



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
JACKSONVILLE DISTRICT CORPS OF ENGINEERS
P.O. BOX 4970
JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA 32232-0019**

**BEACH EROSION CONTROL
AND HURRICANE PROTECTION PROJECT
CONTRACT J
MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA**

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The purpose of this Environmental Assessment (EA) is to review the environmental effects of utilizing sand source alternatives which have been determined to meet the requirements for future renourishments throughout the remaining period of Federal participation in the Miami-Dade County, Beach Erosions Control and Hurricane Protection (BEC&HP) Project. In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended, and the White House's Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations, the Jacksonville District has prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) to evaluate new information regarding sand sources subsequent to the 1975 EIS and 1985 Supplemental EIS for the Construction of the BEC&HP Project at Miami-Dade County, Florida. The Draft EA for the project has been forwarded to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 4, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Vero Beach Field Office, the National Marine Fisheries Service, Southeast Region, and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and the State Historic Preservation Officer and all other known interested parties for review and comment.

Sand source locations include two sites located offshore of southeast Florida in Outer Continental Shelf waters, approximately 80 miles and 120 miles north of Miami-Dade County. As the sand sources are located within the territorial waters of the United States, the Corps and the Miami-Dade County Department of Environmental Resources Management (DERM) will enter into a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the US Department of the Interior, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) pursuant to 43 U.S.C. Section 1337(k)(2). There are two sites in nearshore waters off of Miami-Dade County, one at Baker's Haulover Inlet (BHI) ebb shoal and one on Miami Beach at Lummus Park. The remaining three sites are commercial sand mines located in Miami-Dade County (ACI) and Glades County (Ortona and Witherspoon).

I have reviewed the EA of the proposed action. This Finding incorporates by reference all discussions and conclusions continued in the EA enclosed hereto. Based on the information analyzed in the EA, reflecting pertinent information obtained from other agencies and special interest groups having jurisdiction by law and/or special expertise, I conclude that the proposed action will have no significant impact on the quality of the human environment. Reasons for this conclusion are, in summary:

1. The work will be conducted in accordance with Biological Opinions issued by the US Fish and Wildlife Service for impacts to nesting sea turtles and endangered Piping Plovers and the Regional Biological Opinion issued by the National Marine Fisheries Service for impacts to sea turtles in the water. The propose action does not jeopardize the continued existence of any threatened or endangered species or adversely impact any designated critical habitat. Reasonable and prudent measures will be taken to substantially minimize the impact of incidental take to listed species.
2. In accordance with the Florida State Historic Preservation Officer, it was determined that the proposed dredging and beach placement will not impact any sites of cultural or historical significance.
3. An application for a Joint Coastal Permit has been submitted to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection. Any conditions contained within the permit, when it is issued, will be addressed in the plans and specifications. Therefore, the state water standards will be met.
4. The proposed work has been determined to be consistent with the Florida Coastal Zone Management Program (CZMP).
5. Measures to eliminate, reduce, or avoid potential impacts to fish and wildlife resources will be implemented during project construction.
6. Benefits to the public will be the maintenance of the storm damage reduction functions of the beach and increased nesting habitat for sea turtles.

In consideration of the information summarized, I find that the proposed action will not significantly affect the human environment and does not require an Environmental Impact Statement.



JASON A. KIRK
Colonel, Corps of Engineers
Commanding

8 March 2016

Date