



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF Environmental Protection

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2600 Blair Stone Road
Tallahassee, FL 32399-2400

Ron DeSantis
Governor

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Lt. Governor

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Secretary

CONSOLIDATED JOINT COASTAL PERMIT AND INTENT TO GRANT SOVEREIGN SUBMERGED LANDS AUTHORIZATION

PERMITTEE:

Gulf County Board of County Commissioners
Attn: Warren Yeager
1000 Cecil G. Costin, Sr. Boulevard
Port St. Joe, FL 32456
weager@gulfcounty-fl.gov

AGENT:

MRD Associates
Attn: Michael Dombrowski
543 Harbor Boulevard
Destin, FL 32541
md@mrd-associates.com

PERMIT INFORMATION:

Permit Number: 0387733-001-JC

Project Name: Gulf County FEMA Berms-
Indian Peninsula Segment

County: Gulf

Issuance Date: January 27, 2021

Expiration Date: January 27, 2036

REGULATORY AUTHORIZATION:

This permit is issued under the authority of Chapter 161, which includes consideration of the provisions contained in Part IV of Chapter 373, Florida Statutes (F.S.), and Title 62, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.). Pursuant to Operating Agreements executed between the Department of Environmental Protection (Department) and the water management districts, as referenced in Chapter 62-113, F.A.C., the Department is responsible for reviewing and taking final agency action on this activity.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The project consists of dune construction along the shoreline of Indian Peninsula using beach compatible material obtained from an upland source known as Honeyville Borrow Pit.

The design template includes a dune crest elevation of +12 feet North Atlantic Vertical Datum (NAVD), a dune width of 20 feet, a seaward slope of 1:3 (vertical: horizontal, V:H), and a landward slope of 1:6 (V:H). Planting of dune vegetation is also authorized within the approved project template.

**Joint Coastal Permit
Gulf County FEMA Berms-Indian Peninsula Segment
Permit No. 0387733-001-JC
Page 2 of 23**

PROJECT LOCATION:

The dune construction site is located between R-135 and R-155 along Indian Peninsula, Sections 19, 20, 21, 23, 24, Township 9 South, Range 10 and 11 West. The project is located within Gulf County and is on the shoreline of the Gulf of Mexico, Class III Waters.

PROPRIETARY AUTHORIZATION:

This activity also requires a proprietary authorization, as the activity is located on sovereign submerged lands held in trust by the Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund (Board of Trustees), pursuant to Article X, Section 11 of the Florida Constitution, and Sections 253.002 and 253.77, F.S. The activity is not exempt from the need to obtain a proprietary authorization. The Board of Trustees delegated, to the Department, the responsibility to review and take final action on this request for proprietary authorization in accordance with Section 18-21.0051, F.A.C., and the Operating Agreements executed between the Department and the water management districts, as referenced in Chapter 62-113, F.A.C. This proprietary authorization has been reviewed in accordance with Chapter 253, F.S., Chapter 18-21 and Section 62-330.075, F.A.C., and the policies of the Board of Trustees.

The Department has determined that the placement of sand qualifies for a Letter of Consent to use sovereign, submerged lands, as long as the work performed is located within the boundaries as described herein and is consistent with the terms and conditions herein. Therefore, consent is hereby granted, pursuant to Chapter 253.77, F.S., to perform the activity on the specified sovereign submerged lands.

COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT:

This permit constitutes a finding of consistency with Florida's Coastal Zone Management Program, as required by Section 307 of the Coastal Zone Management Act.

WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION:

This permit constitutes certification of compliance with state water quality standards pursuant to Section 401 of the Clean Water Act, 33 U.S.C. 1341.

OTHER PERMITS:

Authorization from the Department does not relieve you from the responsibility of obtaining other permits (Federal, State, or local) that may be required for the project. When the Department received your permit application, a copy was sent to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) for review. The Corps will issue their authorization directly to you, or contact you if additional information is needed. If you have not heard from the Corps within 30 days from the date that your application was received by the Department, contact the nearest Corps regulatory office for status and further information. Failure to obtain Corps authorization prior to construction could subject you to federal enforcement action by that agency.

AGENCY ACTION:

The above named Permittee is hereby authorized to construct the work that is outlined in the Project Description and Project Location of this permit and as shown on the approved permit drawings, plans and other documents attached hereto. This agency action is based on the information submitted to the Department as part of the permit application, and adherence with the final details of that proposal shall be a requirement of the permit. **This permit and authorization to use sovereign submerged lands are subject to the General Conditions, General Consent Conditions, Specific Conditions, and the attached plans, which are a binding part of this permit and authorization.** Both the Permittee and their Contractor are responsible for reading and understanding this permit (including the permit conditions and the approved permit drawings) prior to commencing the authorized activities, and for ensuring that the work is conducted in conformance with all the terms, conditions and drawings.

GENERAL CONDITIONS:

1. All activities authorized by this permit shall be implemented as set forth in the project description, permit drawings, plans and specifications approved as a part of this permit, and all conditions and requirements of this permit. The Permittee shall notify the Department in writing of any anticipated deviation from the permit prior to implementation so that the Department can determine whether a modification of the permit is required pursuant to Rule 62B-49.008, F.A.C.
2. If, for any reason, the Permittee does not comply with any condition or limitation specified in this permit, the Permittee shall immediately provide the Department and the appropriate District office of the Department with a written report containing the following information: a description of and cause of noncompliance; and the period of noncompliance, including dates and times; and, if not corrected, the anticipated time the noncompliance is expected to continue, and steps being taken to reduce, eliminate, and prevent recurrence of the noncompliance.
3. This permit does not eliminate the necessity to obtain any other applicable licenses or permits that may be required by federal, state, local or special district laws and regulations. This permit is not a waiver or approval of any other Department permit or authorization that may be required for other aspects of the total project that are not addressed in this permit.
4. Pursuant to Sections 253.77 and 373.422, F.S., prior to conducting any works or other activities on state-owned submerged lands, or other lands of the state, title to which is vested in the Board of Trustees, the Permittee must receive all necessary approvals and authorizations under Chapters 253 and 258, F.S. Written authorization that requires formal execution by the Board of Trustees shall not be considered received until it has been fully executed.

Joint Coastal Permit
Gulf County FEMA Berms-Indian Peninsula Segment
Permit No. 0387733-001-JC
Page 4 of 23

5. Any delineation of the extent of a wetland or other surface water submitted as part of the permit application, including plans or other supporting documentation, shall not be considered specifically approved unless a specific condition of this permit or a formal determination under Section 373.421(2), F.S., provides otherwise.
6. This permit does not convey to the Permittee or create in the Permittee any property right, or any interest in real property, nor does it authorize any entrance upon or activities on property which is not owned or controlled by the Permittee. The issuance of this permit does not convey any vested rights or any exclusive privileges.
7. This permit or a copy thereof, complete with all conditions, attachments, plans and specifications, modifications, and time extensions shall be kept at the work site of the permitted activity. The Permittee shall require the contractor to review the complete permit prior to commencement of the activity authorized by this permit.
8. The Permittee, by accepting this permit, specifically agrees to allow authorized Department personnel with proper identification and at reasonable times, access to the premises where the permitted activity is located or conducted for the purpose of ascertaining compliance with the terms of the permit and with the rules of the Department and to have access to and copy any records that must be kept under conditions of the permit; to inspect the facility, equipment, practices, or operations regulated or required under this permit; and to sample or monitor any substances or parameters at any location reasonably necessary to assure compliance with this permit or Department rules.
9. At least 48 hours prior to commencement of activity authorized by this permit, the Permittee shall electronically submit to the Department, by email at JCPCCompliance@dep.state.fl.us, and the appropriate District office of the Department a written notice of commencement of construction indicating the actual start date and the expected completion date and an affirmative statement that the Permittee and the contractor, if one is to be used, have read the general and specific conditions of the permit and understand them.
10. If any prehistoric or historic artifacts, such as pottery or ceramics, stone tools or metal implements, shipwreck remains or anchors, dugout canoes or other physical remains that could be associated with Native American cultures, or early Colonial or American settlement are encountered at any time within the project site area, the permitted project shall cease all activities involving subsurface disturbance in the immediate vicinity of such discoveries. The Permittee, or other designee, shall contact the Florida Department of State, Division of Historical Resources, Compliance and Review Section at (850)245-6333 or (800)847-7278, as well as the appropriate permitting agency office. Project activities shall not resume without verbal and/or written authorization from the Division

**Joint Coastal Permit
Gulf County FEMA Berms-Indian Peninsula Segment
Permit No. 0387733-001-JC
Page 5 of 23**

of Historical Resources. In the event that unmarked human remains are encountered during permitted activities, all work shall stop immediately and the proper authorities notified in accordance with Section 872.05, F.S.

11. Within 30 days after completion of construction or completion of a subsequent maintenance event authorized by this permit, the Permittee shall electronically submit to the Department, by email at JCPCCompliance@dep.state.fl.us, and the appropriate District office of the Department a written statement of completion and certification by a registered professional engineer. This certification shall state that all locations and elevations specified by the permit have been verified; the activities authorized by the permit have been performed in compliance with the plans and specifications approved as a part of the permit, and all conditions of the permit; or shall describe any deviations from the plans and specifications, and all conditions of the permit. When the completed activity differs substantially from the permitted plans, any substantial deviations shall be noted and explained on as-built drawings electronically submitted to the Department, by email at JCPCCompliance@dep.state.fl.us.

GENERAL CONSENT CONDITIONS:

1. Authorizations are valid only for the specified activity or use. Any unauthorized deviation from the specified activity or use and the conditions for undertaking that activity or use shall constitute a violation. Violation of the authorization shall result in suspension or revocation of the grantee's use of the sovereignty submerged land unless cured to the satisfaction of the Board.
2. Authorizations convey no title to sovereignty submerged land or water column, nor do they constitute recognition or acknowledgment of any other person's title to such land or water.
3. Authorizations may be modified, suspended or revoked in accordance with their terms or the remedies provided in Sections 253.04 and 258.46, F.S., or Chapter 18-14, F.A.C.
4. Structures or activities shall be constructed and used to avoid or minimize adverse impacts to sovereignty submerged lands and resources.
5. Construction, use or operation of the structure or activity shall not adversely affect any species that is endangered, threatened or of special concern, as listed in Rules 68A-27.003, 68A-27.004 and 68A-27.005, F.A.C.
6. Structures or activities shall not unreasonably interfere with riparian rights. When a court of competent jurisdiction determines that riparian rights have been unlawfully affected, the structure or activity shall be modified in accordance with the court's decision.

**Joint Coastal Permit
Gulf County FEMA Berms-Indian Peninsula Segment
Permit No. 0387733-001-JC
Page 6 of 23**

7. Structures or activities shall not create a navigational hazard.
8. Structures shall be maintained in a functional condition and shall be repaired or removed if they become dilapidated to such an extent that they are no longer functional. This shall not be construed to prohibit the repair or replacement subject to the provisions of Rule 18-21.005, F.A.C., within one year, of a structure damaged in a discrete event such as a storm, flood, accident or fire.
9. Structures or activities shall be constructed, operated and maintained solely for water dependent purposes, or for non-water dependent activities authorized under paragraph 18-21.004(1)(f), F.A.C., or any other applicable law.

SPECIFIC CONDITIONS:

1. All reports or notices relating to this permit shall be electronically submitted to the Department's JCP Compliance Officer (e-mail address: JCPCompliance@dep.state.fl.us) unless otherwise specified in the specific conditions of this permit. If a file transfer site is used, a link shall be e-mailed to the JCP Compliance Officer. If data are too large to be submitted via e-mail or file transfer site, the Permittee may submit the data via an external hard drive, provided by the Permittee. The external hard drive shall be mailed to:

Department of Environmental Protection
Office of Resilience and Coastal Protection
Attn: JCP Compliance Officer
2600 Blair Stone Road, Mail Station 3566
Tallahassee, FL 32399-2400

2. The Permittee shall not store or stockpile tools, equipment, materials, etc., within littoral zones or elsewhere within surface waters of the state without prior written approval from the Department. Storage, stockpiling or access of equipment on, in, over or through beds of submerged aquatic vegetation, wetlands or hardbottom is prohibited unless it occurs within a work area or ingress/egress corridor that is specifically approved by this permit and is shown on the approved permit drawings.
3. The Permittee shall not conduct project operations or store project-related equipment in, on or over dunes, or otherwise impact dune vegetation, outside the approved staging, beach access and dune restoration areas designated in the permit drawings.
4. ***Pre-Construction Submittals.*** For each construction event under this permit, no work shall commence until the Permittee has satisfactorily submitted all information specified in this condition. At least 45 days prior to the commencement of construction, the Permittee shall submit the following items for review by the Department. Unless

otherwise notified by the Department within 15 days of receipt of all information specified below, the Permittee shall assume the submittals are satisfactory:

- a. An electronic copy of detailed *final construction plans and specifications* for all authorized activities. The plans and specifications must be consistent with the project description, conditions and approved drawings of this permit. These documents shall also be certified by a professional engineer (P.E.), who is registered in the State of Florida. The Permittee shall point out any deviations from the Project Description of this permit (as stated above) or the approved permit drawings (attached to this permit), and any significant changes that would require a permit modification. The plans and specifications shall include a description of the dredging and construction methods to be utilized, and drawings and surveys that show all biological resources and work spaces (e.g., staging and access areas, etc.) to be used for this project.
- b. ***Turbidity Monitoring:*** In order to assure that turbidity levels do not exceed the compliance standards established in this permit, construction at the project site shall be monitored closely by an individual familiar with beach construction techniques and turbidity monitoring. This individual shall have authority to alter construction techniques or shut down the beach construction operations if turbidity levels exceed the compliance standards established in this permit. The names, and contact information of those individuals performing these functions shall be provided.
- c. Documentation confirming that the approved upland source is currently producing the quantity and quality of the authorized sand product required for the upcoming event in accordance with Specific Condition 6.
- d. Documentation from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) that this work will be covered under a Statewide Programmatic ***Biological Opinion*** or a Biological Opinions (BO) issued for construction on this project site. If the BO contains conditions that are not already contained herein, a permit modification may be required prior to construction to include those additional conditions.
- e. ***Fish & Wildlife Monitoring Qualifications:*** To ensure that individuals conducting monitoring of fish and wildlife resources have appropriate qualifications, the Permittee shall provide documentation demonstrating expertise/experience in surveying the types of resources that are present in the project. The Department and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) will review this information for confirmation that the monitors are capable of meeting the requirements in the authorization. This documentation shall include the following:

- i. *Marine Turtle Protection:* A list of the names and FWC permit numbers for the Marine Turtle Permit Holders.
 - ii. *Shorebird Protection:* A list of Bird Monitors with their contact information, summary of qualifications including bird identification skills, and avian survey experience, proposed locations of shorebird survey routes, and the locations of travel routes.
- f. For construction events where dune planting will occur, a detailed Dune Planting Plan that outlines the plant species, spacing of planting units, monitoring details and any other relevant information, shall be submitted.
- g. **Pre-Construction Conference. After all items required by a through f above have been submitted to the Department,** the Permittee shall conduct a pre-construction conference to review the specific conditions and monitoring requirements of this permit with the Permittee's contractors, the engineer of record, those responsible for turbidity monitoring, those responsible for protected species monitoring, staff representatives of the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) and the JCP Compliance Officer (or designated alternate) prior to each construction event. In order to ensure that appropriate representatives are available, at least twenty-one (21) days prior to the intended commencement date for the permitted construction, the Permittee is advised to contact the Department, and the other agency representatives listed below:

DEP JCP Compliance Officer
e-mail: JCPCompliance@dep.state.fl.us

FWC Imperiled Species Management Section
email: marineturtle@myfwc.com

FWC Regional Biologist
See [Contact list](#) for phone numbers
([http://myfwc.com/conservation/you-
conserve/wildlife/shorebirds/contacts](http://myfwc.com/conservation/you-
conserve/wildlife/shorebirds/contacts))

The Permittee is also advised to schedule the pre-construction conference at least a week prior to the intended commencement date. At least seven (7) days in advance of the pre- construction conference, the Permittee shall provide written notification, advising the participants of the agreed-upon date, time and location of the meeting, and also provide a meeting agenda and a teleconference number.

If the actual construction start date is different from the expected start date proposed during the preconstruction conference, at least 48 hours prior to the commencement of each dredging event, the Permittee shall ensure that notification is sent to the FWC indicating the actual start date and the expected completion date to marineturtle@myfwc.com. The Permittee shall also ensure that all contracted workers and observers are provided a copy of all permit conditions.

5. The Honeyville Borrow Pit, owned by Gulf County Board of County Commissioners, was reviewed and approved for use in this project. Any additional sand sources requested for use will require review through the permit modification process.
6. Prior to each construction event, the Permittee (or Permittee's Representative) shall submit documentation confirming that the approved inland sand source(s) is currently producing both the quantity and quality of the approved sand product(s) to meet the needs of the upcoming event. The documentation shall be signed and sealed by a Registered Professional in the State of Florida (i.e., a P.E. or P.G.) and shall indicate the name(s) of the product(s), the inland sand source(s) and the approximate volume (per product per source) needed for the upcoming event. The Permittee shall submit the documentation to the Department as a pre-construction submittal no later than 30 days prior to construction.
Note: If the inland source(s) is no longer producing a product consistent with the approved Sediment QA/QC plan, a permit modification will be required to authorize an alternate source.

FISH AND WILDLIFE CONDITIONS

7. **Construction Area Project Lighting.** During the marine turtle nesting season (May 1 through October 31), direct lighting of the beach and nearshore waters shall be limited to the immediate area of active construction.

Lighting on equipment shall be minimized by reducing the number of fixtures, shielding, lowering the height and appropriately placing fixtures to avoid excessive illumination of the water's surface and nesting beach. The intensity of lighting shall be reduced to the minimum standard required for general construction area safety. Shields shall be affixed to the light housing and shall be large enough to block lamp light from being transmitted outside the construction area or to the adjacent marine turtle nesting beach. (Figure 1 below).

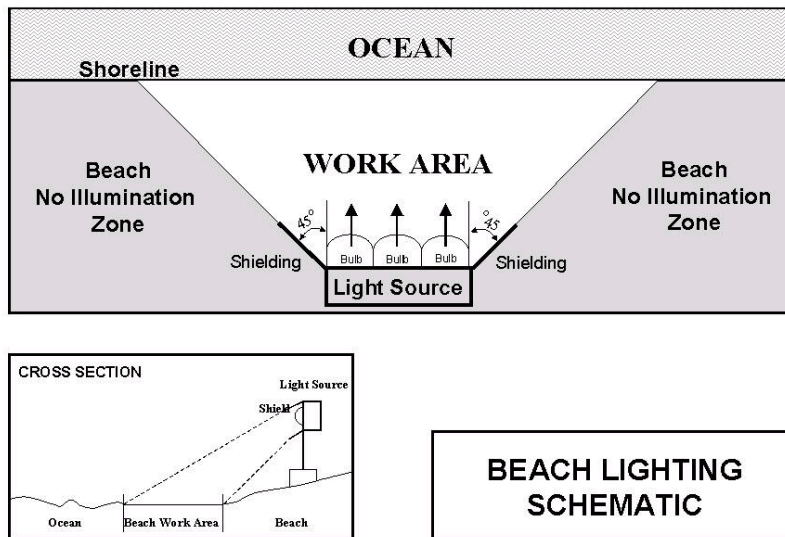


Figure 1

8. **Beach Related Activities.** The Permittee shall adhere to the following requirements for all beach- related activities during marine turtle and shorebird nesting/breeding seasons (**February 15 through October 31**).
- a. *Beach Maintenance.* The Permittee shall require their contractor and protected species monitors to inspect all work areas that have excavations and temporary alterations of beach topography each day, to determine which areas have deviations (such as depressions, ruts, holes and vehicle tracks) capable of trapping flightless shorebird chicks or marine turtle hatchlings. When observed, the deviations shall be filled or leveled from the natural beach profile prior to 9:00 p.m. each day. The beach surface shall also be inspected after completion of the project, and all tracks, mounds, ridges or impressions, etc. left by construction equipment on the beach shall be smoothed and leveled.
 - b. All *debris*, including derelict construction or coastal armoring material, concrete and metal, found on the beach placement site, shall be removed from the beach to the maximum extent practicable prior to any placement of fill material. If debris removal activities will take place during protected species nesting seasons, the work shall be conducted during daylight hours only, and shall not commence until completion of daily monitoring surveys.
 - c. *Equipment Storage and Placement.* Staging areas and temporary storage for construction equipment shall be located off the beach to the maximum extent

practicable. Nighttime storage of construction equipment that is not in use shall be located off the beach. If staging and storage areas off the beach are not possible, then additional marine turtle and shorebird protective measures shall be implemented. Such protective measures shall be determined in coordination with the Department and the FWC prior to beginning of construction.

- d. *Beach Driving.* All vehicles operated on the beach shall operate in accordance with the FWC's Best Management Practices for Operating Vehicles on the Beach (<http://myfwc.com/conservation/you-serve/wildlife/beach-driving/>). Specifically, the vehicle shall be operated at speeds less than 6 mph and run at or below the high-tide line. All personnel associated with the project shall be instructed about the potential presence of protected species, and the need to avoid injury and disturbance to these species. *Note: when flightless chicks are present within or adjacent to travel corridors, construction-related vehicles shall not be driven through the corridor unless a Bird Monitor is present pursuant to Specific Condition 15.*

9. **Marine Turtle Protection Conditions.** Construction-related activities are authorized to occur on the nesting beach (sandy beach seaward of existing coastal armoring structures or dune crest and all areas used for beach access) during marine turtle nesting season (May 1 through October 31) under the following conditions:

- a. Daily early morning marine turtle nest surveys shall start at the two weeks prior to marine turtle nesting season or 65 days prior to beach placement whichever is later. Daily nesting surveys shall continue through November 30, or until two weeks after the last crawl in the project area, whichever is earlier.
- b. Daily nesting surveys shall be conducted beginning ½ hour prior to sunrise, and no construction activity may commence until completion of the marine turtle survey each day.
- c. The Permittee shall ensure that marine turtle nesting surveys are conducted as required in this authorization, and only conducted by personnel with a valid FWC Marine Turtle Permit, that covers all project activities as required by Chapter 68E-1, F.A.C. For information on the authorized Marine Turtle Permit Holders in the project area, contact FWC at MTP@myfwc.com.
- d. Only those nests laid in the area where sand placement will occur shall be relocated, and nest relocation shall cease after the sand placement is completed. Nests requiring relocation shall be moved no later than 9 a.m., the morning following deposition (no longer than 12 hours from the time the eggs are laid), to a nearby self-release beach site in a secure setting, where artificial lighting

will not interfere with hatchling orientation. The relocation site shall be determined in conjunction with and approved by the FWC prior to nest relocations. Relocated nests shall not be placed in organized groupings. Relocated nests shall be randomly staggered along the length and width of beach settings that are not expected to experience any of the following: inundation by high tides; severe erosion; previous egg loss; or illumination by artificial lighting.

- e. Nests deposited within areas where construction activities will not occur for 65 days, or nests laid in the nourished berm prior to tilling, shall be marked and left in place. The Marine Turtle Permit Holder shall install on- beach markers at the nest site to establish a minimum 5- foot radius around the approximate clutch location and shall also install a secondary marker at a point as far landward as possible to assure that the nest can be located should the on- beach marker be lost. No activity shall occur within the marked area, nor shall any activities occur that could result in impacts to the nest. Nest sites shall be inspected daily to assure nest markers remain in place and the nest has not been disturbed by the project activity.
10. **Fill Restrictions.** During the marine turtle nesting season, the contractor shall not advance the beach fill more than 500 feet along the shoreline between dusk and the following day, until the daily nesting survey is completed, and the beach has been cleared for fill advancement. If the 500-foot advancement limitation is not feasible for the project, an alternative distance shall be established during the preconstruction meeting, if a distance can be agreed upon in consultation with the FWC. If the work area is extended, nighttime nesting surveys are required, and a Marine Turtle Permit Holder is required to be present on-site to ensure that no nesting and hatching marine turtles are present. If any nesting turtles are sighted on the beach within the immediate construction area, activities shall cease immediately until the turtle has returned to the water and the Marine Turtle Permit Holder responsible for nest monitoring has relocated the nest.
 11. **Marine Turtle or Nest Encounters.** Upon locating a dead or injured marine turtle adult, hatchling, or egg that may have been harmed or destroyed as a result of the project, the Permittee shall be responsible for notifying the FWC Wildlife Alert at 1-888-404-FWCC (3922). Care shall be taken in handling injured marine turtles or exposed eggs to ensure effective treatment or disposition, and in handling dead specimens to preserve biological materials for later analysis. If a marine turtle nest is excavated during construction activities, but not as part of the authorized nest relocation process outlined in these specific conditions, the permitted person responsible for egg relocation for the project shall be notified immediately so the eggs can be moved to a suitable relocation site.

Table 1. Marine Turtle Monitoring for Beach Placement of Material

Metric	Duration	Variable	Criterion
Nesting Success	Year of in-season construction and two entire nesting seasons post construction, with possible additional year ^{1 & 2}	Number of nests and non-nesting emergences by day by species	40 percent or greater
Hatching success	Year of in-season construction and one entire nesting season post construction, with possible additional year ^{1 & 2}	Number of hatchlings by species to hatch from egg	60 percent or greater (a statistically valid number of loggerhead and green nests, and all leatherback nests)
Emergence Success	Year of in-season construction and one entire nesting season post construction, with possible additional year ^{1 & 2}	Number of hatchlings by species to emerge from nest onto beach	Average must not be significantly different than the average hatching success
Disorientations	Year of in-season construction and two entire nesting seasons post construction ¹	Number of nests and/or individuals that misorient or disorient	
Nests affected by erosion or inundation	Year of construction and two years post construction if placed sand remains on the beach	Number of nests lost and/or affected, by species	
¹ If placed sand remains on the beach ² Additional years may be required if variable does not meet criterion based on previous year			

12. **Shorebird Protection.** The term “shorebird” is used here to refer to all solitary nesting shorebirds and colonial nesting seabirds that nest on Florida’s beaches. These conditions are intended to avoid direct impacts associated with the construction of the project and may not address all potential take incidental to the operation and use

related to this authorization. The Permittee shall adhere to the shorebird protection conditions during the shorebird breeding cycle, which includes nesting.

- a. Shorebird breeding season dates for this project area are **February 15 through September 1** (note that while most species have completed the breeding cycle by September 1, flightless young may be present through September and must be protected if present).
- b. Any parts of the project where “project activities” on the beach take place *entirely outside the breeding season*, do not require shorebird surveys. The term “project activities” includes operation of vehicles on the beach, movement or storage of equipment on the beach, sand placement or sand removal, and other similar activities that may harm or disturb shorebirds. Bird survey routes must be established and monitored throughout the entire breeding season in any parts of the project area where: 1) potential shorebird breeding habitat occurs, and 2) project activities are expected to occur at any time within the breeding season. Breeding season surveys shall begin on the first day of the breeding season or 10 days prior to project commencement (including survey activities and other pre- construction presence on the beach), whichever is later.
- c. Bird surveys shall be conducted in all potential beach-nesting bird habitats within the project boundaries that may be impacted by construction or pre-construction activities. One or more shorebird survey routes shall be established by the Permittee to cover project areas which require shorebird surveys. These routes shall be determined in coordination with the FWC Regional Biologist prior to the initiation of construction. Routes shall not be modified without prior notification to the FWC.
- d. During the pre-construction and construction activities associated with the project, the Permittee shall ensure that surveys for detecting breeding activity and the presence of flightless chicks shall be completed **on a daily basis** by a qualified bird monitor. This shall be completed prior to movement of equipment, operation of vehicles, or other activities that could potentially disrupt breeding behavior or cause harm to the birds or their eggs or young. If all project activities are completed and all personnel and equipment have been removed from the beach prior to the end of the breeding season, route surveys shall continue to be conducted at least weekly through the end of the breeding season. If breeding or nesting behavior is confirmed by the presence of a scrape, eggs or young, the Permittee (or their designee) shall establish a buffer in accordance with Specific Condition 15 around the site and shall notify the FWC Regional Biologist within 24 hours. The posts and materials for the shorebird buffer zones shall be removed once all breeding or nesting behavior has ceased.

- e. The Permittee shall require the Bird Monitor to conduct a shorebird education and identification program (and/or provide educational materials) with the on-site staff to ensure protection of precocial (mobile) chicks. All personnel are responsible for watching for shorebirds, nests, eggs and chicks. If the Bird Monitor finds that shorebirds are breeding within the project area, the Permittee shall place and maintain a bulletin board in the construction staging area with the location map of the construction site showing the bird breeding areas and a warning, clearly visible, stating that “NESTING BIRDS ARE PROTECTED BY LAW INCLUDING THE FLORIDA ENDANGERED AND THREATENED SPECIES ACT AND THE STATE and FEDERAL MIGRATORY BIRD ACTS”.
13. **Shorebird Monitor Requirements.** The Permittee shall ensure that shorebird surveys should be conducted by trained, dedicated individuals (Bird Monitor) with proven shorebird identification skills and avian survey experience.
- a. Bird Monitors shall review and become familiar with the general information, employ the data collection protocol, and implement data entry procedures outlined on the FWC’s FSD website (<http://www.flshorebirddatabase.org> or [Florida Shorebird Database](#)). They shall use the data-collection protocol and implement data entry procedures as outlined in that website.
 - b. The Permittee shall submit a list of Bird Monitors, with their contact information and a summary of qualifications, including bird identification skills and avian survey experience to the FWC Regional Biologist and JCPCCompliance@dep.state.fl.us, prior to any construction or shorebird surveys. The determination that the selected Bird Monitor(s) meet the required qualifications shall be coordinated between the Permittee and the FWC Regional Biologist. Once approved, the Permittee shall submit the names and contact information of the Bird Monitor(s) who have been approved by the FWC to JCPCCompliance@dep.state.fl.us, prior to any construction or shorebird surveys. The Bird Monitor(s) shall meet the following minimum qualifications:
 - i. Have previously participated in beach-nesting bird surveys in Florida (provide references or resume). Experience with previous projects must document the ability to 1) identify all species of beach-nesting birds by sight and sound, 2) identify breeding/territorial behaviors, and find nests of shorebirds that occur in the project area, and 3) identify habitats preferred by shorebirds nesting in the project area.

- ii. Have a clear working knowledge of, and adhere to, the Breeding Bird Protocol for Florida's Seabirds and Shorebirds.
<https://publictemp.myfwc.com/crossdoi/shorebirds/resources.aspx>
 - iii. Have completed full-length webinars: Route-Surveyor Training and Rooftop Monitoring Training, including the annual refresher training. Training resources can be found on the Florida Shorebird Database (FSD) website.
<https://publictemp.myfwc.com/crossdoi/shorebirds/index.aspx>
 - iv. Familiar with FWC beach driving guidelines.
<https://myfwc.com/conservation/you-conserve/wildlife/beach-driving>
 - v. Experience posting beach-nesting bird sites, consistent with Florida Shorebird Alliance (FSA) Guidelines.
<http://flshorebirdalliance.org/resources/instructions-manuals.aspx>
 - vi. Has registered as a contributor to the FSD.
14. **Shorebird Survey Protocols.** Bird survey protocols, including downloadable field data sheets, are available on the [FSD website](#). All breeding activity shall be reported to the FSD website within one week of data collection. If the use of this website is not feasible for data collection, the FWC Regional Biologist must be contacted for alternative methods of reporting. The Permittee shall ensure that the Bird Monitors use the following survey protocols:
- a. Surveys shall be conducted by walking the length of all survey routes and visually surveying for the presence of shorebirds exhibiting breeding behavior, shorebird chicks or shorebird juveniles, as outlined in the FSD Breeding Bird Protocol for Shorebirds and Seabirds. Use of binoculars (minimum 8x40) is required, and use of spotting scope may be necessary to accurately survey the area. If an ATV or other vehicle is needed to cover large survey routes, the Bird Monitor shall stop at intervals of no greater than 600 feet to visually inspect for breeding activity.
 - b. Once breeding or nesting behavior is confirmed by the presence of a scrape, eggs or young, the Permittee (or their designee) shall notify the FWC Regional Biologist within 24 hours.
15. **Shorebird Buffer Zones and Travel Corridors.** The Permittee shall require the Bird Monitor(s) and Contractor(s) to meet the following:
- a. The Bird Monitor(s) shall establish a disturbance-free buffer zone around any

location within the project area where the Bird Monitor has observed shorebirds engaged in breeding behavior, including territory defense. A 300-foot buffer shall be established around each nest or around the perimeter of each colonial nesting area. A 300-foot buffer shall also be placed around the perimeter of areas where shorebirds are seen digging nest scrapes or defending nest territories. All construction activities, movement of vehicles, stockpiling of equipment, and pedestrian traffic are prohibited in the buffer zone. **Smaller, site-specific buffers may be established if approved in writing by the FWC Regional Biologist.** Travel corridors shall be designated and marked outside the buffer areas for pedestrian, equipment, or vehicular traffic.

- b. The Bird Monitor shall keep breeding sites under sufficient surveillance to determine if birds appear agitated or disturbed by construction or other activities in adjacent areas. If birds do appear to be agitated or disturbed by these activities, then the Bird Monitor(s) shall immediately widen the buffer zone to a sufficient size to protect breeding birds.
- c. The Bird Monitor(s) shall ensure that reasonable and traditional pedestrian access is not blocked in situations where breeding birds will tolerate pedestrian traffic. This is generally the case with lateral movement of beach-goers walking parallel to the beach at or below the highest tide line. Pedestrian traffic may also be allowed when breeding was initiated within 300 feet of an established beach access pathway. The Bird Monitor(s) shall work with the FWC Regional Species Conservation Biologist to determine if pedestrian access can be accommodated without compromising nesting success. These site-specific buffers must be determined in coordination with the FWC Regional Biologist.
- d. The Bird Monitor(s) shall ensure that the perimeters of designated buffer zones shall be marked according to FSA Posting Guidelines available at: <http://flshorebirdalliance.org/resources/instructions-manuals.aspx> with posts, twine and FWC-approved signs stating “Do Not Enter, Important Nesting Area” or similar language around the perimeter (see example of signage for marking designated buffer zones at <http://myfwc.com/conservation/you-protect/wildlife/shorebirds/>). Posts shall not exceed 3 feet in height once installed. Symbolic fencing (twine, string or rope) should be placed between all posts at least 2.5 feet above the ground and rendered clearly visible to pedestrians. If pedestrian pathway and/or equipment travel corridor modifications are approved by the FWC Regional Biologist, these shall be clearly marked. **Posting shall be maintained in good repair until no active nests, eggs, or flightless young are present.** Although solitary nesters may leave the buffer zone temporarily with their chicks, the posted area continues

to provide a potential refuge for the family until breeding is complete. Breeding is not considered to be completed until all chicks have fledged.

- e. The Permittee shall ensure that no construction activities, pedestrians, moving vehicles, or stockpiled equipment are allowed within the buffer area.
- f. The Permittee shall ensure that the Bird Monitor(s) designate and mark travel corridors outside the buffer areas so as not to cause disturbance to breeding birds. Heavy equipment, other vehicles, or pedestrians may transit past breeding areas in these corridors. However, other activities such as stopping or turning heavy equipment and vehicles shall be prohibited within the designated travel corridors adjacent to the breeding site.
- g. When flightless chicks are present within or adjacent to travel corridors, construction-related vehicles shall not be driven through the corridor unless a Bird Monitor is present to adequately monitor the travel corridor. The Permittee shall require the contractor with the oversight of the Bird Monitor(s) to avoid any chicks that may be in the path of moving vehicles. The Permittee shall also require the contractor with the oversight of the Bird Monitor(s) to level any tracks, ruts, or holes that may be capable of trapping flightless chicks, while avoiding any impacts to the chicks.

Notification. Any injury or death of a shorebird (including crushing eggs or young) resulting from project activities shall be reported immediately to the FWC Regional Biologist.

16. **Dune Planting Conditions.** Planting of dune vegetation is encouraged outside of marine turtle nesting season. However, planting activities may occur during the marine turtle nesting season May 1 through October 31 under the following conditions:
- a. It is the responsibility of the Permittee to ensure that the project area and access sites are surveyed for marine turtle nesting activity. All nest surveys and activities involving marine turtles shall be conducted only by persons with a valid FWC permit issued pursuant to Florida Administrative Code 68E-1. For information regarding marine turtle permit holders, contact the FWC at MTP@myfwc.com.
 - b. Marine turtle nest surveys shall be initiated at the beginning of the nesting season or 65 days prior to installation of plants (whichever is later). Surveys shall continue until completion of the project or through October 31 (whichever is earliest). Surveys shall be conducted throughout the project area and all beach access sites.

- c. Any nests deposited in the area shall be left in place. The marine turtle permit holder shall install an on-beach marker at any nest site and a secondary marker located at a point as far landward as possible to ensure that future location of the nest will be possible should the on-beach marker be lost. A series of stakes and survey ribbon or string shall be installed to establish an area of 3 feet radius surrounding the nest. No planting or other activity shall occur within this area nor shall any activity occur which might cause indirect impacts within this area. Nest sites shall be inspected daily to ensure nest markers have not been removed.
- d. The use of heavy equipment (including vehicles such as trucks) is not authorized in marine turtle nesting habitat. A lightweight (ATV style) vehicle, with tire pressures of 10 p.s.i. or less can operate on the beach if required.
- e. Any vegetation planting shall be installed by hand labor/tools only. For more information on the Florida Panhandle coastal dune systems and specific information on coastal dune restoration and restoration enhancement activities please consult <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/pdf/files/sg/sg15600.pdf>.
- f. All activity shall be confined to daylight hours and shall not occur prior to the completion of all necessary marine turtle surveys and conservation activities within the project area. Nighttime storage of equipment or materials shall be off the beach.
- g. In the event a nest is disturbed or uncovered during planting activity, the Permittee shall cease all work and immediately contact the marine turtle permit holder responsible for marine turtle conservation measures within the project area. If a nest(s) cannot be safely avoided during construction, all activity within the affected project area shall be delayed until complete hatching and emergence of the nest.
- h. All planting related activities must avoid marked marine turtle nests including those that may be on the beach before and after the marine turtle nesting season dates (May 1 through October 31). Any impacts to nests or marine turtles that inadvertently occur shall be immediately reported the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) at MarineTurtle@myfwc.com, and all work shall stop until authorized to continue by the Department and FWC.
- i. All irrigation lines for the dune restoration planting, if proposed, will be temporarily installed along the landward side of the dune only and will be removed once the plants have become established. Any watering necessary along the seaward side of the dune will be done by hand on an “as needed” basis.

17. Beach Mice Protection.

- a. Beach mouse habitat shall be avoided when selecting sites for equipment, vehicle storage and staging to the maximum extent practicable. Suitable beach mouse habitat constitutes the primary dunes (characterized by sea oats and other grasses), secondary dunes (similar to primary dunes, but also frequently includes such plants as woody goldenrod, false rosemary), and interior or scrub dunes, as well as areas with natural vegetation adjacent to the dunes (seaward of the toe of the dune, in blow-outs, or other openings between dunes).
- b. Equipment placement or storage shall be excluded in the area between 5 to 10 feet seaward of the existing dune toe or 10 percent of the beach width (for projects occurring on narrow eroded beach segments) seaward of the dune toe in areas of occupied beach mouse habitat. The toe of the dune is where the slope breaks at the seaward foot of the dune.
- c. Existing beach access points shall be used for vehicle and equipment beach access to the maximum extent practicable. These accesses shall be delineated by post and rope or other suitable material to ensure vehicles and equipment transport stay within the access corridor. The topography at the accesses shall be fully restored to pre-project work configuration following project completion. Parking areas for construction crews shall be located as close as possible to the work sites, but outside of vegetated dunes to minimize impacts to existing habitat and the need to transport workers along the beachfront. The creation of new or expansion of existing beach accesses for vehicles and equipment within beach mouse habitat consisting of vegetated dunes is authorized for no more than one every 4 miles. The distribution of access areas will result in the least number of access areas within beach mouse habitat as practicable and delineated by post and rope or other suitable material to ensure vehicles and equipment transport stay within the access corridor. The access points shall be as follows:
 - i. No more than 25 feet wide for vehicles.
 - ii. No more than 50 feet wide for equipment.
- d. New or expanded beach accesses that impact vegetated dunes shall be replanted within 3 months following project completion. The habitat restoration shall consist of restoring the dune topography and planting with at least three species of appropriate native dune vegetation (i.e., native to coastal dunes in the respective county and grown from plant stock from that region of Florida). Seedlings shall be at least 1 inch by 1 inch with a 2.5-inch pot. Planting shall be

on 18-inch centers throughout the created dune; however, 24-inch centers may be acceptable depending on the area to be planted. Vegetation shall be planted with an appropriate amount of fertilizer and anti-desiccant material, as appropriate, for the plant size. No sand stabilizer material (coconut matting or other material) shall be used in the dune restoration. The plants may be watered without installing an irrigation system. In order for the restoration to be considered successful, 80 percent of the total planted vegetation shall be documented to survive six months following planting of vegetation. If the habitat restoration is unsuccessful, the area shall be replanted following coordination with the Service.

18. **Water Quality.** No fill placement is authorized below the mean high water line (MHWL). The project is not expected to generate turbidity because all fill material will be dry and will be placed landward of the MHWL. Consequently, when working in close proximity to the MHWL, the Permittee shall have a person with experience and/or qualifications in turbidity monitoring on site to visually monitor for project-related turbidity plumes. The person conducting the visual turbidity monitoring shall maintain a log of any visible project-related turbidity plumes that extend beyond the edge of the mixing zone (50-meter radius from the shoreline closest to the construction activity).

If a turbidity plume, visually assessed as potentially greater than 29 NTUs above background, extends beyond the edge of the mixing zone, construction activities shall **cease immediately** and not resume until corrective measures have been taken and the plume dissipates to acceptable levels. Any such occurrence shall also be reported to the JCP Compliance Officer (JCPCCompliance@dep.state.fl.us) within 24 hours. The subject line of the email shall state, "POTENTIAL TURBIDITY EXCEEDANCE", and the Project Name and Permit Number. The following information shall also be included:

- a. description of the plume (location, estimated length, width and direction of flow). A diagram indicating the direction of flow and the boundaries of any benthic resources should also be included in the report;
- b. the antecedent weather conditions at the time of exceedance
- c. the time and date that the exceedance occurred; and
- d. the time and date that construction ceased.
- e. corrective measures that were taken; and
- f. the cause of the exceedance.

If a second incident occurs, where a visible turbidity plume, visually assessed as greater than 29 NTUs above background, extends beyond the mixing zone, construction shall cease as described above and the Permittee shall also coordinate with the JCP Compliance Officer to determine whether a Physical Turbidity Monitoring protocol should be implemented.

Within 30 days of completion of construction, a **summary of the visual turbidity monitoring** shall be submitted to the JCP Compliance Officer with the written statement of completion and certification required by General Condition 11.

19. Sediment quality will be assessed as outlined in the Sediment QA/QC plan dated May 5, 2020. Any occurrences of placement of material not in compliance with the Plan shall be handled according to the protocols set forth in the Sediment QA/QC plans. The sediment testing result shall be submitted to DEP within 90 days following the completion of beach construction. The Sediment QA/QC plans include the following:
 - a. If, during construction, the Permittee or Engineer determines that the beach fill material does not comply with the sediment compliance specifications, measures will be taken to avoid further placement of noncompliant fill, and the sediment inspection results will be reported to the Department.
 - b. The Permittee shall submit post-construction sediment testing results and an analysis report as outlined in the Sediment QA/QC plan to the Department within 90 days following beach construction. The sediment testing results will be certified by a P.E. or P.G. from the testing laboratory. A summary table of the sediment samples and test results for the sediment compliance parameters as outlined in Table 1 of the Sediment QA/QC plan shall accompany the complete set of laboratory testing results. A statement of how the placed fill material compares to the sediment analysis and volume calculations from the geotechnical investigation shall be included in the sediment testing results report.
 - c. A post-remediation report containing the site map, sediment analysis, and volume of noncompliant fill material removed and replaced shall be submitted to the Department within 7 days following completion of remediation activities.
20. Any existing sand fencing within the limits of the dune project or seaward, shall be removed prior to fill placement. Following construction, any sand fencing shall be limited to the approved design specifications provided in this permit.
21. If the Permittee is unable to complete two maintenance events within the 15-year life of the permit, the Permittee may request (prior to the expiration date of the permit), and the Department shall grant, an extension of the permit expiration date in order to allow

completion of the second maintenance event. The extension would be documented through an administrative modification.

22. **Post-Construction Meeting.** Within 60 days following each construction activity authorized by this permit, the Permittee shall hold a post-construction conference. Attendees shall include at minimum, the Permittee, Agent, Department representative, and FWC representative.

EXECUTION AND CLERKING:

Executed in Tallahassee, Florida.

STATE OF FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION



Gregory W. Garis.
Program Administrator
Beaches, Inlets and Ports Program
Office of Resilience and Coastal Protection

Attachment(s):

1. Approved Permit Drawings (Signed and Sealed September 1, 2020)
2. Approved Sediment QAQC for upland source (Dated May 5, 2020)

FILING AND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

FILED, on this date, pursuant to Section 120.52, F. S., with the designated Department Clerk, receipt of which is hereby acknowledged.



Clerk

January 27, 2021
Date