

Recd. 6.25.14



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
JACKSONVILLE DISTRICT CORPS OF ENGINEERS
P.O. BOX 4970
JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA 32232-0019

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

JUN 19 2014

Planning and Policy Division
Environmental Branch

RE: NEPA Scoping Meetings and Comment Period for the Lido Key Hurricane and Storm Damage Reduction Project

Dear Sir or Madam:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), Jacksonville District, is gathering information to define issues and concerns associated with implementation of the Lido Key Hurricane and Storm Damage Reduction Project, Sarasota County, Florida, including those related to alternatives for source material.

The Corps will hold two public scoping meetings to offer opportunity for input. Please join us at either meeting time:

2:00-3:30 PM or 6:00-7:30 PM
Wednesday, July 23, 2014
Sarasota City Hall, Room 112
1565 1st Street
Sarasota, Florida 34236

In the Water Resources Development Act of 2007, Congress directed the Corps to construct the Lido Key Project in accordance with the Chief of Engineers' report (2004), which approved the recommended plan in the Jacksonville District's *Sarasota County, Florida, Hurricane and Storm Damage Reduction Project, Lido Key, Feasibility Report with Environmental Assessment* in 2002 (with April 2004 Addendum; *Feasibility Report*). The Chief of Engineers' report describes nourishment of an 80-foot-wide beach berm over 1.56 miles of shoreline with a groin field at the southern limits of the project. Periodic nourishment was to be accomplished at 5-year intervals for 50 years of Federal participation, and the report evaluated several offshore sand sources. The project has not yet been constructed. Surveys conducted of the offshore borrow areas after the preparation of the *Feasibility Report* indicated that the sand from these areas would not meet the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's criteria, outlined in 62B-41.007, F.A.C. A subsequent sand search was conducted to identify other offshore borrow sources, but no compatible offshore sand was identified within an economically feasible distance of Lido Key.

In 2010, Sarasota County released their *Comprehensive Inlet Management Plan, Big Sarasota Pass and New Pass System* (the *Plan*). One element of the *Plan*'s "Potential Sand

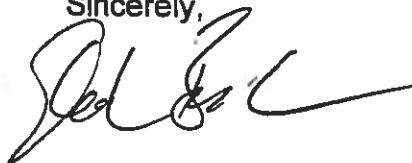
Management Recommendations” was to consider back-passing sand from the New Pass and Big Sarasota Pass ebb shoals to updrift beaches. The *Plan* recommended further investigation into the alternative of mining roughly 850,000 cubic yards of sand from a borrow area along the northwestern edge of the Big Sarasota Pass ebb shoal in a “generally meandering geometry, roughly between the minus 7 foot and minus 12 foot contours” for placement at Lido Key. In 2013-2014, the Corps evaluated ten alternatives using the ebb shoal of Big Sarasota Pass as a sand source. The draft report, *Study of Big Sarasota Pass Sediment Mining Alternatives for Sarasota County, Lido Key Federal Shore Protection Project*, was released on June 11, 2014 (available on the Corps website at <http://www.saj.usace.army.mil/About/DivisionsOffices/Planning/EnvironmentalBranch/EnvironmentalDocuments.aspx#Sarasota>). Figure 1 shows the location of the placement area, the proposed groin field, and the various alternatives for dredging the Big Sarasota Pass ebb shoal.

The Corps proposes to further evaluate the sand source alternatives, including alternatives identified in the draft report such as the Big Sarasota Pass ebb shoal and the “No Action” alternative, pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (see the attached Project Location Map). We invite the participation of Federal, state, and local agencies, interest groups, and the public to provide comments and concerns relevant to project implementation and alternative sand sources. **Please provide any written comments within 45 days from the date of this letter to:**

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Jacksonville District
Planning and Policy Division, Environmental Branch
Attn: Aubree Hershorin, Ph.D.
P.O. Box 4970
Jacksonville, FL 32232-0019

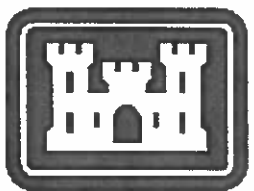
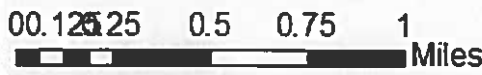
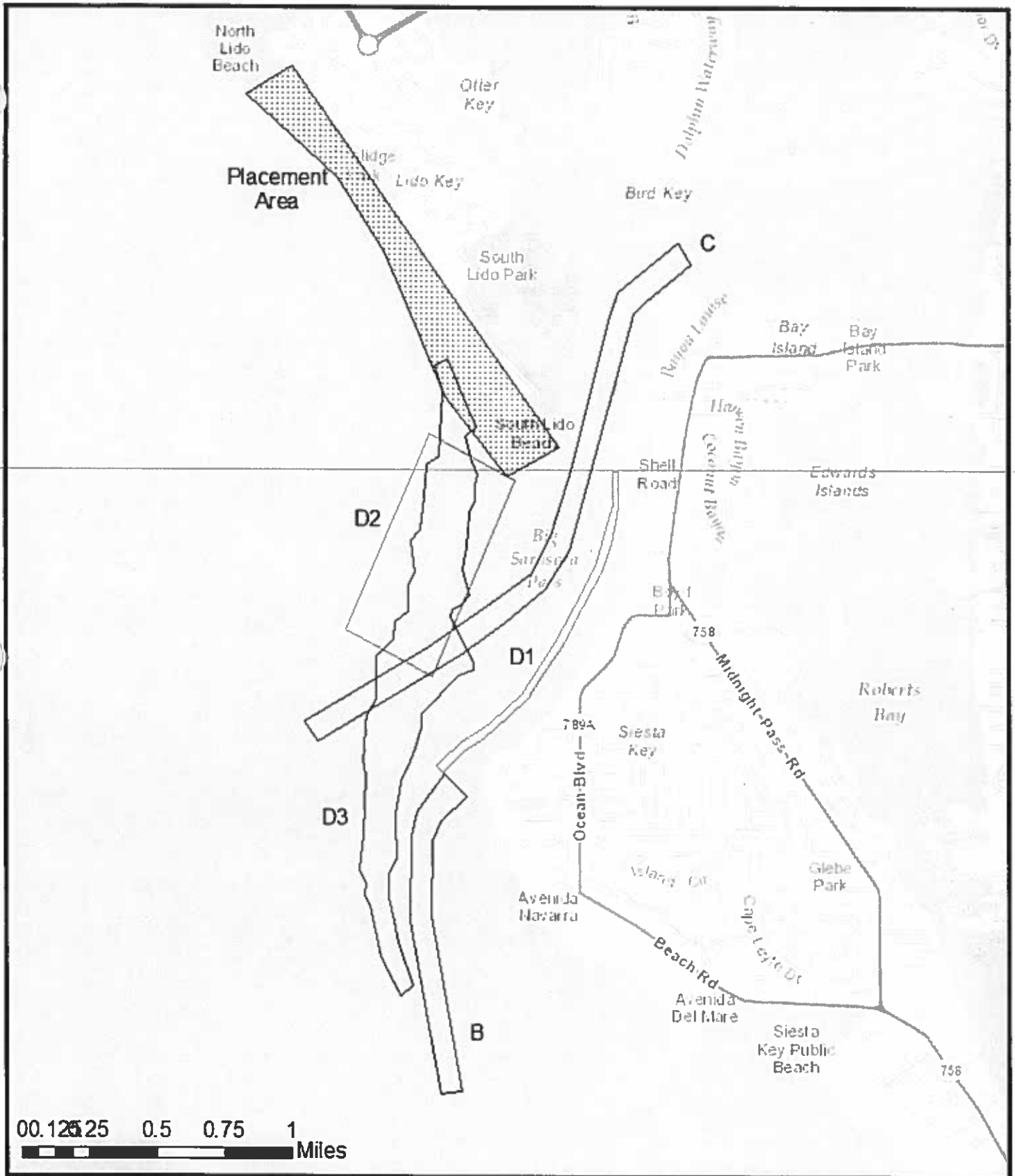
Comments may also be sent via email to Aubree.G.Hershorin@usace.army.mil. All individuals who respond with comments will be included in future mailings. Others may be added to the mailing list by making a written request to the same address or email. Individuals with disabilities who require assistance to participate in the scoping meeting or to provide comments on the document should contact the project ecologist, Aubree Hershorin, at (904) 232-2136 or Aubree.G.Hershorin@usace.army.mil.

Sincerely,



Eric L. Bush
Chief, Planning and Policy Division

Enclosure



Hurricane and Storm Damage Reduction Project
 Lido Key, Sarasota, Florida
PROJECT LOCATION MAP

