

**FEMA PUBLIC NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY
DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
TUCKAHOE MANSION BREAKWATER CONSTRUCTION PROJECT
MARTIN COUNTY, FLORIDA**

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 Irma** occurring during the incident period of **September 4, 2017, to October 18, 2017**. This notice applies to the Public Assistance (PA) project for the Martin County proposed offshore breakwater construction project in Indian River Lagoon located in Jensen Beach, Martin County, 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-4337-FL**, signed by President Trump on **September 10, 2017**, Martin County was designated as adversely affected by the disaster and eligible for PA funding.

This public notice concerns activities pertaining to the Martin County proposed offshore breakwater system construction project adjacent to the historic Tuckahoe Mansion. The proposed construction activities would occur along Indian River Lagoon, 60 to 230 feet offshore from Indian Riverside Park, located at 1707 NE Indian River Drive, Jensen Beach, Florida 34957. The approximate start and end GPS coordinates for the entire length of the breakwater system are 27.224145, -80.211277 to 27.229917, -80.214137.

The proposed project is to construct an offshore breakwater system composed of 24 segments totaling approximately 2,365 linear feet (LF) of shoreline, 2,165 LF of stone toe protection, oyster reefs, and seagrass recruitment area. The project would also include mangrove planting, and removal of invasive or toxic plant species.

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations implementing NEPA (40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Parts 1500 to 1508), FEMA's Instruction 108-1-1 for implementing NEPA, the National Historic Preservation Act, Executive Order 11988, Executive Order 11990, and 44 CFR Part 9, FEMA has prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA). An alternatives analysis was performed, which included the evaluation of the proposed action, and the No Action alternative. Further detailed descriptions of all alternatives may be reviewed in the EA conducted by FEMA or by contacting FEMA-R4EHP-FLORIDA@fema.dhs.gov for a copy. The draft EA is available for public comment and can be viewed on FEMA's and Martin County's websites at the following locations:

FEMA WEBSITE LOCATION:

<https://www.fema.gov/emergency-managers/practitioners/environmental-historic/nepa/environmental-assessment-tuckahoe>

MARTIN COUNTY WEBSITE LOCATION:

<https://www.martin.fl.us/resources/draft-environmental-assessment-for-the-tuckahoe-mansion-breakwater-construction-project>

A hardcopy of the EA is available for review at the Martin County Administration Center, Public Works Department, 2401 SE Monterey Road, Stuart, Florida 34996, during the following hours: 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Please contact the County ADA Coordinator for disability accommodations at (772) 320-3131, the County Administration Office (772) 288-5400, Florida Relay 711, or by completing our accessibility feedback form at www.martin.fl.us/accessibility-feedback.

The Endangered Species Act (ESA) requires federal agencies to consult with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) for effects to federally listed threatened and endangered species. Existing Programmatic Biological Opinions with NMFS and USFWS standard species conditions would be utilized to minimize impacts to listed species by applying appropriate terms and conditions.

The National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) requires federal agencies to take into account the effect of their undertakings on historic properties. FEMA consulted with the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) and received concurrence for a determination of *No Adverse Effect to Historic Properties*. Tribal consultation letters were submitted to six federally recognized tribes with vested interest in Martin County, Florida. None of the tribes 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. The proposed breakwater system would be located within a special flood hazard area, per Martin County Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) #12085C0152 H, dated February 19, 2020. The breakwater system is a functionally dependent facility that provides a higher level of flood protection to adjacent areas and would also support habitat for wildlife. If no action is taken the shoreline would continue to be vulnerable to higher wave action and erosion.

This notice serves as the final public notice regarding the above-described action proposed for funded by the FEMA PA program. Interested persons may obtain information about these actions 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, "PA 4337-05356, Tuckahoe Mansion Breakwater Construction Project" at the above address within 15 days of the date of this notice.