

Florida Division of Emergency Management
Beaches Quick Guide
Public Assistance Projects

Often storms erode the coastline or leave dangerous escarpments on the beach. Beaches and shore lines may be eligible for emergency sand placement or permanent restoration. Project location, scope of work, sand source, and potential impacts to flora and fauna are all important components to be considered. Since these areas may be environmentally sensitive, coordination with multiple agencies may be required. All beach projects undergo extensive review by FEMA. The scope of work will determine the level of FEMA review and environmental consultation.

1. The Public Assistance Program and Policy Guide (FP 104-009-2 / April 2017, pg 82, 127) states:

- (a) If a natural or engineered beach has eroded to a point where a 5-year flood could damage improved property, cost-effective emergency protective measures on the beach that protect against damage from that flood are eligible.
- (b) Eligible measures typically include the construction of emergency sand berms to protect against additional damage from a 5-year flood. Emergency sand berms are not intended to permanently restore the beach; they are intended only to provide protection from immediate threats. The Applicant may construct emergency berms with sand recovered from the beach or with imported sand. If the Applicant constructs the berm with imported sand, FEMA will only provide PA funding if the sand is from a source that meets applicable environmental regulations and one of the following circumstances exists:
 - (i) Recoverable quantities are insufficient; or
 - (ii) State, Territorial, Tribal, or local government regulations prohibit placement of the recovered sand.
- (c) A beach is considered eligible for permanent repair if it is an improved beach and has been routinely maintained prior to the disaster. A beach is considered to be an improved beach if the following criteria apply:
 - (i) The beach was constructed by the placement of sand to a designed elevation, width, grain size, and slope
 - (ii) The beach has been maintained in accordance with a maintenance program involving the periodic renourishment of sand

2. Documentation Requirements

- A. Prior to project start:
 - Latitude and longitude of project
 - R-monuments or V-monuments
 - Linear feet of beach involved/affected
 - Above or below mean high water line
 - In or near CBRA unit
 - Potentially affected threatened or endangered species
 - Latitude and longitude of sand source
 - Specify if upland sand or offshore borrow will be used
 - Dune Slope Ratio
 - Escarpment height and length
 - Projected dates of construction
 - Status of permits (USACE and/or FDEP) including copies of permits
 - Compliance documentation from USACE permits can help expedite review. If available, please provide copies of State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) consultation and NMFS Essential Fish Habitat consultation
- B. After project is complete:
 - Actual dates of construction (start to finish)
 - USFWS Conservation and Other Minimization Measures Required – statement of compliance with all general and specific permit and project conditions.
 - Turtle Monitoring program (monitoring results/report)

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3. Potential Agency Coordination

a. Federal

- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)
- National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)
- Federally-recognized tribes
- U.S. Coast Guard (USCG)

b. State

- Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP)
- Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWCC)
- State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO)

4. Point of Contact

To coordinate your beach restoration activities or for more information please contact FEMA-R4EHP@fema.dhs.gov and cc: Larissa Hyatt at Larissa.Hyatt@fema.dhs.gov or 770-403-9739.