US Army Corps of Engineers
JACKSONVILLE DISTRICT

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

ST. LUCIE COUNTY, FLORIDA
COASTAL STORM RISK MANAGEMENT
INTEGRATED FEASIBILITY STUDY AND ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Jacksonville District (Corps), has conducted an environmental assessment in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended. The Corps assessed the effects of the following actions in the Final Integrated Feasibility Report and Environmental Assessment (IFR/EA), dated TBD for the St. Lucie County Coastal Storm Risk Management Study, Florida. The final recommendation is contained in the report of the Chief of Engineers, dated TBD. These reports are incorporated herein by reference. The recommended plan consists of the following:

- Beach nourishment/periodic nourishment along approximately 3.3 miles of shoreline between Florida Department of Environmental Protection monuments R-98.5 and the Martin County line;
- The design beach fill template is characterized by a 20-foot berm extension (+7 ft-NAVD88) from the toe of the 2008 dune profile;
- Beach fill material required under the Base SLR case includes an average of 422,000 cubic yards for initial construction of the design beach profile and approximately 2 periodic nourishment events averaging 390,000 cubic yards;
- This project proposes to use sand from St. Lucie Shoal, which contains material compatible with the native sand within the study area, and has a sufficient quantity for a 50-year planning horizon;
- The St. Lucie Shoal sand resources identified for this project are located greater than three nautical miles offshore within Outer Continental Shelf waters and are under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management.

In addition to the “no action” alternative, a final array of five alternatives with varying levels of benefits and costs were evaluated, including the recommended plan. The alternative with the highest net-benefits is the 20 foot extension of the existing berm and maintenance of the existing dune, and with a BCR greater than 1.0, it becomes the National Economic Development Plan and the recommended plan. There is not a locally preferred plan. The recommended plan is also the environmentally preferable alternative.

All practicable means to avoid and minimize adverse environmental effects have been incorporated into the recommended plan. Environmental commitments as detailed in the IFR/EA will be implemented to minimize impacts.

Pursuant to the Clean Water Act of 1972, as amended, any discharge of dredged or fill material associated with the recommended plan have been found to be compliant with section 404(b)(1) Guidelines (40 CFR 230). The Clean Water Act Section 404(b)(1) Guidelines evaluation is found in Attachment G, Attachment 1 of the IFR/EA.

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has concluded that the proposed St. Lucie County Coastal Storm Risk Management Project is consistent with the Florida Coastal Zone Management Program and its associated statutes. DEP stated that the project would likely qualify for a Joint Coastal Permit, which would include water quality certification. A water quality certification pursuant to section 401 of the Clean Water Act will be obtained from DEP prior to construction. All conditions of the water quality certification will be implemented in order to minimize adverse impacts to water quality.

Pursuant to section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, coordination with the US Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service has been completed.

Pursuant to section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (NHPA), as amended, the Florida State Historic Preservation Officer and the Seminole Tribe of Florida concurred with the USACE determination of no effect to historic properties.

Public review of the draft IFR/EA was completed on June 30, 2016. All comments submitted during the public comment period were responded to in the Final IFR/EA.

Technical, environmental, economic, and cost-effectiveness criteria used in the formulation of alternative plans were those specified in the Water Resource Council's 1983 Economic and Environmental Principles for Water and Related Land Resources Implementation Studies. All applicable laws, executive orders, regulations, and local government plans were considered in the evaluation of the alternatives. Based on these reports, the reviews by other Federal, State and local agencies, Tribes, input of the public, and the review by my staff, it is my determination that the recommended plan would not significantly affect the human environment; therefore, preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement is not required.

Date:_____

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Jason A. Kirk
Colonel, U.S. Army
District Commander