RECORD OF DECISION

SAN CLEMENTE SHORELINE, ORANGE COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

The Final Feasibility Report and the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FR/FEIS) for the San Clemente Shoreline, Orange County, California, dated February 2012, address coastal storm damage reduction opportunities in San Clemente, California. Based on the FR/FEIS, the reviews of other federal, state and local agencies, input from the public, and the review by my staff, I find that the plan recommended by the Chief of Engineers is technically feasible, economically justified, in accordance with environmental statutes and in the public interest. Thus, I approve the San Clemente Shoreline Project for construction.

The FR/FEIS documents the evaluation of both structural and non-structural alternatives to reduce coastal storm damages in the San Clemente, California area. The recommended plan consists of construction of a 50-foot wide protective beach berm which would be renourished to maintain the protection on the average of every 6 years over the 50-year period of federal participation. The beach berm would extend along about 3,400 feet of shoreline and would have a crest elevation of +17 feet above Mean Lower Low Water. The initial construction would use approximately 251,000 cubic yards of sand. The beach berm would slope toward and into the surf at a ratio of about 8 feet horizontal for every 1 foot vertical (at equilibrium). Material for the beach fill would be dredged from a borrow site off of the coast of San Diego County. Monitoring of the beach profile would be undertaken annually. The recommended plan is the National Economic Development (NED) plan. No compensatory mitigation is included as part of the initial construction; however, additional monitoring of the potential area of impact would be conducted.

Significant impacts to biological resources (i.e., surfgrass) and recreation (i.e., surfing) were not predicted to occur, in large part because of the small construction footprint and the limited schedule necessary for both the initial project implementation, as well as future renourishments. As part of the recommended plan, the Chief of Engineers included consideration of future mitigation measures if monitoring results demonstrate that impacts have not been avoided or minimized. A monitoring plan has been prepared to address potential mitigation, if necessary.

In addition to a "no action" plan, six structural alternatives and one non-structural alternative for coastal storm damage reduction were identified and discussed in the FR/FEIS. The structural alternatives included beach fill, revetments, sheet pile seawalls, breakwaters, offshore reefs and groins. The non-structural alternative that was considered was managed retreat. The no action plan and beach fill alternatives were advanced for final evaluation and are fully described in the FR/FEIS, which is incorporated here by reference. Beach berm widths ranging from 0 to 197 feet were analyzed. The 50-foot plan was identified as the NED plan. The recommended plan is the 50-foot plan, which is also the environmentally preferrable alternative and the plan

preferred by the local sponsor. All practicable means to avoid or minimize adverse environmental effects have been incorporated into the recommended plan.

The Draft Feasibility Report and Draft Environmental Impact Statement were circulated for public review for 45 days beginning on August 6, 2010. A public meeting was held August 19, 2010. All comments submitted were responded to in the FEIS.

Technical and economic criteria used in the formulation of alternative plans were those specified in the Water Resource Council's *Economic and Environmental Principles and Guidelines for Water and Related Land Resource Implementation Studies*. All applicable laws, executive orders, regulations and guidelines were considered in the evaluation of alternatives and the selection of the recommended plan. Based on review of these evaluations, I find that the overall benefits gained with construction of the recommended project serve the public interest and outweigh any adverse effects. This Record of Decision completes the National Environmental Policy Act process.

SEP - 6 2012

Date

Jo-Ellen Darcy

Jo-Ellen Darcy
Assistant Secretary of the Army
(Civil Works)