

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) hereby gives notice to the public of its intent to reimburse eligible applicants for eligible costs to repair or replace facilities damaged by Hurricane Hermine occurring August 31, 2016 to September 11, 2016. This notice applies to the Public Assistance (PA) project for beach restoration at Turtle Beach in Sarasota, Florida implemented under the authority of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C. §§ 5121-5207. Under a major disaster declaration, FEMA-DR-4280-FL, signed by the President on September 28, 2016, Sarasota County was designated as adversely affected by the disaster and eligible for PA funding.

This public notice concerns activities pertaining to the beach restoration activities in Sarasota County, Florida. The proposed work for the current project is to restore only the amount of sand lost from Hurricane Hermine and any future federally declared disasters, if applicable, as a stand-alone project rather than combined in the next scheduled renourishment. The project has three preferred upland mines including: (1) E.R. Jahna Industries, (2) Garcia Companies, and (3) Stewart Materials. Sand will be obtained from a properly licensed, permitted, and qualified supplier of the material but may require additional environmental review. Approximately 92,505 cubic yards (CY) of lost sand attributable to Hurricane Hermine only would be placed on South Siesta Key and Turtle Beach between Florida R-67 – 345' and R-77 + 489' (GPS Coordinates: 27.235766, -82.527258 to 27.209918, -82.512842). Additionally, approximately 6,450 dune plants would be replaced. If sand is lost due to a future Presidentially-declared disaster, that sand may be included as disaster related sand loss. This proposed work would most immediately increase the level of storm protection to the existing shore, upland habitat, and infrastructure, but would likely require future renourishments for background sand loss replacement to fill the engineered template.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) prepared an Environmental Assessment for the South Siesta Key Beach Restoration Project (Turtle Beach) in October 2015 and issued a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) on their proposed action. FEMA adopted and further detailed these descriptions in a Supplemental Environmental Assessment which can be obtained by contacting FEMA-R4EHP-FLORIDA@fema.dhs.gov for a copy, or viewed at the following websites:

FEMA: https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/documents/fema_SEA_south-siesta-key_09272021.pdf

Sarasota: <https://www.scgov.net/home/showpublisheddocument/37116/636713148811600000>

A hard copy of the SEA is available for viewing at the Sarasota County Administration Building located at 1660 Ringling Boulevard, Sarasota, Florida 34236 and will be accessible to the public Monday through Friday during normal business hours.

The Endangered Species Act requires federal agencies to consult with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) for effects to federally listed threatened and endangered species. Existing Programmatic and Project Specific Biological Opinions with USFWS and NMFS were utilized to minimize impacts to listed species by applying appropriate terms and conditions.

The National Historic Preservation Act requires federal agencies to consider the effect of their undertakings on historic properties. FEMA performed consultation with the State Historic Preservation Office and received concurrence for a determination of *no effect on historic properties listed, or eligible for listing, on the National Register of Historic Places*. Additionally, FEMA contacted six Native American tribes: Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida, Alabama-Quassarte Tribal Town of the Creek Nation, Muscogee Creek Nation, Poarch Band of Creek Indians, Seminole Tribe of Florida, and Seminole Nation of Oklahoma. Two of the tribes

(Muscogee Creek Nation and Poarch Band of Creek Indians) provided concurrence with FEMA's finding of No Historic Properties Affected and the four other tribes did not express any objections to the proposed project.

Presidential Executive Orders 11988 and 11990 require that all federal actions in or affecting the floodplain or wetlands be reviewed for opportunities to relocate and evaluated for social, economic, historical, environmental, legal, and safety considerations. Turtle Beach is located within the coastal high hazard area, otherwise known as the VE zone, per Sarasota County Flood Insurance Rate Map #12115C0207F dated 11/04/2016. The engineered beach is a functionally dependent facility that provides open space uses for recreational and habitat for wildlife in addition to providing a higher level of protection to adjacent properties. If no action is taken to replenish the beach to maintain profile, Turtle Beach would be vulnerable to higher wave action and erosion. In addition, the area would suffer economic and social losses.

This will serve as the final public notice regarding the above-described action funded by the FEMA PA Program. Interested persons may obtain information about these actions or a specific project by writing to the Federal Emergency Management Agency, Region 4, 3005 Chamblee-Tucker Road, Atlanta, Georgia 30341, or by emailing FEMA-R4EHP-FLORIDA@fema.dhs.gov. Comments should be sent in writing with the subject line, FL-4280-PW-00240 Sarasota County-Turtle Beach, at the above address within 30 days of the date of this notice.