

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 the **Hurricane Matthew** occurring **October 3 to 19, 2016**, **Hurricane Irma** occurring **September 4 to 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 3 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 3 of Indian River County. The proposed projects will replace sand lost along approximately 6.5 miles of beaches in Indian River County between FDEP monuments R-20 (27.81158, -80.42233) and R-55 (27.72468, -80.37893). Indian River County is proposing to replace approximately 207,576.5 cubic yards (CY) of lost sand attributable to Hurricane Matthew, 128,300 CY of lost sand attributable to Hurricane Irma, and 72,200 CY of lost sand attributable to Hurricane Dorian. Additionally, 214,323.5 CY of background erosional losses will be placed concurrently to fill the beach template of 622,400 CY. Additional sand may be placed if the beach is further eroded by storm events during the 2020 or 2021 hurricane seasons. The total sand placed will not exceed the designed beach profile and permitting requirements. Indian River County will obtain beach compatible sand from commercial upland sources or from an offshore borrow area using hopper or hydraulic dredging. Additionally, the hurricanes caused significant loss of dune stabilization plants. Therefore, the Applicant plans to also replace approximately 166,584 plants during the sand replenishment activities. The project may be paused to occur outside of sea turtle nesting season. It is expected that the work will begin in January 2021 and pause on April 30, 2021 to avoid impacts to sea turtle nesting. The placement of sand during this process will be in the full cross-section configuration of the beach renourishment plan. The placement of sand will then start back up on November 1, 2021 after sea turtle nesting season is over.

An alternatives analysis was performed, and Statement of Findings was issued by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for the 2010 permitted action. This includes detailed descriptions of all alternatives. Further detailed descriptions of all alternatives may be reviewed in the Environmental Assessment (EA) conducted by the USACE by contacting FOIA-SAJ@usace.army.mil 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_supplemental-environmental-assessment-indian-river-county-sector-beach-restoration.pdf

https://www.ircgov.com/Public_Notices/Sector3-Draft-SEA.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 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. Sector 3 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 #12009C0825G, dated March 17, 2019 and #12061C0232H, dated December 4, 2012. The engineered beach is a functionally dependent facility that provides open space uses for recreational activities 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 the beach profile, Sector 3 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@fema.dhs.gov. Comments should be sent in writing with the subject line, "FL-4283-PW-00605 and FL-4337-PW-03021, Indian River County Sector 3", at the above address within 15 days of the date of this notice.