



US Army Corps of Engineers
JACKSONVILLE DISTRICT

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

LEE COUNTY, FLORIDA SHORE PROTECTION PROJECT GASPARILLA ISLAND SEGMENT, FINAL INTEGRATED SECTION 934 AND ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT LEE COUNTY, FLORIDA

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Jacksonville District (Corps) has conducted an environmental analysis in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended. The final Integrated Section 934 Report and Environmental Assessment (report) dated May 2018, for the Gasparilla Island Segment of the Lee County Shore Protection Project addresses reducing storm damages to infrastructure opportunities and feasibility in Lee County, Florida. The final recommendation is contained in the Director's Report, dated 01 June 2018.

The report, incorporated herein by reference, evaluated various alternatives that would reduce storm damages to infrastructure in the study area. The recommended plan is the National Economic Development (NED) Plan and includes:

- The recommended plan provides restoration and periodic nourishment of 2.8-miles of gulf shoreline between the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) reference monuments R10.5 (R11 plus a 1,200 foot long north extending taper) and R24.5 (R24 plus a 600-foot long south extending taper). The design template consists of a 20-foot extension of the project baseline, roughly the 1995 mean high water line, at elevation +5 feet above mean low water (MLW) (+3.75 ft-NAVD88); a foreshore slope of 1V:15H transitioning to a nearshore slope of 1V:25H from MLW extending out to the intersection with the existing profile; the average periodic nourishment interval was determined to be 22 years and the average volume of this advanced and return interval nourishment was calculated to be 617,000 cubic yards. This volume is approximately equivalent to a 60-foot advance berm. Two renourishment events are expected throughout the remaining 40 year period of analysis.
- The Boca Grande ebb shoal, located approximately 1.85 miles southwest of the FDEP monument R-25, will be the borrow area for future periodic renourishments. The sand source encompasses approximately 425 acres with approximately 3.5 million cubic yards of beach-quality sand available. This volume of material is sufficient to cover the estimated project need of 1,200,000 cubic yards for the next two renourishment events, which will cover the extended Federal participation up to 2056.
- The recommended plan would be consistent with the authorized project template. The proposed design includes no expansion or increase in volume that would impact hardground outside of the approved project's equilibrium toe of fill. Patches of hardground are found offshore in the shallow intertidal zone. However, the proposed beach fill template for periodic renourishments remains identical to that in the authorized project. Based on the equilibrated profile determination and the equivalence of sand grain size characteristics proposed for placement and those previously placed, the present project should have no additional impact on hardground resources lying within the equilibrium toe of fill. Therefore, no additional mitigation is proposed.

In addition to a “no action” plan, three alternatives were evaluated. The alternatives included alternative 1: 20” to 50’ advance berm widths (smaller footprint than the recommended plan); alternative 2: a 60’ berm width (recommended plan); and alternative 3: 70’ to 100’ advance berm widths (greater footprint than the recommended plan) and the no action plan. Section 3.5 of the report provides a summary of the plan formulation evaluation.

For all alternatives, the potential effects to the following resources were evaluated:

	In-depth evaluation conducted	Brief evaluation due to minor effects	Resource unaffected by action
Aesthetics	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Air quality	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Aquatic resources/nearshore habitat	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Coastal barrier resources	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Invasive species	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fish and wildlife habitat	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Threatened/endangered species	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Historic properties	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other cultural resources	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Floodplains	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hazardous, toxic, and radioactive waste	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hydrology	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Land use	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Navigation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Noise levels	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Public infrastructure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Recreation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Socio-economics	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Environmental justice	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Soils	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tribal trust resources	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Water quality	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Climate change	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

All practical means to avoid or minimize adverse environmental effects were analyzed and incorporated into the recommended plan. Best management practices (BMPs) as detailed in the report will be implemented to minimize impacts. BMPs shall include protection measures for nearshore hardbottoms, threatened and endangered species, and water quality. Section 6.4 of the final integrated Section 934 and Environmental Assessment report provides a summary of BMPs or environmental commitments. No compensatory mitigation is required.

Pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) and National Marine Fisheries Service issued biological opinions, dated 13 March 2015 (revised) and 07 January 2007 (revised), that determined that the recommended plan will not jeopardize the continued existence of the following federally listed species or adversely modify designated critical habitat: nesting sea turtles and sea turtles in the water. All terms and conditions resulting from these consultations shall be implemented in order to minimize take of endangered species and avoid jeopardizing the species.

Pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, the Corps determined that the recommended plan may affect but is not likely to adversely affect the following federally listed species or their designated critical habitat: manatees, piping plover, rufa red knot, and terrestrial loggerhead sea turtle. The FWS concurred with the Corps' determination on 02 February 2017.

Pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, the Corps determined that no historic properties would be affected by the recommended plan. The Florida State Historic Preservation Office concurred with the determination on 29 September 2016 and is included in Appendix H (Pertinent Correspondence) of the report.

Pursuant to the Clean Water Act of 1972, as amended, the discharge of dredged or fill material associated with the recommended plan has 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 Appendix G, Attachment 1 of the report.

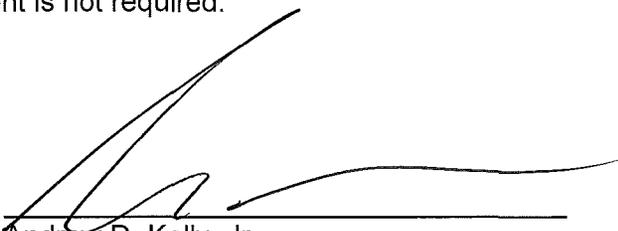
A water quality certification pursuant to Section 401 of the Clean Water Act will be obtained from the FDEP prior to construction. In a letter dated 22 February 2017, the FDEP stated the recommended plan appears to meet the requirements of the water quality certification, pending confirmation based on information to be developed during the pre-construction engineering and design phase. All conditions of the water quality certification will be implemented in order to minimize adverse impacts to water quality.

A determination of consistency with the State of Florida Coastal Zone Management program pursuant to the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 will be obtained from the FDEP prior to construction. In a letter dated 22 February 2017, the Florida State Clearinghouse program stated that the recommended plan appears to be consistent with state Coastal Zone Management plans, pending confirmation based on information to be developed during the pre-construction engineering and design phase. All conditions of the consistency determination shall be implemented in order to minimize adverse impacts to the coastal zone.

Public review of the draft report was completed on 06 January 2017. All comments submitted during the public comment period were responded to in the final report.

Technical, environmental, economic, and cost effectiveness criteria used in the formulation of alternative plans were those specified in the Water Resources Council's 1983 Economic and Environmental Principles and Guidelines for Water and Related Land Resources Implementation Studies. All applicable laws, executive orders, regulations, and local government plans were considered in evaluation of alternatives. Based on this report, 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.

30 NOV 2018
Date


Andrew D. Kelly, Jr.
Colonel, Corps of Engineers
District Commander