

Lewes Beach, Sussex County

1. **Non-Federal Sponsor:** Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC)

2. **Request for modification to authorized project:** The Lewes Beach project was authorized by WRDA 1999 (Title I, Section 101 (a) (13)) DELAWARE BAY COASTLINE, DELAWARE AND NEW JERSEY-ROOSEVELT INLET-LEWES BEACH, DELAWARE

3. **Project Purpose:** The purpose of the request is to extend the authorized project limit from its present eastward terminus to a distance of 8,000 feet east of the Roosevelt Inlet east jetty for hurricane and storm damage reduction. Since the completion of the Federal navigation project at Roosevelt Inlet in 2004, there is persistent “hot spot” erosion occurring near Nebraska Avenue downdrift of the navigation works. Beach nourishment sands were placed up to 1,400 feet east of the structure, but erosion of the shoreline occurs east of the placement location. The USACE considers the shoreline east of the 1,400-foot mark out of the project area so the state has been organizing and paying for repair beach fills to mitigate the damages from downdrift erosion caused by interruption of littoral flow by the stabilized Roosevelt Inlet.

4. **Estimate of cost:** We estimate the cost of the Feasibility-level study to be \$3 million and follow the USACE “3X3X3” planning rule.

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5. Monetary and Non-Monetary Benefits:

a. Protection of human life and property – Lewes Beach is a year-round community of single family homes and small condominium complexes. The project will protect the community from storm damages and flood risks.

b. Improvement to transportation – The project will reduce flooding of coastal

roadways and evacuation routes.

c. To the national economy – Lewes Beach is a year-round resort community as well as a commercial and recreational fishing hub. There are several local businesses that serve the coastal tourism industry. All of these business ventures contribute to the national economy by generating jobs, goods, and services.

d. To the environment - The project area is a popular public beach. The project will provide mitigation of downdrift erosion created by the inlet jetties and ensure long-term resiliency of the sandy shoreline.

e. To the national security interests of the US – The US Coast Guard and Delaware Bay and River cooperative are dependent upon the maintained channel of Roosevelt Inlet for oil spill response, emergency rescue, and homeland security.

6. **Local Support:** The modification to extend the authority request is supported by DNREC intra-agency Divisions, the City of Lewes, non-governmental organizations, and local constituents.

7. **Non-Federal Sponsor Ability to Provide Cost Share:** Source of funding – State Bond Bill

8. **Non-Federal Sponsor Support Letter:** Attached