUR: -- Reach 9 or 10.

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1 MS. OBERLIN: I don't mean to cut you off,
2 but if you have -- I just want to differentiate
3 between the questions about the proposal.

4 AUDIENCE SPEAKER FOUR: Okay, but you, right
5 now--

6 MS. OBERLIN: The proposal is truck-hauled.

7 AUDIENCE SPEAKER FOUR: Is the truck haul?

8 MS. OBERLIN: Yes. That's it.

9 AUDIENCE SPEAKER FOUR: Okay, thank you.

10 AUDIENCE SPEAKER FIVE: I'm just trying to

11 understand one thing. This proposal is a proposal
12 that was brought to you by the Town of Palm Beach
13 and Palm Beach County?

14 MS. OBERLIN: Correct.

15 AUDIENCE SPEAKER FIVE: Is that what it is?
16 And that's why it's the number one proposal?

17 MS. OBERLIN: It's the applicant's proposal.

18 AUDIENCE SPEAKER FIVE: I mean, that's the
19 one we're listening--

20 MS. OBERLIN: Yes.

21 AUDIENCE SPEAKER FIVE: This is the reason
22 that we're gathered --

23 MS. OBERLIN: Yes.

24 AUDIENCE SPEAKER FIVE: -- to hear this one
25 proposal, tonight?

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1 MS. OBERLIN: Yes.

2 AUDIENCE SPEAKER FIVE: Okay.

3 AUDIENCE SPEAKER SIX: Which is it, the Town
4 or the County?

5 MS. OBERLIN: Both. There's a -- the
6 northern part is the Town; the southern part is
7 the County, so, but the projects bump up against
8 each other and they will have an effect on each
9 other, so the Corps is considering them as
10 connected actions and doing one EIS, rather than
11 doing two separate EIS's.

12 AUDIENCE SPEAKER FIVE: And they consulted
13 with another organization to come up with these?

14 I mean, like, why would the Town of Palm
15 Beach have that kind of information? They would
16 go to somebody else, right, to ask them?

17 MS. OBERLIN: I don't understand the
18 question. They -- this is just what they proposed
19 because the Town is choosing to do this project on
20 the Town's area, and the County is choosing to do
21 the project in the Reach 9 and 10 area.

22 AUDIENCE SPEAKER FIVE: Okay. I just didn't
23 know that they had people on staff that would be

24 --

25 MS. OBERLIN: They do.

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1 AUDIENCE SPEAKER FIVE: -- so sophisticated

2 --

3 MS. OBERLIN: They do.

4 AUDIENCE SPEAKER FIVE: -- that they would
5 have these plans, you know, that they would be
6 coming up with these plans, themselves.

7 And the only other thing, I know this isn't
8 the comment time, but my question would be, this
9 is the number one proposal, and is it the number
10 one proposal because it's been enacted someplace
11 else and been successful in a similar situation?
12 Is that why it's the number one proposal?

13 MS. OBERLIN: No, this is just what they have
14 proposed. They have put in an application to do
15 this project. It has nothing to do with other
16 areas, but there is -- there are beach projects
17 that have occurred in other places, yes.

18 AUDIENCE SPEAKER FIVE: And have been
19 remediated with this proposal, this type of
20 system?

21 MS. OBERLIN: With groins, is that what you
22 mean?

23 AUDIENCE SPEAKER FIVE: Yes. Well, whatever,
24 the plan that I saw there, this number, this
25 proposal that we're here to listen --

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1 MS. OBERLIN: Yes.

2 AUDIENCE SPEAKER FIVE: -- and get
3 information.

4 MS. OBERLIN: There have been similar
5 projects in other places, yes.

6 AUDIENCE SPEAKER FIVE: In, like, North
7 Carolina, or someplace?

8 MS. OBERLIN: I don't know off the top of my
9 head, I'm sorry.

10 Yes?

11 AUDIENCE SPEAKER SEVEN: Does the proposal
12 include standards for the material in the cutoffs?

13 MS. OBERLIN: That would be -- there would be
14 state standards, but that might be the sort of
15 thing you could say as a comment --

16 AUDIENCE SPEAKER SEVEN: That was my
17 question, whether--

18 MS. OBERLIN: -- that you'd like them to be
19 held to certain standards.

20 AUDIENCE SPEAKER SEVEN: My question is
21 whether it most closely approximates state
22 standards or county standards, because the county
23 standards, here, are very acceptable, state
24 standards are not.

25 MS. OBERLIN: Okay. Then, that's a comment

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1 that you should make.

2 AUDIENCE SPEAKER SEVEN: I just wondered what
3 the proposal includes.

4 MS. OBERLIN: Probably state standards, right
5 now, so if you want that to be -- if you want that
6 to be done that way, we should do that.

7 Yes? Oh, sorry, she wants us to use the
8 microphone.

9 So, we can move into the comment period, if
10 that's all right.

11 AUDIENCE SPEAKER EIGHT: One other question.
12 You said the two proposals about each other, so
13 they will be viewed collectively. Does that mean
14 that if a deficiency with regard to one, the

15 County's application could impact the Town's
16 proposal, or vice versa?

17 If you find deficiencies in the County, could
18 that impact the ability to obtain a permit for the
19 Town?

20 MS. OBERLIN: The projects will be reviewed
21 based on what the project is, and, ultimately,
22 when we get to a record of decision, the answer
23 will focus on what the projects are and how they
24 relate to each other, because there is a
25 cumulative effect.

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1 So, if the cumulative effect of the two
2 together is going to have a negative consequence
3 that is unacceptable, then, yeah, it would be
4 unacceptable for however that would be laid out,
5 but that is not -- I don't think it's going to
6 happen the way you maybe you may fear.

7 AUDIENCE SPEAKER NINE: Can you elaborate a
8 little bit on cost sharing, how the project is to
9 be funded between federal, state, county, town,
10 further on down?

11 MR. LIPS: Yeah, we don't have the
12 information on that right now. One of the third-
13 party contractors may be aware of that. Tom, are
14 there any agreements?

15 LT. COL. GRECO: I don't know how--

16 MS. OBERLIN: I think the Town pays for its
17 own project, is my understanding, and we're not
18 sure how the County is getting their money.

19 Since we're regulatory, they're asking to do
20 it. Where they get the money from to do the
21 project, we either permit the project or don't
22 permit the project. We don't focus on the funding
23 for it.

24 MR. LIPS: All right, real quick. The Notice
25 of Intent, you saw that, July 3rd. We sent out a

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1 public notice the 24th. You should have received
2 that tonight, but we did extend the commentary for
3 the scoping to the September 3rd. That means
4 there's some milestones touched on before April
5 2014, is when we'll have the draft out. Final, we
6 hope to have it completed by fall of next year.

7 So, here is -- here is the opportunity.
8 These are the four ways you can provide comments.
9 You have a chance to let it be known that you're
10 going to make oral comments. You have a chance,
11 just after this. You can always do written
12 comments. Send it to me by my email. My card is
13 here if you need it and here is the address you
14 can send it. Whatever is easiest for you, just
15 let us know.

16 So, just touching back, we're here to listen

17 to you and the comments that you have, what we
18 should look at, including alternatives, whatever
19 concerns you have.

20 MS. OBERLIN: Okay. So, what we're going to
21 do is we're going to call up the people that have
22 already filled out forms. If you want to comment
23 and you haven't given us a form, if you wouldn't
24 mind turning them in. You can turn these in later
25 or at another time if you want to just write your

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1 comment down, but we're using this to call you up.

2 So, Lew? There is going to be -- we're going
3 to, at this point, as for a three-minute limit on
4 the verbal comments, until we get through
5 everybody; and then, we can obviously talk with
6 you further past that and take your comments, or
7 you can always, as we mentioned earlier, submit
8 your comments later, as well.

9 AUDIENCE SPEAKER ONE: Hi, I'm Lew Crampton.
10 I represent the Citizens' Association of Palm
11 Beach. Also, served for seven years with the
12 USEPA, and one of the jobs I had at the
13 Environmental Protection Agency was Director of
14 the Office of Standards and Regulations, so I know
15 a little bit about the regulatory process.

16 The near-shore environment and turtle nesting
17 areas are certainly valuable ecosystems and they
18 should be protected; however, as someone has
19 pointed out already, Ms. Goldberg, finding and
20 identifying and mitigating for impacts on the
21 femoral hard bottom, I'm not talking about coral,
22 but a femoral hard bottom is like catching
23 lightning in a bottle.

24 In the larger picture, a femoral hard bottom
25 is here today and gone tomorrow. We really do not

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1 have a fair and strong measurable standard against
2 which to measure impacts of the actions that are
3 taken, and this problem carries over to
4 mitigation. There needs to be greater specificity
5 and flexibility in defining where you can do what,
6 and at a million dollars an acre, clearly, the
7 cost is prohibitive.

8 We favor, in Reach 7, sand placement with an
9 appropriate grain size, either upland sand from
10 Ortona Mine, or the borrow-area sands that are
11 appropriate. Dune restoration and structures in
12 Reach 7, the kinds of structures that were
13 proposed for the beach management agreement but
14 didn't make it into the final version, but we
15 still favor those.

16 We favor in Reach 8, sand placement, dune,
17 and structures, as well, there. Karyn Erickson
18 has developed a design proposal that certainly

19 should be considered by you as a preferred
20 alternative for us to work with. This contains
21 many of the features that the Citizens'
22 Association supports, as do many of the folks
23 living in South End.

24 So, thank you very much for the opportunity
25 to comment. I also want to say that we do look

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1 forward in participating further in the comment
2 process and comment period. We hope that you'll
3 follow the example of the Beach Management
4 agreement process where there was a lot of give-
5 and-take between the folks who were operating
6 that, and us back here in the community. Thank you
7 very much.

8 MS. OBERLIN: Madelyn Greenberg?

9 MR. LIPS: She had a little bit longer one.

10 MS. OBERLIN: Can I ask you to wait, I'm
11 sorry, just a few minutes?

12 AUDIENCE SPEAKER TEN: Okay.

13 MS. OBERLIN: She is going to wait a few
14 minutes because she has asked to read a slightly
15 longer Times thing for us.

16 Chris Fleming? Chris Fleming from Lantana?
17 No? Okay. Tom Workey (ph)?

18 AUDIENCE SPEAKER ELEVEN: I live here, in
19 Lake Worth, Florida, and grew up here, so I've
20 watched the beaches in the project areas since I
21 was seven years old, and that's one of my
22 principal play grounds. I have some comments I'd
23 like to make.

24 I noticed in the comment plans, it said 2012
25 sea level, 2012 high water, 2012 low water, and

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1 previous projects we always saw the waterline.
2 They didn't have a year on it, but now, I see the
3 Corps is including the current year there. I'd
4 love to see the 2030 or 2040 or 2050 sea level
5 projection, and I know the Corps, now, is required
6 to include sea level rise in projects.

7 The quality of fill that's proposed for the
8 project is the most important thing that I can
9 see, right now. I'd love for the people who do
10 the EIS to also review what I will be providing,
11 and that's the final ruling by Judge Meale in the
12 Reach 8 case. It's over 200 pages. He really did
13 his homework and provided information from many
14 very qualified experts that will help in this
15 process, as well.

16 I also hope that the truck haul material will
17 be Palm Beach County standards, washed material
18 inspected per truck load, like the Town of Palm
19 Beach has done in the past, recently, and also in
20 Jupiter, and it's very, very good quality

21 material. The excellent quality fill in Palm
22 Beach County is best when it approximates what we
23 already have here, or what we had here when I was
24 young, and it includes the number one beach
25 builders in Palm Beach County, and that's our

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1 seashell population.

2 It's specific to here, more so than in Miami
3 where you have a lot of coral, or Martin County
4 where you have a lot of regular sand. Palm Beach
5 County is unique that way; that's why our water is
6 so crystal clear, even when the surf is up, and it
7 makes it unique. And what we don't have data for
8 is what habitat most of those constituent shell
9 species live in, so damage to those species, as
10 beach builders, right now can't be determined.

11 Please include this area of study in the
12 Environmental Impact Statement, especially in the
13 cumulative impacts, because the baseline we have
14 today is not what we had 20 years ago, and those
15 seashell species are very important. If most of
16 those dozens of species grow in three feet of
17 water and their habitat is eliminated, we're
18 losing our beach building population of seashells
19 here. We don't have rivers that provide sediment
20 here, like they do in other places.

21 Also, with the Lantana area, a lot of people
22 snorkel on the hard bottom. That number is
23 dwarfed by the number of people who surf in
24 Lantana and up through the area of what used to be
25 called Hawaiian. Now it's the Palm Beach Ocean

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1 Front Inn. That's the north end of the growing
2 field. That area, our estimate is 4,000 user
3 hours per year for the surfers, and I know the
4 recreational impacts are part of the EIS, so we
5 hope you will consider that in the EIS. Thank
6 you.

7 MS. OBERLIN: Okay, thank you.

8 Charlotte Taylor, you have, "maybe." Would
9 you like to speak?

10 AUDIENCE SPEAKER TWELVE: I just have one,
11 one little comment, and that is that I'm familiar
12 with the eastern end of Long Island, on the South
13 Shore, and jetties or groins were constructed
14 there, and they are still fighting, you know,
15 decades later, because what happened was that the
16 sand built up on one side and was sculpted out on
17 the other, and we talked earlier about that, and
18 you said that these jetties are not going to be,
19 you know, projecting out into the water. It's
20 just going to be under the sand and covered with
21 sand on the beach, but I would hope that would be
22 true because, you know, one action creates another

23 action, and, for some people, it really devastated
24 their properties, and it's still occurring.

25 MS. OBERLIN: Yes, thank you.

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1 Pat Cooper. You didn't mark that you wanted
2 to come up. Do you want to speak?

3 AUDIENCE SPEAKER THIRTEEN: I just asked a
4 question, and that was, the question was, really,
5 whether or not you're going to take a look at the
6 effects of the Lake Worth Pier on down-drift sand,
7 in the EIS?

8 MS. OBERLIN: Maybe we could talk a little
9 after, because I'd like to understand better what
10 you think the impact of the pier might be, so we
11 can capture it.

12 AUDIENCE SPEAKER THIRTEEN: Sure.

13 MS. OBERLIN: Off the top of my head, I'm not
14 quite sure I understand what you mean, but we'll
15 get it.

16 AUDIENCE SPEAKER THIRTEEN: Oh, I'll fill you
17 in.

18 MS. OBERLIN: Okay. Florence?

19 AUDIENCE SPEAKER: No, I don't want to speak.

20 MS. OBERLIN: Okay. Larry Goldberg?

21 AUDIENCE SPEAKER THREE: I already talked.

22 AUDIENCE SPEAKER: He already spoke.

23 MS. OBERLIN: But now, he has got a comment.
24 Those were just questions.

25 AUDIENCE SPEAKER THREE: Larry Goldberg. I

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1 -- yeah, I did have a few comments. I will follow
2 up on my concern about when you look at the two
3 pieces of the project, the County piece and the
4 City piece, at least the ones that you have shown
5 so far, I'm concerned about how they fit together,
6 whether they work, and how much protection they're
7 going to provide. To me, it's a big gap in there
8 and there's not a sufficient amount of sand to
9 really give us a lot of protection, but I will
10 write you about that, so that maybe you can
11 include -- well, whoever I'm going to write to,
12 Garrett.

13 MS. OBERLIN: Yes.

14 AUDIENCE SPEAKER THREE: And I've also got
15 some comments that I'm going to leave a copy for
16 Garrett Lips and a copy for the Colonel.

17 My concern is how you evaluate hard bottom
18 and I've got some suggestions on how you might
19 want to look at that and see if you can provide
20 some more flexibility in how you view the impacts
21 or non-impacts of projects and hard bottom. And
22 I've got some other ideas, so I can just leave
23 this on the table?

24 MS. OBERLIN: Mm-hmm.

25 AUDIENCE SPEAKER THREE: And again, I'll
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1 write you about the scope.

2 MS. OBERLIN: Okay, good. Okay, the last
3 comment I have, I'm just curious, are there any
4 others that would like to comment tonight that we
5 haven't called or haven't turned in a form yet?
6 Okay.

7 Madelyn?
8 AUDIENCE SPEAKER TEN: On behalf -- on behalf
9 of The Coalition To Save Our Shoreline, Inc., the
10 SOS, and the thousands it represents, I wish to
11 make a public statement in regard to the EIS for
12 Reach 8.

13 My name is Madelyn Greenberg and I live at
14 3360 South Ocean Boulevard, and I'm a member of
15 the Board of Directors of the SOS.

16 While we realize that the EIS will be an
17 arduous and complex process, we too have devoted a
18 great deal of time and money to create, "the right
19 plan" for our area by balancing the interests of
20 environmentalists, property owners, the public,
21 governmental entities, and other interested
22 parties.

23 Karyn Erickson, P.E., D.C.E. is the highly
24 qualified coastal engineer who designed The
25 Coalition To Save Our Shoreline, Inc., SOS, Beach
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1 Nourishment Plan and Design for Reach 8. This
2 plan has been submitted, as required, to you, the
3 Army Corps of Engineers, for review and study as
4 an alternative for Reach 8. This is in accordance
5 with federal legislation for the Environmental
6 Impact Study to be conducted for Reach 8 in the
7 Town of Palm Beach, and also to be included in the
8 Southern Palm Beach Island Comprehensive Shoreline
9 Stabilization Project, in Palm Beach County, for
10 Reaches 8, 9, and 10.

11 We respectfully submit that the SOS Beach
12 Nourishment Plan and Design for Reach 8 meets the
13 standards and criteria that are necessary to
14 prevail. It is feasible, responsible, affordable,
15 balanced, and effective for the long-term benefits
16 for all. No other submitted proposal or plans can
17 be said to accomplish this, nor do they constitute
18 the interests of everyone.

19 The SOS firmly believes, and we hope that the
20 Army Corps, the State of Florida, FDEP, Beach
21 Management, and Palm Beach County will agree that
22 the results of this EIS process should result in a
23 joint project that will serve the needs of the
24 public and will be an all-encompassing project
25 that is not just for now, but also for the future.

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1 With that criteria and goal in mind, the SOS
2 has taken into account the historical mistakes
3 made over the years on shore protection matters,
4 particularly inadequate plans for the southern
5 areas of our town. For example, the failure to
6 recognize the inadequate amount of sand that flows
7 to south end beaches because of the numerous
8 armoring structures, such as seawalls, and with
9 many improperly placed and incorrectly designed
10 groins, beginning at the north end, through and
11 including the revetment in Reach 6, with little
12 regard to erosion down-drift, has resulted in
13 starved and critically eroded beaches to the
14 south. Reach 8, the southernmost beach in the
15 Town of Palm Beach, is now in dire need of
16 appropriate beach nourishment and dunes.

17 While we recognize that groins are generally
18 successful in building up a beach in one place,
19 but it also causes sand deficit and erosion
20 down-drift. It is logical that the erosion
21 down-drift must be compensated for by beach
22 replenishment. Groins must be designed to allow
23 sand to flow with sufficient lateral movement, in
24 order to offset erosion down-drift. Beach
25 replenishment and groins are mutually beneficial,

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1 complimentary, and necessary in these future
2 plans. The SOS plan for Reach 8 provides for
3 specially designed groins, as permittable, that
4 will not trap sand, but also allow sufficient
5 lateral movement of sand down-drift.

6 The FDEP, at their BMA Stakeholders' Meeting,
7 presented a historical shoreline data, which
8 compared the erosion or accretion of our
9 shoreline, dating back to 1940. A startling fact
10 is that Reach 8 has lost from 100 to 200 feet of
11 shoreline depth. We have all witnessed the
12 endangered sea turtles that come to nest on our
13 beaches, and, because of the scarps and cliffs and
14 the continually diminishing beach, they lay their
15 eggs and the tide comes up and washes the eggs
16 away, or they lay under the water and are
17 destroyed. These sea turtles will continue to be
18 lost to us if man does not restore the wide
19 beaches that the sea turtles seek to lay their
20 eggs, nest, hatch their young, and return to the
21 sea.

22 It is now time for a beach nourishment plan
23 to be implemented to correct the neglect, errors,
24 and omissions that produced this dangerous
25 situation that places thousands of property owners

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1 at risk. The SOS is confident that the Army Corps
2 of Engineers will find the beach nourishment plan

3 which was designed by Ms. Erickson to be
4 thoroughly researched, environmentally suitable,
5 and, most importantly, permittable. This plan
6 will stand on its own merit.

7 It is significant that the SOS Beach
8 Nourishment Plan strongly recommends that Ortona
9 sand be used to increase the longevity of the
10 project. It will be cost effective because of its
11 durability and will result in the need for minimal
12 mitigation.

13 Again, the positive aspects of The Coalition
14 To Save Our Shoreline, SOS, Beach Nourishment Plan
15 and Design for Reach 8 will be to fulfill the need
16 to correct severe erosion, satisfy environmental
17 concerns, and to be a prototype for other
18 successful beach nourishment and erosion control
19 projects in the future, and I thank you for the
20 opportunity to talk today.

21 MS. OBERLIN: Thank you.

22 So, before we wrap up, any last minute
23 comments?

24 Anyone else that wants to speak tonight?

25 Keeping in mind that if you do not speak tonight,

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1 it doesn't mean that you can't comment; you can
2 always comment later. The comment period closes
3 on September 3rd.

4 We would like to hear your comments either by
5 email or by mail. If you're not available to send
6 them into us tonight, or if you know people who
7 couldn't be present tonight, we can always take
8 them later. There is no issue with that, at all.

9 Anyone else? Okay. Then, I guess we will
10 wrap it up. Thank you all for attending.

11 (The proceedings were concluded at 6:46 p.m.)

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1 CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

2

3 STATE OF FLORIDA

4 COUNTY OF PALM BEACH

5
6 I, JORDAN M. BRUCE, Court Reporter, Notary
7 Public in and for the State of Florida, do hereby
8 certify that I was authorized to and did report
9 the foregoing proceedings, and that the foregoing
10 pages, numbered 1 through 41 inclusive, constitute
11 a true and correct transcription of my report to
12 the proceedings.

13 I further certify that I am not a relative,
14 employee, attorney, or counsel of any of the
15 parties, nor am I a relative or employee of any of
16 the parties' attorneys or counsel connected with
17 the action, nor am I financially interested in the
18 action.

19
20 Dated this 21st day of August 2013.
21
22

23 _____
24 Jordan M. Bruce, Court Reporter.
25 Notary Public - State of Florida.
Commission No.: EE 160837.
Commission Expires: 1-17-2016