

## 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 Matthew** occurring **October 3-19, 2016**, **Hurricane Irma** occurring **September 4 - October 18, 2017**, and **Hurricane Dorian** occurring **September 1 to 9, 2019**. This notice applies to the Public Assistance (PA) project for beach restoration of Indian River County Sector 7 Beach, 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-4283-FL** signed by the President on **October 8, 2016 and amended October 17, 2016, October 19, 2016, October 24, 2016, October 25, 2016, October 27, 2016, November 4, 2016, and December 12, 2016**, Indian River County was designated as adversely affected by the disaster and eligible for PA funding. Indian River County was again designated under a major disaster declaration **FEMA-DR-4337-FL** signed by the President on **September 10, 2017 and amended September 11, 2017, September 13, 2017, September 14, 2017, September 16, 2017, September 18, 2017, September 21, 2017, October 2, 2017, October 5, 2017, October 11, 2017, October 18, 2017, January 10, 2018, April 2, 2018, and August 29, 2018**. Lastly, Indian River County was designated under a major disaster declaration **FEMA-DR-4468-FL** signed by the President on **October 4, 2019 and amended October 17, 2019 and October 21, 2019**.

This public notice concerns activities pertaining to the beach restoration activities in Sector 7 of Indian River County. The project will include renourishment to the engineered beach profile with a new “no impact design.” The proposed project includes replacing an estimated combined total of 294,496 cubic yards (CY) of fill. Of this total, approximately 198,000 CY is hurricane related: 93,300 CY of sand was lost during Hurricane Matthew, 43,100 CY of sand was lost during Hurricane Irma, and 61,600 CY of sand was lost during Hurricane Dorian. Sand lost from background erosion will be placed concurrently to fill the beach template. Additional sand may be placed if the beach is further eroded by storm events during the 2021 hurricane season. The total sand placed will not exceed the designed beach profile and permitting requirements. The project site is located between FDEP Monument R-97 (GPS Coordinates: 27.6143389, -80.343343) on the north end and R-108 (GPS Coordinates: 27.587848, -80.330151) on the south end. Sand will either be sourced from approved upland sites or the previously permitted offshore borrow pit. If the offshore borrow area is used, a hydraulic dredge would be used.

In 2005, an Environmental Assessment (EA) was prepared by Dial Cordy and Associates, Inc. for Indian River County Coastal Engineering Division. Based on this Environmental Assessment, the USACE issued a statement of finding, which includes a Finding of No Significant Impacts (FONSI) on their proposed action on December 12, 2006. An alternatives analysis was performed as part of the EA, which included the evaluation of the currently proposed action and the no action alternative. Further detailed descriptions of all alternatives may be reviewed in the EA utilized by the USACE (SAJ-2001-3870) found at [https://www.ircgov.com/PublicWorks/Coastal/Documents/Sector\\_7\\_Environmental\\_Assessment.pdf](https://www.ircgov.com/PublicWorks/Coastal/Documents/Sector_7_Environmental_Assessment.pdf)) or by contacting [FEMA-R4EHP-Florida@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:FEMA-R4EHP-Florida@fema.dhs.gov) for a copy.

FEMA has prepared a Supplemental Environmental Assessment (SEA) based on the previous EA conducted by the USACE. The SEA is available for public comment and can be viewed on FEMA's and the applicant's website at the following locations:

[https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/documents/fema\\_ehp-sea-indian-river-county-sector-7-beach-restoration.pdf](https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/documents/fema_ehp-sea-indian-river-county-sector-7-beach-restoration.pdf)

[https://ircgov.com/Public\\_Notices/20211203.pdf](https://ircgov.com/Public_Notices/20211203.pdf)

A hard copy of the SEA is available for viewing at the Indian River County Administration Building A, Public Works Office located at 1801 27th Street, Vero Beach, Florida 32960 during normal business hours.

The Endangered Species Act requires federal agencies to consult with US 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 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 Adverse Effect on Historic Properties. Additionally, FEMA contacted six federally recognized 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. Sector 7 Beach in Indian River County is located within the coastal high hazard area, otherwise known as the VE zone, per Indian River County Flood Insurance Rate Map Panel Numbers 12061C0377H and 12061C0379H, dated December 4, 2012. 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, Sector 7 of Indian River County 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](mailto:FEMA-R4EHP-Florida@fema.dhs.gov). Comments should be sent in writing with the subject line, "DR-4283, DR-4337, and DR-4468, Indian River County Sector 7" at the above address within 15 days of the date of this notice.