

# **SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION REPORT**

## **FOLLY BEACH SHORE PROTECTION PROJECT**

*US Army Corps of Engineers, Charleston District (USACE)*

*September 2018*

This Supplemental Information Report (SIR) was prepared in accordance with Section 13(d) of Engineer Regulation (ER) 200-2-2, *Procedures for Implementing the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)* and the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) *Regulations for Implementing the Procedural Provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act* (40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Pts. 1500-1508). Specific details for the project are provided in the following documents and are hereby incorporated by reference in accordance with NEPA:

Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for Beach Erosion Control and Hurricane Protection for Folly Beach, South Carolina. US Army Corps of Engineers, Charleston District. July 11, 1980.

Final Detailed Project Report, Charleston Harbor, Folly Beach, South Carolina. US Army Corps of Engineers, Charleston District. August 1987.

Folly Beach, South Carolina, Special PED Report to Reevaluate Federal Justification for Storm Damage Reduction. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Charleston District. August 1988.

Folly Beach Shore Protection Project: Final Environmental Assessment. US Army Corps of Engineers, Charleston District. April 1991.

Folly Beach Shore Protection Project: Final Environmental Assessment. US Army Corps of Engineers, Charleston District. January 2005.

Folly Beach Shore Protection Project: Final Environmental Assessment. US Army Corps of Engineers and Bureau of Ocean Energy Management. November 2013.

Folly Beach Shore Protection Project: Final Environmental Assessment for Folly River Borrow Area. US Army Corps of Engineers, Charleston District. December 2017.

This SIR accompanies the Final Environmental Assessment (EA) and the Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the Folly Beach Shore Protection Project (December 2017). It is intended to document changes and any environmental considerations regarding restoration to the full construction template for Folly Beach, SC, per the 2018 Supplemental Appropriations Bill for Disaster Relief. The current approved action includes only partial construction of the authorized template. The proposed change addressed in this report includes the additional amount of material needed to complete restoration to the fully-authorized construction template and the anticipated timing of the additional construction. The design, conditions, and environmental considerations described in previous environmental documentation are still generally valid. Supplementation of

the existing NEPA documentation is not required because the proposed change does not represent a substantial change to the Project relevant to environmental concerns, and does not present significant new circumstances or information relevant to environmental concerns pertaining to the proposed change nor its impacts (see 40 CFR 1502.9(c)).

## **CHANGES TO THE CURRENT 2018 ACTION**

### ***BACKGROUND:***

The Folly Beach Shore Protection Project was authorized by Section 501 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986, Public Law 99-662, as amended, and modified by the Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act of 1992, Public Law 102-104. The purpose of the project is to reduce the risks of storm induced damage to commercial and residential property. The originally authorized project (modified by a 1991 General Design Memorandum), provided for a protective berm along 28,200 feet (5.34 miles) of shoreline starting just south of the former U.S. Coast Guard Loran Station (Station 288+90) and included the Charleston County Park on the west end of Folly Island (Station 10+00). The protective berm is 15 feet wide at elevation 9.0 feet NGVD with a foreshore slope of 1 vertical to 10 horizontal to the mean high water line at elevation 3 ft. NGVD then 1 vertical to 30 horizontal. The authorized project also provided for periodic nourishment every eight years (1.7 million cy) for four cycles, with the final periodic nourishment for the last 10-year interval (2.1 million cy). The project was modified in 2005 (through an Engineering Documentation Report) to add 670 feet to the north end of the project. The total project length was increased from 28,220 feet to 28,890 feet, resulting in a revised total length of approximately 5.47 miles. The transition zone on the north end now begins at Station 282+00 and extends 670 feet to a timber groin at Station 288+90.

Initial project construction was completed in 1993, and involved the placement of approximately 2.7 million cubic yards (cy) of sand on Folly Beach from the Folly River. The shoreline was nourished again in 2005 with approximately 2.3 million cy of sand. A partial renourishment occurred in 2007 with approximately 490,000 cy of sand. Folly Beach was nourished once again in 2014 with approximately 1.4 million cy of sand from an offshore borrow area that was located in both state and federal waters.

### ***CURRENT APPROVED ACTION:***

The current 2018 action for the Folly Beach Shore Protection Project involves a partial emergency rehabilitation of Folly Beach pursuant to the Food Control and Coastal Emergency Act (P.L. 84-99), 33 USC 701n, as a result of a number of significant storm events. For the current emergency partial renourishment, the USACE is placing approximately 750,000 cy of sand from the Folly River along approximately 13,000 linear feet on the north end of Folly Beach to restore it to the authorized template. The sand source (borrow area) in the Folly River lies within the Bird Key Unit (M-07) of the Coastal Barrier Resources System established by the Coastal Barrier Resources Act (CBRA) [16 U.S.C. 3501 et seq.]. The USACE consulted with the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), as the Federal agency responsible for administering CBRA, and officially requested concurrence that the use of sand from the Bird Key Unit of the CBRS for the emergency rehabilitation of Folly Beach is consistent with the purposes of the CBRA. In July 2017, the USFWS concurred that the current action was allowable under the CBRA.

Placement of an additional 200,000 cy of material onto Folly Beach from the Folly River navigation channel was also planned as part of the current action, but not implemented because funding was not available at the time.

Construction began in early July 2018 to place the 750,000 cy of material onto the north end of Folly Beach, and is currently underway at the time of publication of this SIR. It is expected be completed later in September 2018; however, as noted in previous NEPA documents, renourishment schedules could change due to contractual issues, inclement weather, equipment failure, or other unforeseen difficulties. The project is being constructed with a hydraulic cutterhead dredge, booster pump, pipeline, and land-based heavy equipment (i.e. bulldozers and front-end loaders). The pipeline runs from the borrow area through the Folly River, then across marsh and developed land onto the beach. Sand from the borrow area is being discharged as a slurry, and temporary training dikes of sand are being used to contain the discharge and control the fill placement during construction. Fill sections are being graded by land-based equipment to achieve the desired beach profile.

#### ***DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED CHANGES:***

Portions of Folly Beach are still below the authorized level of protection, putting lives and infrastructure at risk to future storm impacts. To restore the full construction template on Folly Beach, an increase to the current partial renourishment volume of 750,000 cy is proposed. This increase includes an additional 100,000 cy of sand to be dredged from the Folly River borrow area and placed along approximately one mile of shoreline. In addition, funding has been secured for the 200,000 cy of material from the Folly River navigation channel that was originally planned for the project. The total volume of approximately 1,050,000 cy is within the range of material coordinated with USFWS under the CBRA for use of the Folly River borrow area (see Appendix 5 of the December 2018 EA). Collectively, the additional sand will result in restoring the full template along the remainder of the authorized project area. As such, full construction will be completed in 2018 and will constitute the third scheduled periodic renourishment in the project lifecycle.

The work is expected to commence in September 2018 when the current approved action of partial renourishment is completed. The same dredging equipment and methods will be implemented. The one change to the project design is that the pipeline corridor for renourishing the southern end of the beach (County Park area) will now run from the Folly River across the marsh at the County Park, traversing an existing City of Folly Beach easement. This pipeline corridor has been utilized for past renourishment efforts. This construction is expected to finish in November 2018.

#### **ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS**

Environmental impacts of the Folly Beach Shore Protection Project have been assessed in multiple, previous NEPA documents (incorporated by reference above). The findings of those documents are still generally valid. Although the proposed changes to the current action are not substantial nor inconsistent with actions taken for the project in the past, they have been re-evaluated for compliance with other environmental protection statutes, regulations and executive orders. The USACE has determined that there are no significant new environmental considerations and that the same conservation and protective measures applied to the current action will be extended to, and

adequate for, the proposed changes. The USFWS, National Marine Fisheries Service, and South Carolina Coastal Zone Management Program have been informed directly of the proposed changes. As a result, the USFWS issued a revised Biological Opinion for the project on 11 July 2018 to make a minor amendment to the incidental take statement for nesting sea turtles. No additional Coastal Barrier Resources Act coordination for use of the Folly River borrow area is required since the increased volume is still within the previously approved range coordinated with USFWS in 2017. Additionally, sufficient material is available within the Folly River borrow area based on geotechnical analysis completed in September 2017.

## SUMMARY OF DECISION

The proposed changes to the Project have been reviewed by the USACE for environmental compliance, including with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969. Supplementation of the Project NEPA documentation is not required because the proposed action does not represent a substantial change to the Project and does not present significant new circumstances or information relevant to environmental concerns pertaining to the proposed action or its impacts (see 40 CFR 1502.9(c)). The NEPA documentation incorporated by reference in this document can be obtained by contacting Bethney Ward at [Bethney.P.Ward@usace.army.mil](mailto:Bethney.P.Ward@usace.army.mil) or (843) 329-8162. Some of the documents are also available online for download (in PDF format) at <http://www.sac.usace.army.mil/Missions/CivilWorks/NEPADocuments.aspx>.

DATE: 17 Sep 18



JEFFREY S. PALAZZINI  
Lieutenant Colonel, EN  
Commander, U.S. Army Engineer District,  
Charleston