

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 3-19, 2016** and **Hurricane Irma** occurring **September 4 - October 18, 2017**. This notice applies to the Public Assistance (PA) project for beach restoration at South Amelia Island, Florida 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**, Nassau County was designated as adversely affected by the disaster and eligible for PA funding. Nassau 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**

This public notice concerns activities pertaining to the beach restoration activities in South Amelia Island. The project will include renourishment to the designed and engineered beach profile, of which FEMA will fund approximately 494,700 cubic yards. The engineered design will be along a 3.65 mile stretch at South Amelia Island and under the authority of Nassau County and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection. The sand will be sourced from an offshore borrow area located 0.5 mile seaward of South Amelia Island and will be excavated via hydraulic dredging. It will be discharged along the beach via hydraulic pipeline and spread by land-based equipment in a manner similar to previous beach renourishment projects.

An alternatives analysis was performed by the USACE for their 2011 permit action. This included the evaluation the proposed action and the no action alternative. Previous alternatives analysis were conducted as part of the 2001 and 2003 Environmental Assessments. Further detailed descriptions of all alternatives may be reviewed in the Environmental Assessment conducted by the USACE (SAJ-2001-3870) found at http://www.saissa.com/sub_category_list.asp?category=18&title=2009+Environmental+Assessment or by contacting FEMA-R4EHP@fema.dhs.gov 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/media-library/assets/documents/175978>

http://saissa.com/document_view.asp?id=356

A hard copy of the SEA is available at the Nassau County Public Library located at 25 North 4th Street Fernandina Beach, Florida 32034 during normal business hours.

The Endangered Species Act requires federal agencies to consult with US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and NFMS for affects 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 take into account the effect of their undertakings on historic properties. FEMA performed consultation with the State Historic Preservation Office was conducted and concurrence received for a determination of no adverse effect on historic properties.

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. South Amelia Island Beach is located within the coastal high hazard area, otherwise known as the VE zone, per Nassau County Flood Insurance Rate map #12089C0393G dated 8/2/2017. The engineered beach is a functionally dependent facility that provides open space uses for recreational 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 profile, the South Amelia Island 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, 3003 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-00642, South Amelia Island at the above address within 15 days of the date of this notice.