JOINT PUBLIC NOTICE

CHARLESTON DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS 69A Hagood Avenue Charleston, South Carolina 29403-5107 and the S.C. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL OFFICE OF OCEAN AND COASTAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT 1362 McMillan Avenue, Suite 400 Charleston, South Carolina 29405

REGULATORY DIVISION Refer to: P/N #SAC-2010-1041-2IG-Modification

16 JANUARY 2013

Pursuant to Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (33 U.S.C. 403), Sections 401 and 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344), and the South Carolina Coastal Zone Management Act (48-39-10 et.seq.) an application has been submitted to the Department of the Army and the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control by

THE CITY OF THE ISLE OF PALMS C/O STEVEN B. TRAYNUM COASTAL SCIENCE & ENGINEERING POST OFFICE BOX 8056 COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA 29202

for a modification to an existing permit to allow two additional events to perform sand scraping and transfer sand to eroded areas in the

ATLANTIC OCEAN

and on the beach at a location limited to the area between 53rd Avenue and an existing groin near the 17th tee of the Links Course, on the northeastern end of the Isle of Palms, Charleston County, South Carolina (the project area begins at approximately Latitude 32.79861°-Longitude - 79.74670° and ends near Latitude 32.82000°- Longitude -79.72218°).

In order to give all interested parties an opportunity to express their views

NOTICE

is hereby given that written statements regarding the proposed work will be received by the **Corps** until

15 Days from the Date of this Notice,

and SCDHEC will receive written statements regarding the proposed work until

30 Days from the Date of this Notice

from those interested in the activity and whose interests may be affected by the proposed work.

The proposed work consists of modification to the existing permit to allow the applicant to increase the number of sand scraping events from two to four over the life of the permit and change the expiration date of the S. C. Department of Health and Environmental Control OCRM permit to coincide with the Department of the Army permit, which is 31 March, 2017. The

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applicant would still be limited to the total volume of sand that can be scraped and transferred under the existing permit, which is a maximum of 500,000 cubic yards. The applicant would also still be limited to the currently allowable volume of sand scraped during one event, which is 250,000 cubic yards. The applicant has proposed that the special conditions of the current permit be required for the two additional sand scraping events if the modification is granted. The applicant has stated that the modification is necessary since the 100 ft "trigger line" has been reached along a portion of the project area in the vicinity of the Ocean Club building and the 18th hole of the Links Course.

The existing state and federal permits allow the applicant to perform sand redistribution along the northeast end of Isle of Palms to mitigate recent erosion and in anticipation of future erosion associated with shoal-bypass events and inlet delta dynamics. Conditions of the permit limit the number of redistribution events to two, each of which can involve moving up to 250,000 cy of sand from the beach in stable or accretional areas to eroded areas. The permit stipulates that sand can only be borrowed from areas of the beach with at least 400 ft of width seaward of structures (defined by a "buffer line" in the permit drawings). No excavations are allowed landward of the buffer line. Also, a 100 ft "trigger line" is established which provides a threshold minimum beach condition before a project is justified (ie, the +5 ft NAVD contour needs to be less than 100ft from a building before a project is done).

The applicant has stated that the permit modification is being requested due to the following:

"1) The 100 ft trigger has been met along a portion of the project area (Sheet 2 of 5). Erosion has led to loss of dune area and is impacting walkovers and infrastructure. CSE expects erosion in the area to continue, and perhaps worsen over the next year due to the ongoing shoal-bypass event. Some type of erosion mitigation will be required to ensure that the ocean does not encroach on buildings.

2) The ongoing shoal bypass event is much larger than typical bypassing events at IOP and is thereby taking more time to progress. Based on the July 2012 condition, the oncoming shoal and sandbars on the landward (southwestern) side of the Dewees Inlet main channel contain ~2 million cy of sand above local closure depth. This compares to typical events contain less than 500,000 cy (Gaudiano 1998). This shoal will have major impacts on the IOP shoreline for several years, but it is not close enough yet to use as a borrow source. Managing shoal-induced erosion will require more flexible mitigation options.

3) The City of the Isle of Palms (applicant) wishes to minimize the number of scraping events by doing fewer but larger projects but must coordinate work with the timing of shoal bypass events. The current condition requires something be done; however, a large project is unfeasible at the present time due to the shoal configuration.

4) A permit modification is the applicant's preferred alternative compared to additional smallscale additions of upland sand. If the City uses the remaining permitted event this winter (without a modification), they will not have a mechanism to mitigate potentially severe erosion, which is expected to occur as the offshore shoal gets closer to the shoreline. If nothing is done, continued erosion will pressure property owners to place emergency sandbags." The purpose of the proposed work is to protect properties on the Isle of Palms and "ensure that the beach will be preserved over the next several years in response to what is currently being observed in the delta."

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NOTE: Plans depicting the work described in this notice are available and will be provided, upon receipt of a written request, to anyone that is interested in obtaining a copy of the plans for the specific project. The request must identify the project of interest by public notice number and a self-addressed stamped envelope must also be provided for mailing the drawings to you. Your request for drawings should be addressed to the

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers ATTN: REGULATORY DIVISION 69A Hagood Avenue Charleston, South Carolina 29403-5107

The District Engineer has concluded that the discharges associated with this project, both direct and indirect, should be reviewed by the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control in accordance with provisions of Section 401 of the Clean Water Act. As such, this notice constitutes a request, on behalf of the applicant, for certification that this project will comply with applicable effluent limitations and water quality standards. The work shown on this application must also be certified as consistent with applicable provisions the Coastal Zone Management Program (15 CFR 930). The District Engineer will not process this application to a conclusion until such certifications are received. The applicant is hereby advised that supplemental information may be required by the State to facilitate the review.

This notice initiates the Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) consultation requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. Implementation of the proposed project would impact (23.2) acres of estuarine substrates and emergent wetlands utilized by various life stages of species comprising the red drum, shrimp, and snapper-grouper management complexes. Our initial determination is that the proposed action would not have a substantial individual or cumulative adverse impact on EFH or fisheries managed by the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). Our final determination relative to project impacts and the need for mitigation measures is subject to review by and coordination with the NMFS.

Pursuant to Section 7(c) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (as amended), the District Engineer has consulted the most recently available information and has determined that the project is not likely to adversely affect any Federally endangered, threatened, or proposed species or result in the destruction or adverse modification of designated or proposed critical habitat. This public notice serves as a request for written concurrence from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and/or the National Marine Fisheries Service on this determination.

Pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), this public notice also constitutes a request to Indian Tribes to notify the District Engineer of any historic properties of religious and cultural significance to them that may be affected by the proposed undertaking.

In accordance with the NHPA, the District Engineer has also consulted the latest published version of the National Register of Historic Places for the presence or absence of registered properties, or properties listed as being eligible for inclusion therein, and this worksite is not included as a registered property or property listed as being eligible for inclusion in the Register. To insure that other cultural resources that the District Engineer is not aware of are not overlooked, this public notice also serves as a request to the State Historic Preservation Office to provide any information it may have with regard to historic and cultural resources.

Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider this application. Requests for a public hearing shall state,

with particularity, the reasons for holding a public hearing.

The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact including cumulative impacts of the activity on the public interest and will include application of the guidelines promulgated by the Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), under authority of Section 404(b) of the Clean Water Act and, as appropriate, the criteria established under authority of Section 102 of the Marine Protection, Research and Sanctuaries Act of 1972, as amended. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefit which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the project must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the project will be considered including the cumulative effects thereof; among those are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, historic properties, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, flood plain values, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water guality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people. A permit will be granted unless the District Engineer determines that it would be contrary to the public interest. In cases of conflicting property rights, the Corps of Engineers cannot undertake to adjudicate rival claims.

The Corps of Engineers is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, state, and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this activity. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps of Engineers to determine whether to issue, modify, condition or deny a permit for this project. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and the other public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment and/or an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the activity.

If there are any questions concerning this public notice, please contact Mary Hope Green at 843-329-8044 or toll free at 1-866-329-8187.









