APPENDIX C

Environmental Justice Analysis

Environmental Assessment
Operation and Maintenance Dredging and Dredged Material Placement for Miami Harbor Navigation Project in Miami-Dade County, Florida

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
JACKSONVILLE DISTRICT

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Operation and Maintenance Dredging and Dredged Material Placement for the Miami Harbor Navigation Project in Miami-Dade County, Florida

ENVRIONMENTAL JUSTICE ANALYSIS
JULY 2019

On February 11, 1994, the President of the U.S. issued Executive Order (E.O.) 12898, Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations. This E.O. mandates that each Federal agency make environmental justice (EJ) part of the agency mission and to address, as appropriate, disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects of the programs and policies on minority and low-income populations. Significance thresholds that may be used to evaluate the effects of a proposed action related to EJ are not specifically outlined. However, Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) guidance requires an evaluation of a proposed action's effect on the human environment and the Corps must comply with Executive Order 12898. The Corps has determined that a proposed action or its alternatives would result in significant effects related to EJ if the proposed action or an alternative would disproportionately adversely affect an EJ community through its effects on:

- Environmental conditions such as quality of air, water, and other environmental media; degradation of aesthetics, loss of open space, and nuisance concerns such as odor, noise, and dust;
- Human health such as exposure of EJ populations to pathogens;
- Public welfare in terms of social conditions such as reduced access to certain amenities like hospitals, safe drinking water, public transportation, etc.; and
- Public welfare in terms of economic conditions such as changes in employment, income, and the cost of housing, etc.

The Corps conducted an evaluation of EJ impacts using a two-step process: as a first step, the study area was evaluated to determine whether it contains a concentration of minority and/or low-income populations. The second step includes evaluation to determine whether the proposed action would result in a disproportionately, high adverse effect on these populations.

As defined in Executive Order 12898 and the CEQ guidance, a minority population occurs where one or both of the following conditions are met within a given geographic area:

- The American Indian, Alaskan Native, Asian, Pacific Islander, Black, or Hispanic population of the affected area exceeds 50 percent; or
- The minority population percentage of the affected area is meaningfully greater than the minority population percentage in the general population or other appropriate unit of geographic analysis.

An affected geographic area is considered to consist of a low-income population (i.e. below the poverty level for purposes of this analysis) where the percentage of low-income persons:

- is at least 50 percent of the total population; or
- is meaningfully greater than the low-income population percentage in the general population or other appropriate unit of geographic analysis.

<u>Step 1: Study Area's Minority and Low-Income Population Average Percentages</u>

Using the USEPA EJAssist Tool, the project area was user-defined (*see* **Figure 1**) and a 1 mile buffer was added to calculate the average percentages for EJ criteria. **Table 1** compares the average percentages for the project area, state of Florida, and U.S..

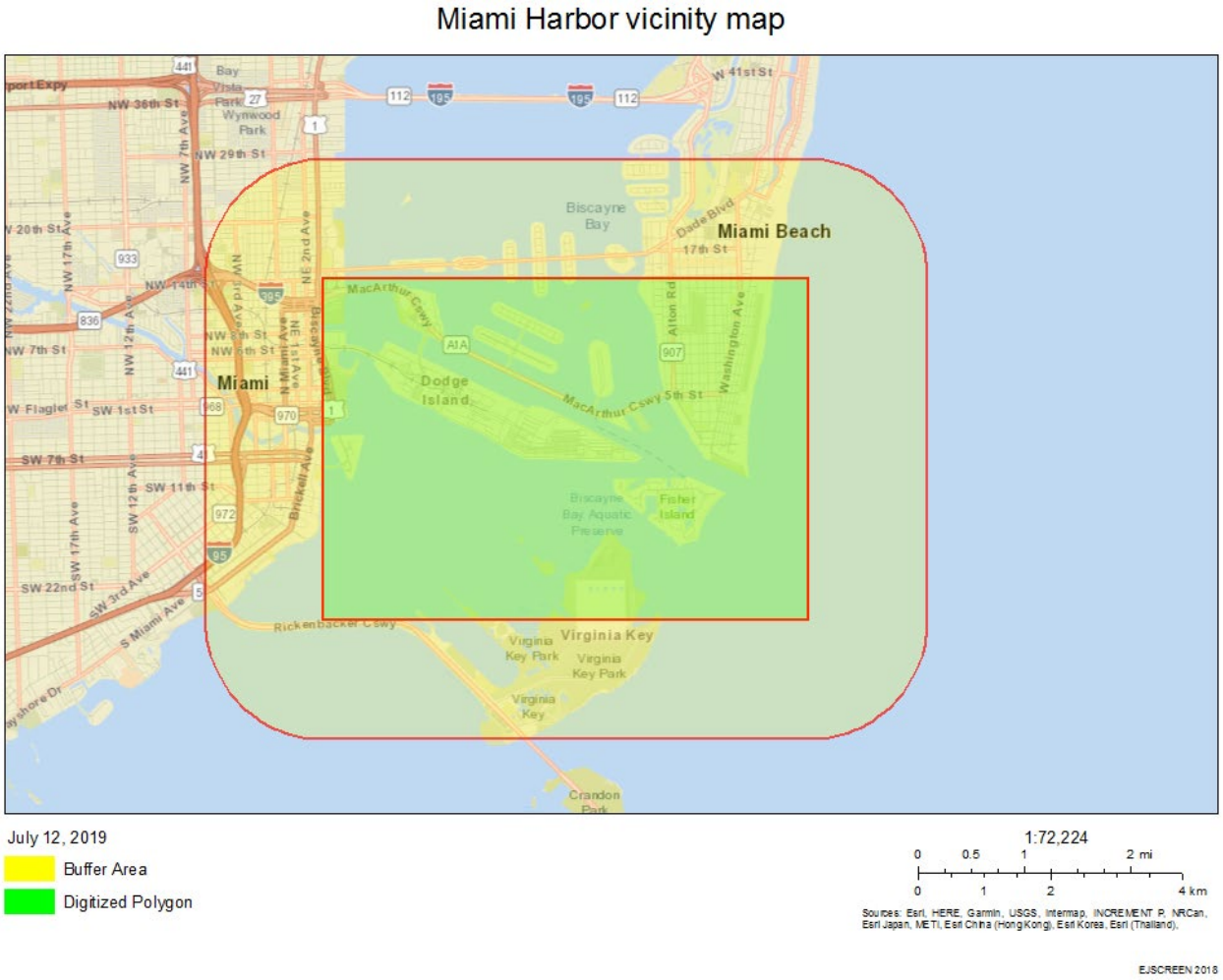

Figure 1. User-defined project area used for EJ analysis.

Table 1. USEPA EJAssist environmental justice criteria percentages.

	User-Defined Project Area %	Florida Average %	U.S. Average %
Minority Population	57%	44%	38%
Low Income Population	31%	37%	34%

Based on the information provided by the USEPA EJAssist tool, the average minority population is approximately 57% of the total population and approximately 31% of the individuals in the project area are considered below the poverty level. Therefore, the study area which comprises the project does not constitute an EJ community because the study area does not contain a high concentration of minority and low-income populations.

Step 2: Recommended Plan's Effect on EJ Community

The study area is not comprised of an EJ community.

REFERENCES

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). 2019. EPA EJScreen EPA'S Environmental Justice Screening and Mapping Tool (Version 2018). https://ejscreen.epa.gov/mapper/. Website accessed July 12, 2019.