MIAMIBEACH

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

NO. LTC # 241-2007

LETTER TO COMMISSION

TO: Mayor David Dermer and Members of the City Commission

FROM: Jorge M. Gonzalez, City Manager

DATE: October 31, 2007

SUBJECT: Beach Renourishment

The purpose of this LTC is to provide the Mayor and City Commission with an update on the efforts to identify a source of sand for continued renourishment of the City's beaches. On July 2, 2007, I submitted LTC No. 150-2007 (attached), describing a meeting I attended in Washington D. C. with the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works. Additionally, LTC No. 168-2007 (attached) transmitted correspondence from the Army Corps of Engineers (ACE) to Congresswoman Ros-Lehtinen, stating that completion of final review and approval of the Letter Report documenting that domestic sand sources did not exist was anticipated in October 2007.

On Tuesday, October 30, 2007, during a meeting with staff from Congresswoman Ros-Lehtinen's office, the City learned that Assistant Secretary Woodley had informed Miami-Dade County that there was a "snag" with the approval of the Letter Report. Following that meeting, the Congresswoman's office provided the Administration with a copy of the attached correspondence from the South Atlantic Division of the ACE, indicating that the Draft Report submitted by the Jacksonville Office of the ACE is incomplete. The correspondence further indicates that within two weeks, an in-progress review be requested for the project to discuss the comments, coordinate responses, and present a schedule for the remaining work. The Administration received the correspondence in time to discuss this critical issue with staff from the offices of Senator Mel Martinez and Congresswoman Debbie Wasserman-Schultz.

According to the correspondence, the Letter Report does not conclusively make the determination of whether domestic sand sources are or are not available. Additionally, the attached comments state that there are problems with the report regading:

1. Projected Nourishment Rate compared to the historic rate
2. The identified period of nourishment
3. Need for a single borrow source versus multiple borrow sources
4. Environmental impacts
5. Local opposition
6. Economic justification of continued nourishment
7. Material suitability

The Administration is concerned with the continued lack of progress on, and resolution of, this issue, and during the next two weeks, will work to develop a recommended course of action for this issue. Additionally, we will continue to coordinate with the City's federal lobbyists and the offices of our Senators and Representatives

I will provide you with updates as this issue develops. In the meantime, please contact me if you have any questions or need additional information.

JMG/HF/kc

C: Executive Staff
Fred Beckmann, Public Works Director
Kevin Crowder, Economic Development Director

Attachments:

Department of the Army Memorandum, October 26, 2007
LTC 145-2007
LTC 150-2007
LTC 168-2007

RECEIVED
2007 NOV 7 - AM 10: 30
CITY CLERK'S OFFICE

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20314-1000

CECW-SAD

26 October 2007

MEMORANDUM FOR CESAD-SAD (ATTN: Terry Stratton)

SUBJECT: HQUSACE Policy Compliance Review Dade County, Florida Beach Erosion Control and Hurricane Protection Project Letter Report.

1. Reference is made to the July 17, 2007, memorandum for HQUSACE, Subject: Alternative Sand Sources for Dade County, Florida, Beach Erosion Control and Hurricane Protection Project.

2. The Draft Report, submitted in July 2007 is incomplete; therefore we are unable to recommend investigation or purchase of non-domestic sand at this time. In coordination with the OASA(CW), we have determined that it is critical to identify whether domestic sand sources are or are not available. The current report does not conclusively make that determination. If domestic sources are available, then additional study to determine the economic and environmental implications is necessary. If upon revision of the report, it is determined that no domestic sources exist, then the district may request permission from this office for investigation of non-domestic sources. Based on the analysis currently included within the draft report, it is not clear whether domestic sand is available. This issue must be resolved before the report can be completed.

3. The July draft has been reviewed by the Office of Water Policy Review (OWPR), and comments are attached for integration into the next version of this report. It is requested that within two weeks, an in-progress review be requested for this project to discuss the attached comments, coordinate responses to each issue, and present a schedule for the remaining work.

4. Due to the complexity of locating and evaluating sand borrow sources in Florida, a Regional Sediment Management Approach is recommended. This approach may help develop a long term strategy for re-nourishment activities in Florida.

Encl

STACEY E. BROWN
Interim Civil Works Deputy,
South Atlantic Division
Regional Integration Team
Directorate of Civil Works

CECW-PC 27 August 2007

HQUSACE POLICY COMPIANCE REVIEW
DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA
BEACH EROSION CONTROL AND HURRICANE PROTECTION PROJECT LETTER REPORT

1. BACKGROUND.

A. Study Area. Dade County is located along the southeast coast of Florida, and contains the city of Miami. The Dade County shoreline extends along two barrier island segments and three islands, each of which is separated form the mainland and the City Miami by Biscayne Bay. The Dade County Beach Erosion Control and Hurricane Protection Project (BEC and HP project) provided for the placement of beach fill alone the 9.3 mile reach of the shoreline extending from Bakers Haulover Inlet to Government Cut and along the 1.4 mile length of Haulover Beach Park. The 2.4 mile length of Sunny Isles was added to the project in 1985 under a separate authorization.

B. Problem. Dade County's offshore borrow areas have been nearly depleted. Only one borrow area containing roughly 500,000 cubic yards of material remains offshore of the Dade County shoreline. This volume is not adequate to supply the approximately 15,000,000 cy of material needed over the next 25 years.

C. Authorization. Section 935 of WRDA 1986 stated "Notwithstanding any other provision of law, in any case in which the use of fill material for beach erosion and beach nourishment is authorized as a purpose of an authorized water resource project, the Secretary is authorized to acquire by purchase, exchange, or otherwise from non-domestic sources and utilize such material for such purposes if such materials are not available from domestic sources for environmental or economic reasons" Conference Report on the FY 99 Energy and Water Appropriations Bill further states that "none of the funds provided for the Dade County, Florida project be used for acquisition of foreign source materials for the project unless the Secretary of the Army provides written certification to the Committees on Appropriations that domestic sources of material are not available".

D. Recommendation. The Secretary of the Army provide written certification to the Committees on Appropriations stating that an acceptable domestic source of material is not available which will allow for the acquisition of foreign source material for use in the Dade County BEC and HP project.

2. REVIEW OF REPORT SUBMITTALS. The Dade County, Florida Beach Erosion Control and Hurricane Protection Project Letter Report dated July 2007 was received on 25 July 2007.

3. COMMENTS FROM REVIEW OF THE JULY 2007 LETTER REPORT.

A. Renourishment.

1. Nourishment Rate versus Historic Maintenance. Table 1 of the special report shows the volume of periodic maintenance/nourishment operations that have been placed in the study area between 1980 and 2003. The total volume of material is approximately 3.8 million cubic yards, which results in an average annual volume of about 165,000 to 170,000 cubic yards. However, page 19 states that the annual volume for renourishment is 343,000 cy/yr, which is used in identifying borrow requirements. It is not clear why the annual rate for future renourishment would be so much greater than what has been historically placed at the project to maintain the project profile. Further explanation is needed to explain the basis for the annual renourishment rate and why the volume of sand identified for remainder of the renourishment period is so different than that placed historically.

2. Period of Renourishment. Page 19 notes that construction of the original project was completed in 1982 and the segment to Sunny Isles was completed in 1988. Future nourishment requirements were established based on those completion dates and a 50-year nourishment period. However, paragraph 7.e. of ER 1165-2-130 indicates that Federal interest in nourishment extends for a period up to 50 years after initiation of construction, not completion. The original project construction began in 1975 and the remaining nourishment requirements should be adjusted per the guidance. It is not clear from the report when the extention to Sunny Isles was initiated, however the renourishment period for that project should also be adjusted similarly.

B. Evaluation.

1. Single Borrow Source. It is not apparent why any single borrow source would need to provide the full 15 million c.y. of material needed for the remainder of the Federal project. The plan should be formulated in consideration of how multiple borrow sources could be used over the next approximately 30 years to meet the nourishment needs of Dade County beaches. This is an important consideration as borrow sites in nearby counties have been deemed unavailable due, in part, to local opposition to the removal of 15 million c.y. of material that they may potentially need in the future. It does not appear that the Corps considered removal of, for example, 5 million c.y. of material from waters offshore other counties, nor that the public was allowed consideration of lesser options.

2. Environmental Impacts. Caution should be taken when environmental impacts are discussed. First, the environmental impacts associated with the various borrow sites, and compared with the Bahamian site, are not described in great enough detail to allow the reader to agree with the determination that use of domestic sites would have greater environmental impacts than the foreign site. Second, a distinction should be made between environmental impacts which may be permitted/approved by state and Federal resource agencies as required (but may perhaps result in compensatory mitigation costs),

versus environmental impacts that are of a degree that state and Federal permits/approvals may not be granted. In the latter case, the argument that a site is not available due to environmental constraints is clearer. However, it is important to remember that if use of a borrow site is environmentally unacceptable for the Dade County project, then it is (or should be) unacceptable for any other entity to use. The damage to the borrow site is in the use of the borrow site, not the location of where the beach fill occurs.

3. Local Opposition. It is understandable that other communities may not desire the use of offshore borrow sources in their county by Dade County. However, in this circumstance the borrow sources appear to be in state waters and according to the included July 10, 2007 email from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, there is no explicit policy, regulation, or statute that would prevent Dade County from applying for a permit to utilize borrow sites offshore of other jurisdictions. The district may want to provide further explanation of state and Federal authorities or policies to deny permits for this project based upon local opposition. Renourishment has been proposed and accomplished using sand sources offshore of adjacent communities in several locations elsewhere in the country, with some states/sponsors developing regional sediment management programs to identify suitable offshore sand sources for several projects. Further rationale is needed to demonstrate why the available, economical sand sources discussed in the letter report should not be considered viable for renourishment of Miami Beach. Further investigations appear warranted before non-domestic sources are considered.

Additionally, the report states that there was 100% opposition expressed during public scoping for the borrow sites in St. Lucie, Martin and Palm Beach counties, but it is not evident that public input was sought in Dade County/Miami areas where the actual beach nourishment project is located. Input into project development, including both beach nourishment and sand borrow sites aspects, needs to be obtained from all interested parities. It appears the district only sought input from the public near the borrow sites, but not near the nourishment sites. The Corps may indeed find support for the use of sand sources in the state waters by St. Lucie, Martin, and Palm Beach counties if Dade County/Miami residents are asked.

C. Economics.

1. Section 902 Cost Cap. The materials indicate that the extension to Sunny Isles was authorized in WRDA 86, as was the increased renourishment period for the overall project. So Section 902 cost limits may apply to elements of the project. The report should address whether the project modification to Sunny Isles is subject to a Section 902 cost cap. If so the material should clarify whether that project segment has a cap on the total project costs or separate caps for initial construction and nourishment. The original project may have a cost limitation on the renourishment. These limits may constrain the period of renourishment and the volume of sand needed.

2. Economic Justification. The material presented does not address the economics associated with continued renourishment. Given the significant cost increase associated with use of more distant sand sources, it is not known whether continued renourishment would be economical. The material should discuss whether the project justification supports the use of more distant, costly sand sources.

D. Environmental.

1. Material Suitability. Paragraph 62 notes that the material in deepwater borrow sites does not meet the current state standard, which calls for a maximum of 5% fines. However, page 8 indicates that the DEP was willing to consider 10-12% fines as acceptable for beach quality back in 2000. It isn't clear why this change in standards was instituted by the state and what the implications would be for the screening the alternative sand sources. Given the increased costs for borrowing sand from more distant locations, the borrow site screening should address the potential for the state to reconsider 10-12% as the allowable percentage of fines and the effect on identifying economical borrow sites.

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2007 JUN 26 AM 4:12

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

NO. LTC # 145-2007

LETTER TO COMMISSION

TO: Mayor David Dermer and Members of the City Commission

FROM: Jorge M. Gonzalez, City Manager For JMG

DATE: June 26, 2007

SUBJECT: **BEACH RENOURISHMENT EFFORTS IN WASHINGTON, D.C.**

The purpose of this LTC is to update the Mayor and City Commission on the City's efforts to address beach renourishment issues in Washington D.C., specifically, the 'foreign source sand' issue. Currently, two Congressional directives prohibit acquisition of non-domestic beach sand by federally funded renourishment projects. The Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) has drafted a letter report to resolve this issue which is pending final approval.

On April 30, 2007, Congresswoman Ileana Ros-Lehtinen sent a letter to the ACOE requesting the status of the letter report for alternative sources of sand for the Miami-Dade County Beach Erosion Control project. On May 2, 2007, Kevin Crowder and I met with Congresswoman Ros-Lehtinen, Senator Bill Nelson, and representatives of Congresswoman Debbie Wasserman-Schultz, to discuss the City's federal legislative agenda, including the sand source issue.

During the course of the meeting with Rep. Ros-Lehtinen, she agreed to request a meeting between the Miami-Dade congressional delegation, ACOE leadership, the City of Miami Beach, and Miami-Dade County, to discuss this study and the length of time the ACOE's process could take to complete the review of the report. A letter requesting this meeting from Reps. Ros-Lehtinen and Wasserman-Schultz is attached.

This meeting requested by the City has been scheduled for this Wednesday, June 27th in Washington, D.C. The City will be represented at the meeting by Kevin Crowder and myself. During this trip, I also plan to meet with staff from Senator Nelson's office to further discuss this issue, as a follow up to our meeting with the Senator in May.

I will continue to update you as this issue progresses. In the meantime, if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

JMG/RCM/kc

Attachments:

June 28, 2007 Letter to John Paul Woodley, Asst. Secretary of the Army
June 5, 2007 Letter to Congresswoman Ros-Lehtinen

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

June 18, 2007

The Honorable John Paul Woodley, Jr.
Assistant Secretary of the Army, Civil Works
108 Army Pentagon
Room 3E446
Washington, DC 20310-0108

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Thank you for your letter, dated June 5, 2007, on alternative sand sources for Miami. We know that you share our concern with maintaining hurricane protection and beach erosion projects such as those protecting the residents of South Florida.

As you state in your letter, the Corps has for some years now been working on a letter report in order to use environmentally suitable non-domestic sand on the beaches, and we are very concerned with the amount of time the Corps current process will take to complete and review the report. Given that we have now entered hurricane season, we urge you to direct the Corps to conduct concurrent reviews at the District, Division and Headquarters levels. The safety of all coastal residents is too important to handle this matter as business as usual.

Further, in order to keep the delegation informed of the Corps' progress we would like to host a meeting with the interested members of the South Florida delegation and the responsible uniformed Commanders from the District, Division and Headquarters. We suggest that the Corps summarize the issue on sand sourcing, provide us a break down by month of the amount of effort being spent to resolve the sand issue, identify all interested federal and non federal groups with whom they are working, and then provide us a schedule for final resolution.

At this meeting, we would also like to discuss the status of other projects which are of vital interest to our community, namely the Miami River maintenance dredging project, Phase III dredging for the Port of Miami and local Everglades Restoration projects.

We realize that you are busy and understand that you may not be able to make your schedule work this month but do request that even if you cannot meet, that the uniformed Commanders at each of the levels in the Corps meet with us this month. If your staff will contact our staff I am sure that we can identify a mutually agreeable day and time.

In closing we want to thank you for your leadership in resolving the issue of non availability of domestic sand for our beaches and for your leadership on so many issues of importance to our South Florida community. We look forward to meeting with the responsible leaders this month.

Sincerely,

Ileana Ros-Lehtinen
Member of Congress

Debbie Wasserman Schultz
Member of Congress

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY
CIVIL WORKS
108 ARMY PENTAGON
WASHINGTON DC 20310-0108

JUN 05 2007

Honorable Ileana Ros-Lehtinen
United States House of Representatives
2160 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-0918

Dear Congresswoman Ros-Lehtinen:

Thank you for your letter of April 30, 2007, requesting the status of alternative sources of sand study for the Dade County Beach Erosion Control and Hurricane Protection project. Following initial construction of the project, periodic renourishment was conducted in order to maintain the project's authorized beach and dune features. Domestic sources of beach fill have been exhausted during the initial construction and subsequent renourishment cycles.

I am sure you are aware that two Congressional directives affect acquisition of non-domestic beach fill by the Corps for this project. The first directive, contained in Section 935 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986, indicates that I am authorized to acquire fill material from non-domestic sources if such materials are not available from domestic sources for environmental or economic reasons. The second, contained in the Conference Report on the Fiscal Year 1999 Energy and Water Appropriations Act, specifies that none of the funds provided for this project shall be used for the acquisition of non-domestic material unless I provide written certification to the Committees on Appropriations that domestic sources of materials are not available.

The use of alternative domestic sources of beach fill, within economic hauling distances of the project, was initially evaluated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in cooperation with representatives of the state of Florida, Dade, Broward and Palm Beach Counties, and the American dredging industry. This initial evaluation identified the need to formally document the economic and environmental viability of domestic sand sources to sustain future renourishments. A letter report is currently under preparation by the Jacksonville District to certify whether domestic sources of materials are available. The report is scheduled to be transmitted to the Corps Division office in Atlanta in June, 2007. Following an appraisal by the Division Office, the report will be forwarded to Corps Headquarters in Washington for policy review. After completion of

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the Corps review, the report will be sent to my office for final action. At that time, I will provide the Corps findings and recommendations to Congress, and make my determination regarding certification.

Please feel free to contact me if I may be of further assistance.

Very truly yours,

John Paul Woodley, Jr.

John Paul Woodley, Jr.
Assistant Secretary of the Army
(Civil Works)

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CITY CLERK'S OFFICE

MIAMIBEACH

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

NO. LTC # 150-2007

LETTER TO COMMISSION

TO: Mayor David Dermer and Members of the City Commission

FROM: Jorge M. Gonzalez, City Manager

DATE: July 2, 2007

SUBJECT: **BEACH RENOURISHMENT MEETING WITH THE ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS**

The purpose of this LTC is to provide the Mayor and City Commission with a report on a beach renourishment meeting that I attended in Washington D.C. on June 27, 2007.

As described in LTC No. 145-2007, Congresswomen Ileana Ros-Lehtinen and Debbie Wasserman-Schultz requested a meeting with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) regarding the status of the alternative sources of sand study for the Miami-Dade County Beach Erosion Control project.

The meeting took place on June 27th in the office of Congresswoman Ros-Lehtinen with representatives of the Army Corps of Engineers, including Assistant Secretary of the Army John Paul Woodley, USACE Director of Civil Works Major General Don T. Riley, USACE Jacksonville District Commander Colonel Paul Grosskruger, and Jerry Scarborough of the USACE's Jacksonville Programs and Project Management Division. In addition to Congresswomen Ros-Lehtinen and Wasserman Schultz, staff from the offices of Representatives Lincoln Diaz-Balart, Mario Diaz-Balart, Alcee Hastings, and Senators Bill Nelson and Mel Martinez were also in attendance. In addition to myself and Kevin Crowder, County Commission Chairman Bruno Barreiro attended on behalf of the County.

A number of issues were discussed during the meeting, including timing of the letter report dealing with the availability of domestic sand sources, the timing to acquire foreign sand (if available), backup plans in case sand acquisition from a foreign source is not feasible, and the breakwaters at 29th-32nd Street.

LETTER REPORT ON DOMESTIC SAND SOURCES

Secretary Woodley and the USACE indicated that the study was undergoing concurrent review, and that it would most likely arrive to the Secretary's office in late October for his review and signature. Upon approval, the letter would then be submitted to the Congressional appropriations committees to notify them that a domestic source of sand does not exist.

TIMING OF ACQUIRING FOREIGN SOURCE SAND

Following notification of the Appropriations Committees, the USACE may begin exploring alternative sources of sand, and will also begin the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requirements. The USACE would then award a bid pursuant to this report in late 2009. The USACE indicated that they consider this an expedited timeline, therefore, there is a real possibility that a bid would not be awarded until later in 2010.

BACKUP PLANS

During the meeting I specifically inquired if the USACE had any backup plans for renourishment of our beaches, in case, 1) a willing seller cannot be identified, 2) environmentally compatible foreign sand cannot be found, 3) foreign source sand is available but too expensive. The USACE indicated that preliminary estimates are that foreign source sand would cost approximately $45-50 per cubic yard, but that until the letter report is complete and forwarded to Congress, they are prohibited from searching for, studying, and negotiating prices for sand from a foreign source.

The Secretary also indicated that there wasn't really a 'Plan B', but that the USACE may have to re-explore returning to the State of Florida, to extract sand from offshore borrow pits elsewhere in the State. This effort has caused significant political problems in the past, which prompted the Secretary to indicate that perhaps the beaches in Miami-Dade County no longer be renourished. USACE officials did acknowledge that resolution of this foreign source sand issue is not a long term solution to the City's beach erosion problems.

BREAKWATER PROJECT

The Secretary and representatives of the USACE were presented with aerial photos of the breakwater project, and discussed the problems that are occurring to the south of it. The USACE indicated that the project is being monitored from the USACE office in Vicksburg, and that they would investigate to see if they can 1) determine the cause and 2) identify potential solutions, including possible removal.

In addition to the meeting described above, we also met with staff in Senator Nelson's office to discuss concerns raised by the Surfrider Foundation regarding the Reef Ball project that is proposed at 63rd Street. The Senator's staff expressed the Senator's continued support of efforts to control erosion in Miami Beach, and I expressed the City's commitment to continue to work with the Surfrider Foundation to ensure that their concerns and questions are considered by Miami-Dade County and the Army Corps of Engineers.

CONCLUSION

In summary, I certainly appreciate the opportunity to ask questions directly to the leadership of the Army Corps of Engineers, and I am grateful for their honest responses to our many questions. However, the Administration is disappointed that there does not seem to be a sense of urgency among the USACE officials for resolving this issue, that the time frame for finalization of the report and for acquiring foreign sand could be as long as three years (if a suitable foreign source is identified), and that neither a backup plan nor a long-term solution to the erosion problems exists.

Beach erosion will continue to be an area of focus during the coming months, including during the Congressional recess in August. The Administration has discussed inviting leadership of the USACE down to view the erosional hot spots, and the breakwater project firsthand, in order for them to better understand the magnitude and serious nature of the problem.

I will continue to update you as this issue progresses. In the meantime, if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

JMG/RCM/kc

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MIAMIBEACH

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

NO. LTC # 168-2007

LETTER TO COMMISSION

TO: Mayor David Dermer and Members of the City Commission

FROM: Jorge M. Gonzalez, City Manager

DATE: July 13, 2007

SUBJECT: Beach Renourishment

The purpose of this LTC is to provide the Mayor and City Commission with the attached correspondence from the Army Corps of Engineers regarding the meeting that I attended in Washington D. C. on June 27, 2007, which was described in LTC No. 150-2007.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions and/or comments.

JMG/kc

c: Bob Middaugh, Assistant City Manager
Hilda Fernandez, Assistant City Manager
Fred Beckmann, Director, Public Works Department
Kevin Crowder, Director, Economic Development & Legislative Affairs

Attachment

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2007 JUL 16 AM 9:53
CITY CLERK'S OFFICE

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

JUL 2 2007

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

Programs and Project Management Division
Coastal, Navigation and Antilles Branch

Honorable Ileana Ros-Lehtinen
House of Representatives
2160 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-0918

Dear Ms. Ros-Lehtinen:

I would like to thank you and Congresswoman Debbie Wasserman Schultz for allowing us to meet with both of you and your staffs on Wednesday, June 27, 2007, to discuss some very important Federal projects in the South Florida area. I hope we were able to clearly articulate where we currently are with these projects and provide you with the understanding of the processes involved for these projects in the near future. I would like to take this opportunity to summarize our discussions.

The Florida Keys Water Quality Improvements Project is moving with three agreements now being forwarded this week to our headquarters for approval. Upon approval we expect to execute these within 30 days. Reimbursement would follow shortly after that. Two other agreements are being worked with the local municipalities to obtain necessary supporting information needed. We expect to complete these and forward to our headquarters within the next month as well.

The key issue with the Miami River Maintenance Dredging Project is funding, as you so clearly described. We thank you for your efforts in this regard and appreciate your continuing support. Two additional options on the current contract have been awarded which should allow the continuation of the project into early FY-08. There is funding in the President's budget for FY-08 that would allow the award of at least one more option. With these options awarded as planned, six additional options would remain to complete the project. In the interim, we have been working with Dade County in an effort to allow the advancement of the non-Federal share of the project costs to ensure maximum project execution with the funding available from both Federal and non-Federal sources. As you know, it has been

decided that an amendment to the Project Cooperation Agreement would be a better vehicle to allow for the acceleration of the non-Federal share of the project costs. We are proceeding ahead, as Mr. Woodley suggested, to obtain Federal approval of this document prior to the document going before the Miami Dade Board of County Commissioners (BCC) for local approval. Our goal is to have a federally approved document ready to go before the BCC in their September session.

The lack of sand sources for the Dade County Beach Erosion Control and Hurricane Protection project has caused considerable delays in the renourishment of this important beach project. As you are aware, all available domestic sources of compatible sand for this project either have been exhausted or are not environmentally and economically feasible. In compliance with Congressional directives affecting acquisition of non-domestic sources of beach material, we have prepared a Letter Report to document that domestic sources are not available. This report will be submitted within two weeks to the Headquarters Office of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) for final review and approval. Once approved, the report will then be sent over to Mr. Woodley to make his determination regarding certification to the Committees on Appropriations that domestic sources of materials are not available. This is anticipated in October 2007. Once Congress is notified, the Corps will then be allowed to pursue non-domestic sand sources, and subsequently proceed with the next renourishment of the Dade County beaches. Due to the extensive environmental procedures required, this is currently estimated to occur in late 2009.

Commissioner Bruno Barreiro of Dade County brought up an issue concerning erosion caused by "experimental" breakwaters constructed near the beach in Dade County. After further investigation, it was determined that these structures were designed and constructed by Dade County. The only involvement of the Corps was through a Department of the Army permit that was required for this project feature to be built. In this regard, it is our responsibility to ensure that the integrity of the Federal project has not been compromised by this local project. Therefore, we will be conducting a site inspection in the very near future to investigate this situation in an effort to help the county decide how best to proceed.

The last project discussed was Miami Harbor and the cost sharing agreement for the General Reevaluation Report. This agreement has been under review at Corps Headquarters and responses to comments have been provided. It is anticipated that approval of this agreement will occur in September 2007.

Hopefully our meeting was beneficial to you and you have a better understanding as to where we are with these projects. If you have questions or need additional information, please call me or have one of your staff contact Ms. Patrice Morey, Acting Congressional Liaison at (904) 232-2243.

Sincerely,

Paul L. Grosskruger
Colonel, U.S. Army
District Commander

Copies Furnished:
Honorable Debbie Wasserman Schultz, House of Representatives, 118 Cannon House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515-0920
Honorable John Paul Woodley, Jr., Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works), Department of the Army, 108 The Army Pentagon, Room 3E446, Washington, DC 20310-0108
Major General Don T. Riley, Director of Civil Works, 441 G. Street, NW, Washington, DC 20314-1000
Brigadier General Joseph Schroedel, U. S. Army South Atlantic Division, ATTN: CESAD-DE, 60 Forsyth Street, SW, Atlanta, GA 30303
Mr. Thomas W. Waters, P.E., Chief, Planning and Policies Division, CECW-MVD, 441 G. Street, NW, Washington, DC 20314-1000
Mr. James Dalton, Chief, SAD-RIT, 441 G. Street, NW, Washington, DC 20314-1000