



MIAMI BEACH

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER
NO. LTC # 145-2007

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LETTER TO COMMISSION
CITY CLERK'S OFFICE

TO: Mayor David Dermer and Members of the City Commission

FROM: Jorge M. Gonzalez, City Manager

For JMG [Signature]

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.

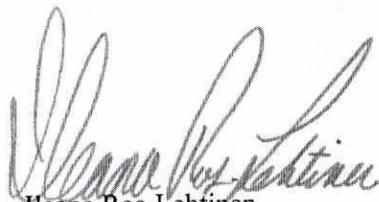
As you state in your letter, the Corps has for some years now been working on a letter report in order to use environmentally suitable non-domestic sand on the beaches, and we are very concerned with the amount of time the Corps current process will take to complete and review the report. Given that 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.


Heena Ros-Lehtinen
Member of Congress

Sincerely,


Debbie Wasserman Schultz
Member of Congress



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.

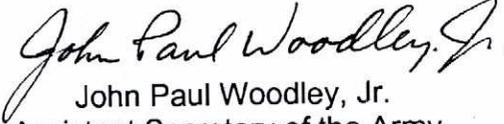
I am sure you are aware that two Congressional directives affect acquisition of non-domestic beach fill by the Corps for this project. The first directive, contained in Section 935 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986, indicates that I am authorized to acquire fill material from non-domestic 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

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.
Assistant Secretary of the Army
(Civil Works)