



**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY**  
CHARLESTON DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
69A HAGOOD AVENUE  
CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA 29403-5107

# **DRAFT FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**

**MYRTLE BEACH STORM DAMAGE REDUCTION PROJECT  
CITY OF MYRTLE BEACH – REACH 2  
HORRY COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA**

January 2018

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Charleston District (USACE), to evaluate the effects of proposed Federal activities on the human environment. This Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) summarizes the results of the USACE evaluation, and documents the USACE's conclusions. The USACE is proposing to perform emergency beach renourishment at City of Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, pursuant to the Food Control and Coastal Emergency Act (P.L. 84-99), 33 USC 701n. Hurricane Matthew and Hurricane Irma caused significant erosion and dune loss, putting life, property, and habitat at risk. The proposed renourishment action at City of Myrtle Beach, also referred to as Reach 2, is part of the ongoing Myrtle Beach Storm Damage Reduction Project.

The Myrtle Beach Storm Damage Reduction Project was authorized by Section 101 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1990, Public Law 101-640, dated November 28, 1990 (WRDA 90). The authorized project required the USACE to construct a protective beach across three reaches – North Myrtle Beach (Reach 1), City of Myrtle Beach (Reach 2), and Garden City/Surfside Beach (Reach 3). Periodic nourishment is required every 10 years at Reach 1, and every 8 years with one 10-year effort at Reaches 2 and 3. Each reach has a different sponsor. The Reach 1 sponsor is North Myrtle Beach; the Reach 2 sponsor is the City of Myrtle Beach; and the Reach 3 sponsor is Horry County. The City of Myrtle Beach (Reach 2) project area extends from Station 575 to Station 1050, which ends south of Singleton Swash. The length of Reach 2 is approximately 47,500 linear feet, or nine miles of shoreline.

The proposed action is for renourishment to the City of Myrtle Beach (Reach 2) of the Myrtle Beach Storm Damage Reduction Project to the authorized project template, using material from portions of the offshore Cane South borrow area in state territorial waters. The template consists of a protective storm berm with a top elevation of 9.0 NAVD 88 and a crest width of 20 feet and fore slope of 1-vertical to 20-horizontal down to natural ground. There is also an advanced nourishment berm that acts as a buffer for the protective storm berm against long term erosional forces. The advanced nourishment berm has a top elevation of 6.0 NAVD 88 and a crest width of approximately 150 feet and fore slope of 1-vertical to 5-horizontal down to elevation 2.0 NAVD 88 then a fore slope of 1-vertical to 20-horizontal down to the bottom. The amount of material required to provide the full authorized level of protection to the City of Myrtle Beach (Reach 2) is approximately 1,100,000 cubic yards. The proposed action also includes placement of dune grass, dune fencing, and dune walkovers.

The proposed action will be constructed with a hopper dredge, booster pump, and land-based heavy equipment (i.e. bulldozers and front-end loaders). A pipeline will run from the offshore borrow area at Cane South onto the beach. Side scan sonar and magnetometer surveys will be performed on the pipeline corridor prior to placement. The borrow area and placement area have already been surveyed during previous construction actions. Beach-compatible sand from the offshore source will be discharged as a slurry. During construction, temporary training dikes of sand will be used to contain the discharge and control the fill placement. Fill sections will be graded with land-based equipment to achieve the desired beach profile. Due to the emergency nature of the beach renourishment and associated funding constraints, the work is expected to occur from May to November 2018. However, the schedule could change due to contractual issues, inclement weather, equipment failure, or other unforeseen difficulties.

A Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) has been prepared for the proposed action at the City of Myrtle Beach (Reach 2). The purpose of the EA is to determine whether the proposed action involves either a substantial change to the project, or significant new circumstances or information relevant to environmental concerns and bearing on the proposed action or its impacts (see 33 CFR 230.13(b) and 40 CFR 1502.9(c)). Reach 2 of the Myrtle Beach Storm Damage Reduction Project last underwent periodic renourishment in 2008. The USACE has described the environment and evaluated environmental impacts for the Myrtle Beach Storm Damage Reduction Project in numerous previous NEPA documents, including a Feasibility Report in 1987, an Environmental Impact Statement in 1993, and an EA and FONSI in 2007. The findings from these previous NEPA documents are generally still relevant to the proposed action, and are incorporated by reference into the current Draft EA for Reach 2. Additionally, an EA was prepared and a FONSI was signed for emergency renourishment at Garden City/Surfside Beach (Reach 3) in 2016 and for North Myrtle Beach (Reach 1) in 2017. The findings of these most recent NEPA documents for Reaches 1 and 3 of the Myrtle Beach Storm Damage Reduction Project also support the findings of the Draft EA and FONSI for the proposed Reach 2 action.

The USACE has determined that the proposed action for renourishment of City of Myrtle Beach (Reach 2) of the Myrtle Beach Storm Damage Reduction Project does not involve a substantial change to the project, nor does it entail significant new circumstances or information relevant to environmental concerns and bearing on the proposed action or its impacts. Accordingly, the preparation of a supplemental Environmental Impact Statement is not warranted, and the

issuance of a FONSI is appropriate. The Draft EA for the proposed action can be downloaded from the internet (in PDF format) at <http://www.sac.usace.army.mil/Missions/CivilWorks/NEPADocuments.aspx> or a copy may be obtained by contacting Ms. Bethney Ward at [Bethney.P.Ward@usace.army.mil](mailto:Bethney.P.Ward@usace.army.mil) or (843) 329-8162.

Date \_\_\_\_\_

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

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