

a. Potential impacts to marine biological resources (benthic organisms, passageway for fish and other marine life) and Essential Fish Habitat.

b. Potential impacts to threatened and endangered marine mammals, birds, fish, and plants.

c. Potential impacts associated with using inlets as a sand source.

d. Potential impacts to adjacent shoreline changes on the east side Lockwood Folly Inlet, or along the Town of Oak Island.

e. Potential impacts to Navigation, commercial and recreational.

f. Potential impacts to the long-term management of the inlet and oceanfront shorelines.

g. Potential effects on regional sand sources and how it relates to sand management practices and North Carolina's Beach Inlet Management Practices.

h. Potential effects of shoreline protection.

i. Potential impacts on public health and safety.

k. Potential impacts to recreational and commercial fishing.

l. The compatibility of the material for nourishment.

m. Potential impacts to cultural resources.

n. Cumulative impacts of past, present, and foreseeable future dredging and nourishment activities.

3. *Alternatives.* Several alternatives and sand sources are being considered for the development of the protection plan. These alternatives will be further formulated and developed during the scoping process and an appropriate range of alternatives, including the no federal action alternative, will be considered in the EIS.

4. *Scoping Process.* A public scoping meeting (see **DATES**) will be held to receive public comment and assess public concerns regarding the appropriate scope and preparation of the Draft EIS. Participation in the public meeting by federal, state, and local agencies and other interested organizations and persons is encouraged.

The USACE will consult with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service under the Endangered Species Act and the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act; with the National Marine Fisheries Service under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act and the Endangered Species Act; and with the North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office under the National Historic Preservation Act. Additionally, the USACE will coordinate the Draft EIS with the North Carolina Division of Water Quality (NCDWQ) to assess the

potential water quality impacts pursuant to Section 401 of the Clean Water Act, and with the North Carolina Division of Coastal Management (NCDQM) to determine the projects consistency with the Coastal Zone Management Act. The USACE will closely work with NCDQM and NCDWQ in the development of the EIS to ensure the process complies with all State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) requirements. It is the intention of both the USACE and the State of North Carolina to consolidate the NEPA and SEPA processes thereby eliminating duplication.

6. *Availability of the Draft PEIS.* The Draft EIS is expected to be published and circulated by early 2013. A public hearing will be held after the publication of the Draft EIS.

Dated: February 14, 2012.

S. Kenneth Jolly,

Chief, Regulatory Division.

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Department of the Army; Corps of Engineers

Revised Notice of Intent To Prepare a Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Brunswick County Beaches, NC, Coastal Storm Damage Reduction Project

AGENCY: Department of the Army, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, DoD.

ACTION: Notice of Intent.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Wilmington District (Corps) is currently conducting a General Reevaluation Report (GRR) for the Brunswick County Beaches, NC, Coastal Storm Damage Reduction (CSDR) Project. The Corps intends to prepare a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) to evaluate the impacts of the proposed CSDR alternatives to reduce coastal storm damages from beach erosion in the towns of Holden Beach, Oak Island, and Caswell Beach, North Carolina. An array of structural, non-structural, and no action alternatives are being evaluated. Current analyses suggest that the dune and berm beach fill alternative maximizes net CSDR benefits for the project area beaches and provides additional environmental and recreation benefits. An offshore borrow area has been identified within the Southwestern portion of Frying Pan Shoals (FPS) (located off the coast of Cape Fear, North Carolina) to provide beach

compatible sediment for the 50-year life of the project.

The DEIS is being prepared in accordance with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended, and will address the relationship of the proposed action to all other applicable Federal and State Laws and Executive Orders.

DATES: The earliest the DEIS will be available for public review would be August 2013.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Questions about the proposed action and DEIS can be answered by Mr. Doug Piatkowski, Environmental Resources Section; U.S. Army Engineer District, Wilmington; 69 Darlington Avenue, Wilmington, North Carolina 28403; telephone: (910) 251-4908; email: douglas.piatkowski@usace.army.mil.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

1. *Previous Notice of Intent (NOI) publication.* This notice is a revision of an August 26, 2003, NOI (68 FR 51257) to prepare a DEIS and is prepared in response to changes in the proposed action, availability of new information relative to the proposal and associated impacts, and the significant amount of time which has passed since the last NOI.

2. *Authority.* Federal improvements for CSDR along a segment of the ocean shoreline in Brunswick County, North Carolina, were authorized by the Flood Control Act of 1966 (Pub. L. 89-789). The most applicable text is copied below.

The project for hurricane-flood control protection from Cape Fear to the North Carolina—South Carolina State line, North Carolina, is hereby authorized substantially in accordance with the recommendations of the Chief of Engineers in House Document Numbered 511, Eighty-ninth Congress.

3. *Project Purpose.* The project purpose is reduction of damages from beach erosion for the towns of Caswell Beach, Oak Island (the former towns of Long Beach and Yaupon Beach have been incorporated as the Town of Oak Island), and Holden Beach, North Carolina. If implemented, the project would also enhance the beach area available for recreation use and provide habitat for a variety of plants and animals.

Significant environmental resources to be addressed in the DEIS include, but are not limited to: (1) Endangered and threatened species; (2) Marine and estuarine resources; (3) Upland beach and dune resources; (4) Fish and wildlife and their habitats; (5) Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) and Cape Fear Sandy Shoals; (6) Water and air quality; (7) Socioeconomic resources; (8) Cultural

resources; and (9) Hazardous Toxic Radioactive Waste.

4. *Alternatives.* Project alternatives being evaluated consist of an array of structural and non-structural alternatives and no action. Structural alternatives include “soft” structures such as beach fill (i.e., beach nourishment) and “hard” structures such as breakwaters, seawalls, and groins. An array of “soft” structure beach fill alternatives are being evaluated, including berm only and multiple dune elevation and berm width combinations. The use of “hard” structures will be addressed within the updated planning paradigm in the state of North Carolina and relative to compliance with the Federal Coastal Zone Management Act. Non-structural alternatives considered include relocation of structures and acquisition and demolition of structures. Based upon analyses completed to date, the proposed action consists of a dune and berm beach fill alternative. The currently proposed beach fill alternative for Oak Island and Caswell Beach is a 14-foot-dune and 75-foot-berm extending along approximately 4.5 miles of total shoreline. The proposed beach fill alternative for Holden Beach is a 14-foot-dune and 50-foot-berm extending along approximately 4.2 miles of shoreline. The estimated total volume of beach compatible sediment needed for the 50-year project life, including initial construction and nourishment intervals, is approximately 42 million cubic yards.

Several inshore, offshore, and upland borrow sites were initially investigated for quantity and quality of beach compatible sediment to support the project. The currently proposed borrow site for initial construction and nourishment intervals is located along the southwestern portion of FPS, the cape associated shoals located southeast of Bald Head Island, North Carolina. The limits of the borrow area extend between 1–5 miles offshore and at depth contours between –10 and –30 feet.

5. *Scoping.* On January 24, 2000, in accordance with 40 CFR 1501.7, a scoping letter was sent to agencies, interest groups, and the public requesting identification of significant resources and issues of concern with respect to the proposed project. Considering the duration of time that had past and the decision to prepare an EIS based on comments received during the initial scoping effort, a second scoping letter was sent on 6 December 2004. All scoping comments received to date have been documented in the report and have been considered in the formulation of project alternatives.

Additional scoping meetings have not been requested and are not anticipated at this time.

All affected federal, state, and local agencies, affected Indian tribes, and other interested private organizations and parties having an interest in the study are, hereby, notified of this revised NOI to prepare a DEIS.

6. *Cooperating Agencies.* The Corps is the lead agency for this project. Cooperating agency status has been initiated with the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management since the offshore limits of the proposed borrow area at FPS extend into the Outer Continental Shelf.

Steven A. Baker,

Colonel, U.S. Army, District Commander.

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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Applications for New Awards; Investing in Innovation Fund, Development Grants

AGENCY: Office of Innovation and Improvement, Department of Education.

ACTION: Notice.

Overview Information: Investing in Innovation Fund, Development grants Notice inviting applications for new awards for fiscal year (FY) 2012.

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Number: 84.411P (Development grants Pre-Application). 84.411C (Development grants Full Application).

Note: In order to receive an Investing in Innovation Fund (i3) Development grant, an entity must submit a pre-application. The pre-application is intended to reduce the burden of submitting a full i3 application. Pre-applications will be reviewed and scored by peer reviewers using selection criteria designated in this notice. Only entities that have submitted a top-rated pre-application will be eligible to submit a full i3 application.

DATES:

Pre-Applications Available: February 27, 2012.

Deadline for Notice of Intent to Submit Pre-Application: March 15, 2012.

Deadline for Transmittal of Pre-applications: April 9, 2012.

Full Applications Available: If you are selected to submit a full application, we will transmit the full application package and instructions to you.

Deadline for Transmittal of Full Applications: Only entities that submitted a top-rated pre-application as scored by the peer reviewers and as

identified by the Department will be eligible to submit a full i3 application. The Department will announce on its Web site the deadline date for transmission of full applications.

Deadline for Intergovernmental Review: 60 calendar days after the deadline date for transmittal of full applications.

Full Text of Announcement

I. Funding Opportunity Description

Purpose of Program: The Investing in Innovation Fund, established under section 14007 of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA), provides funding to support (1) local educational agencies (LEAs), and (2) nonprofit organizations in partnership with (a) one or more LEAs or (b) a consortium of schools. The purpose of this program is to provide competitive grants to applicants with a record of improving student achievement and attainment in order to expand the implementation of, and investment in, innovative practices that are demonstrated to have an impact on improving student achievement or student growth (as defined in this notice), closing achievement gaps, decreasing dropout rates, increasing high school graduation rates, or increasing college enrollment and completion rates.

These grants will (1) allow eligible entities to expand and develop innovative practices that can serve as models of best practices, (2) support partnerships between eligible entities and the private sector and philanthropic community, and (3) support eligible entities in identifying and documenting best practices that can be shared and taken to scale based on demonstrated success.

Under this program, the Department awards three types of grants: “Scale-up” grants, “Validation” grants, and “Development” grants. The three grant types differ in the evidence that an applicant is required to submit in support of its proposed project; the expectations for “scaling up” successful projects during or after the grant period, either directly or through partners; and the funding that a successful applicant is eligible to receive. This notice invites applications for Development grants. The Department anticipates publishing notices inviting applications for the other types of i3 grants (i.e., Validation and Scale-up grants) in the spring of 2012.

Development grants provide funding to support high-potential and relatively untested practices, strategies, or programs whose efficacy should be