



FEMA's *Public Assistance Program and Policy Guide*, <http://www.fema.gov/public-assistance-policy-and-guidance> provides detailed information regarding Public Assistance (PA) grant eligibility requirements. This document provides the language from the guide that specifically addresses beaches; however, there are overarching PA eligibility requirements detailed in the guide that also apply.

PA eligibility is divided into: emergency work and permanent work.

Emergency Work - Berms on Beaches

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.

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:

- Recoverable quantities are insufficient; or
- State, Territorial, Tribal, or local government regulations prohibit placement of the recovered sand.

Based on the average expected erosion for a 5-year flood, FEMA only provides PA funding for emergency berms constructed with up to 6 cubic yards per linear foot of sand above the 5-year stillwater elevation or the berm's pre-storm profile, whichever is less. Stillwater elevation is the maximum storm-induced water-surface elevation. In some cases, placing sand below the 5-year stillwater elevation may be necessary to provide a base for the berm. The placement of that sand is also eligible as part of the emergency protective measure.

Placement of dune grass on an emergency berm is only eligible if it is required by permit and is an established, enforced, uniform practice that applies to the construction of all emergency berms within the Applicant's jurisdiction, regardless of the circumstance. The Applicant must include the dune grass replacement cost in the berm construction cost when evaluating cost-effectiveness. Any maintenance of the dune grass after the initial installation is not eligible.

Permanent Work on Beaches

Replacement of sand on beaches is only eligible under certain conditions, described below. A beach is considered an eligible facility when all of the following conditions exist:

- The beach is not a federally constructed shoreline under the specific authority of USACE;
- The beach was constructed by the placement of imported sand—of proper grain size—to a designed elevation, width, and slope;¹ and

¹ 44 CFR § 206.226(j)(2)(i).

- The Applicant has established and adhered to a maintenance program involving periodic renourishment with imported sand to preserve the original design.² Placement of sand under the following circumstances does not meet this requirement:
 - Emergency or “one-time” nourishment, even if to a design
 - Emergency or “as-needed” renourishments when the beach has eroded to a critical condition where all of the original nourishment is gone
 - Partial renourishments or “hot-spot” nourishments
 - Renourishment using material from a channel maintenance project, because dredge spoils do not meet compatibility design criteria and the amount placed is dependent on the amount dredged, not the beach design



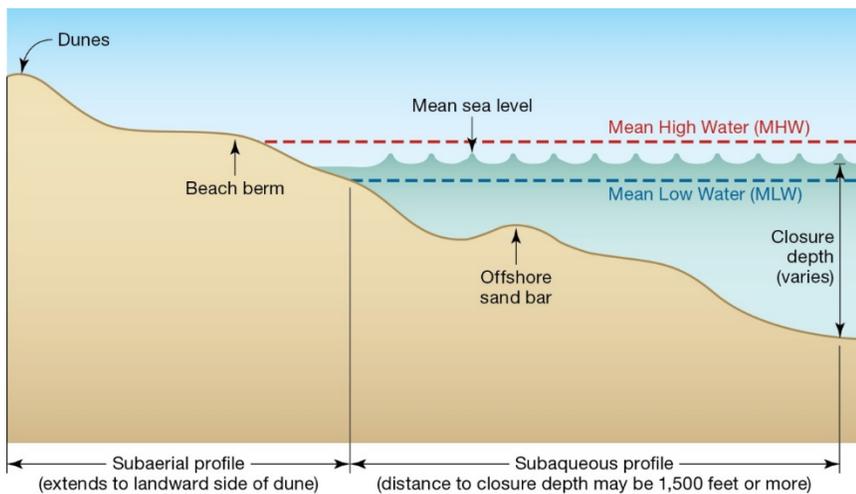
Documentation Supporting Eligibility of a Beach

To document eligibility of a beach as a designed and maintained facility, the Applicant should provide the following information:

- All design studies, plans, construction documents, and as-builts for the original nourishment;
- All studies, plans, construction documents, and as-builts for every renourishment;
- Documentation and details of the maintenance plan, including how the need for renourishment is determined and funded; and
- Pre-and post-storm profiles that extend at least to the seaward edge of the subaqueous nearshore zone (closure depth, usually -15 to -20 feet). (See Figure 1)

The amount of sand eligible for replacement is limited to the amount lost as a result of the incident. FEMA uses the pre- and post-storm profiles of the beach to determine the eligible volume of sand for replacement. If pre-storm profiles are not available, FEMA estimates the amount of sand lost using design documents and renourishment history.

Figure 1. Typical Beach Profile



Replacing sand that eroded prior to the incident is not eligible. However, the Applicant is encouraged to renourish the project to achieve the design profile.

If removal of sand from a maintained facility is eligible, disposal of the sand spoils on a public beach may be eligible as part of that project when it is the most cost-effective method of disposal.

² 44 CFR § 206.226(j)(2)(ii).