

### DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, MOBILE DISTRICT

P.O. BOX 2288 MOBILE, AL 36628-0001

CESAM-RD-M PUBLIC NOTICE NO. SAM-2010-00115-TMZ **April 16, 2020** 

#### JOINT PUBLIC NOTICE

#### U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

# MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY OFFICE OF POLLUTION CONTROL (MDEQ)

#### MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF MARINE RESOURCES

## PROPOSED BEACH RE-NOURISHMENT PROJECT. MISSISSIPPI SOUND CITY OF WAVELAND HANCOCK COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

#### TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

This District has received an application for a Department of the Army permit pursuant to Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (33 USC 403), Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 USC 1344), and Section 103 of the Marine Protection, Research and Sanctuaries Act of 1972 (33 USC 1413). Please communicate this information to interested parties.

**APPLICANT:** Hancock County Board of Supervisors

Post Office Box 2795

Bay St. Louis, Mississippi 39521

**WATERWAY AND LOCATION:** Mississippi Sound, City of Waveland, Hancock County, Mississippi. The proposed project area extends from Bay St. Louis (south of Highway 90) to Bayou Caddy.

**PROPOSED WORK:** The Hancock County Board of Supervisors (HCBOS) proposes to renourish eroded portions of the sand beach along Beach Boulevard in Hancock County by using conventional earth moving equipment to retrieve accumulated sands in near shore shallow waters. The project will occur annually and address sections of the beach that have eroded from daily waves, winds and currents, as well as storm events. The proposed project will be conducted during the winter months during extreme low tides when the sand bars are exposed. Portions of the beach most affected by erosion will be re-nourished by retrieving sands accumulated near shore, dewatering the sands on adjacent, existing beach, distributing the sands along eroded portions of the beach, and finally grading the sands to restore the beach to its originally permitted condition. Following the placement of

retrieved sands on eroded beach areas, dune vegetation and sand fencing will be installed to stabilize the sand and prevent wind erosion. This activity has been permitted in the past for Hancock County with the most recent permit issued in 2003 (expired 2008-DMR-03422 and MS03-00323-M). This activity has been permitted in the past for Hancock County with a permit issued in 2003 (expired 2008-DMR-03422 and MS03-00323-M). The permit was re- evaluated and a new permit was issued in 2010 with a time extension in 2015. The present expiration date is September 25, 2020.

The proposed project area extends for approximately 9 miles from Bay St. Louis (south of Highway 90 (30.31918, -89.42461) to Bayou Caddy (30.31918.-89.32231). Sand beach is present, in varying widths, from Bay St. Louis to Waveland. Continuing southwest from Waveland, the beach begins to taper toward the seawall and Beach Boulevard at Buccaneer State Park. Eventually, only the seawall is present in front of the park except for a small stretch of beach where marsh/aquatic vegetation is present. Once past Buccaneer State Park, another area of beach with marsh/aquatic vegetation is present. This stretch of beach ends just prior to a large public pier in Clermont Harbor. At the pier, no beach or vegetation is present (only seawall). This condition continues until the newly constructed beach (2004) is reached. The beach continues south until it reaches Bayou Caddy.

Two specific areas are excluded from the project. These areas were submitted to the USCOE in two previous permit modification requests. These areas are described as: "Portions of the originally proposed project area that are currently without sand beach in front of the seawall; this includes the areas primarily along Buccaneer State Park and Clermont Harbor from 30.25193, -89.42099 to 30.26564, -89.38837, respectively" and "The area between the American Legion Pier at the end of Washington St. and the rock jetty south of St. Stanislaus from 30.30315, -89.22966 to 30.30563, -89.32833; this is an area that has not been maintained by the County and no re-nourishment is intended for this area." With regard to the marsh/aquatic vegetation mentioned above, both of the noted locations occur in the areas excluded from the project; therefore, there will be no impact to marsh and aquatic vegetation as part of this project.

Technical data and field observations indicate a large quantity of the sand that erodes from the man-made beaches accumulates in off-shore areas within 500 feet of the shoreline. This material is available for beach re-nourishment. Projects in Harrison County and Hancock County have shown this material can be excavated in an economically and environmentally acceptable manner, and can provide a low cost source of sand for beach re-nourishment. By utilizing this sand, Hancock County can perform annual re-nourishment activities and reduce the need for the more extensive hydraulic dredging re-nourishment projects.

An evaluation of the Hancock County Beaches will be conducted annually to determine the portions of the beach that are in critical need for re-nourishment. These portions of the beach will be identified as priority areas. The annual evaluation will also include surveys to identify the availability of near shore sands, in priority areas, to be used for re-nourishment. The amount of material to be removed will vary based on the amount of material available, depth of cut and amount of material needed for re-nourishment of the identified priority areas each year. Near shore sand retrieval will occur in borrow areas of varying

dimensions with respect to the needs of the priority areas identified, with a maximum section no larger than 2000 feet long by 500 feet wide, located a minimum of 250' from the existing seawall as indicated on the "typical" drawings provided. The beach re-nourishment area will have a design width of approximately 200 feet, plus an intertidal zone of 50 feet. Sand will be removed in lifts of six inches or less with the total excavation depth not to exceed one foot. The annual proposed amount of retrieved sand is 100,000 cubic yards. No dredging will be utilized for the beach re-nourishment projects. In the event of a damaging tropical storm or hurricane, HCBOS proposes to retrieve up to 300,000 cubic yards of sand to restore the beaches.

The applicant has applied for state water quality (WQ) certification in accordance with Section 401(a)(1) of the Clean Water Act, and for coastal zone (CZ) consistency in accordance with the State Coastal Zone Management Program. Upon completion of the required advertising and public comment review, a determination relative to WQ certification and CZ consistency will be made by the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality and the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources.

This public notice is being distributed to all known interested persons in order to assist in developing facts on which a decision by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers can be based. For accuracy and completeness of the record, all data in support of or in opposition to the proposed work should be submitted in writing setting forth sufficient detail to furnish a clear understanding of the reasons for support or opposition.

The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact including cumulative impacts of the proposed activity on the public interest. 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 proposal must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the proposal 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, floodplain values, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, mineral needs, consideration of property ownership and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people.

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 proposed 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 proposal. 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 proposed activity.

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 public hearings shall state with particularity, the reasons for holding a public hearing.

Evaluation of the probable impacts involving deposits of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States will include the application of guidelines established by the Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

In accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, and Appendix C of 33 CFR 325, the undertaking defined in this notice is being considered for the potential to affect historic properties. In accordance with Appendix C of 33 CFR 325, the Corps has determined the permit area consists of the sand beach and borrow areas present for approximately 9 miles between Bay St. Louis to Bayou Caddy. The National Register of Historic Places has been consulted and no properties listed in or eligible for the National Register are known to exist which would be affected by the proposed work]. The Corps has made a preliminary determination that proposed project would have no effect on historic properties. No historic properties or other cultural resources were identified on the site by the Mississippi State Historic Preservation Office as determined as part of the original permit authorization review process (MS03-00323-M), or again following review of the Public Notice per letter from the Mississippi Department of Archives and History dated June 10, 2010 (MDAH Project Log #06-015-10). However, we are seeking comment from the State Historic Preservation Officer, federally-recognized American Indian tribes, local historical societies, museums, universities, the National Park Service, and the general public regarding the existence or the potential for existence of significant cultural and historic properties which may be affected by the work. This action constitutes the full extent of cultural resources investigations unless comment to this notice is received documenting that significant sites or properties exist which may be affected by this work, or that adequately documents that a potential exists for the location of significant sites or properties within the project area.

A preliminary review of this application, the U.S. Department of the Interior List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants and the National Marine Fisheries Service list of Mississippi's Threatened and Endangered Species indicate the proposed activity will have no effect on listed species such as the West Indian Manatee, Wood Stork, Dusky Gopher Frog, Loggerhead, Green, or Kemp's Ridley turtles, or the Gulf Sturgeon, but may effect but not likely to adversely affect the Red-Knot and Piping Plover. As a measure to preserve piping plover wintering critical habitat, the permittee shall protect the wrack line on Hancock County beaches within the project area by limiting the work zone to 500 to 1,000foot incremental sections during the months the time period 1 August through 31 March each year per the informal consultation recommendations of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) as stated in their July 17, 2015 correspondence (2015-CPA-0146). Impacts to the habitat are expected to be temporary in nature (6 to 24 months for benthic community to recolonize) and similar to the impacts previously outlined for the piping plover in the 2010 consultation process for this project. Consultation will be required for the Red Knot. This notice serves as request to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and National Marine Fisheries Service for information on whether any listed or proposed to be listed endangered or threatened species may be present in the area which would be affected by the proposed activity.

This notice initiates the Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) consultation requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. The proposal would impact approximately 9 miles of unvegetated sandy bottom substrates; no marsh or aquatic vegetation will be affected which is utilized by various life stages of species included in Fishery Management Plans for Coastal Migratory Pelagics, Red Drum, Reef Fish, Shrimp, Corals, or Highly Migratory Species. Our initial determination is that the proposed action would not adversely impact EFH or associated fisheries managed by the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council or the National Marine Fisheries Service. Our final determination relative to project impacts and the need for mitigation measures is subject to review by and coordination with the National Marine Fisheries Service.

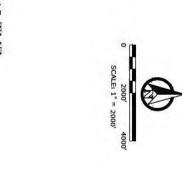
Correspondence concerning this Public Notice should refer to Public Notice Number SAM-2010-00115-TMZ and should be directed to the District Engineer, U.S. Army Engineer District, Mobile, Post Office Box 2288, Mobile, Alabama 36628-0001, Attention: South Mississippi Branch, with a copy to the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality, Office of Pollution Control, Post Office Box 2261, Jackson, Mississippi 39225, and the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources, 1141 Bayview Avenue, Biloxi, Mississippi 39530, in time to be received within **30 days** of the date of this public notice.

If you have any questions concerning this publication, you may contact the project manager for this application, **Mr. Rudolph C. Villarreal (Rudolph.c.villarreal@usace.army.mil)**, **phone (251) 690-3246.** Please refer to the above Public Notice number.

For additional information about our Regulatory Program, please visit our website at: <a href="https://www.sam.usace.army.mil">www.sam.usace.army.mil</a> and please take a moment to complete our customer satisfaction survey while you're there. Your responses are appreciated and will allow us to improve our services.

MOBILE DISTRICT U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

**Enclosures** 



JOB NO.: DATE: DSGN.: DWG. BY: CHK.: APVD.:

219-076.003

G. CLEMENS T. PARKER

HANCOCK COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS HANCOCK COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

HURRICANE NATE BEACH RESTORATION PROJECT BEACH RESTORATION PROJECT LIMITS



BAY ST LOUIS MARINA

U.S. HWY 90 TO— PASS CHRISTIAN 30.319183° 89.322375° 30.311565° 89.323746°

RES

### COMPTON ENGINEERING, INC.

ENGINEERING, SURVEYING & ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES PASCAGOULA . BILOXI . BAYST. LOUIS 228-762-3970 228-432-2133 228-467-2770 www.comptonengineering.com

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SAND BEACH RENOURISHMENT PROJECT HANCOCK COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

TYPICAL BORROW / RENOURISHMENT AREA



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SEAWALL TYPICAL SECTION SAM-2010-00115-TMZ





SAND BEACH RENOURISHMENT PROJECT HANCOCK COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

TYPICAL SECTION



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