



November 20, 2014

The Honorable Jo-Ellen Darcy
Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works
Headquarters, US Army Corps of Engineers
441 G Street, NW
Washington, DC 20314-1000

Proposal Re: FR Doc. 2014-18495 Filed 8-4-14; 8:15 am

Dear Secretary Darcy:

On behalf of Okaloosa County, Florida, I would like to take this opportunity to submit the following proposal for non-federal interests for feasibility studies and modifications to authorized USACE water resources development projects or feasibilities for inclusion in the Annual Report.

As you know, in Fiscal Year (FY) 2009 Congress allocated \$96,000 to commence an Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) Reconnaissance Study to investigate the continued erosion of our coastline. Following the conclusion of the Reconnaissance Study in November of 2010, ACOE Engineers determined that there is a strong Federal interest in proceeding to the feasibility phase because the estimates of potential damages from hurricanes and tropical storms exceed the costs of providing a measure of shore protection. However, due to the lack of consistent shore protection and preservation funding, this project has been stalled for over three years.

The federal government has already invested time and manpower in this shore restoration project by completing the initial phase and required Reconnaissance Study. During this time of economic awareness, it would be irresponsible to disregard this investment.

Attached are the required documents and information conveyed in the Federal Register. Please let me know if you need additional information, or have any further questions.

Your continued support of our coastline will be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,



Ed Schroeder, Director
Tourist Development Department

Cc: Steven L. Stockton, SES
Director of Civil Works

**Proposal for Federal Feasibility Study
Okaloosa County Shore Protection Project**

Supplementary Information

1. Non-Federal Interests:
 - a. Local Sponsor: Okaloosa County
 - b. Other Interest: State of Florida (Florida DEP)
 - c. City of Destin
2. **This proposal is for a Feasibility Study. Following the conclusion of the Reconnaissance Study in November of 2010, ACOE Engineers determined that there is a strong Federal interest in proceeding to the feasibility phase because the estimates of potential damages from hurricanes and tropical storms exceed the costs of providing a measure of shore protection.**
3. The purpose of the proposed study is to assess the needs for hurricane and storm damage reduction, identify opportunities for environmental restoration and protection, and develop an economically justified shore protection project for the Gulf of Mexico shoreline in Okaloosa County.
4. Cost Estimate for proposed study: \$1.8 million
5. Monetary and Non-Monetary Benefits:

Continued restoration and maintenance of the Okaloosa County shoreline to mitigate the erosive effects of sea level rise, hurricanes, and other storms is critical to the local population. Protecting and enhancing the beach and dune system provides the following benefits:

- Reduces storm damage potential to upland property and infrastructure and, hence, protects property values
- Provides critical environmental habitat for sea turtle nesting and shorebirds
- Supports the local tourism economy, creates new jobs and sustains existing jobs
- Provides recreational benefits
- Protects the mission critical structures of Eglin Air Force Base (AFB); beach restoration along Okaloosa Island will enhance the performance of previously constructed and future beach restoration projects undertaken by the AFB.

6. Local Support

Okaloosa County strongly supports federal participation in storm damage reduction and mitigation initiatives that will help prevent catastrophic loss from natural disasters and hurricanes. The State of Florida has partnered on previous storm damage reduction projects in Okaloosa County, and continues to play a role in permitting and funding various upcoming projects.

7. Financial Stability

Okaloosa County (non-Federal sponsor) has the financial ability to provide the required cost share. (see attached letter from the County's financial officer).

8. Letter or Statement of Support: To be provided by the County and FDEP

Okaloosa County (non-Federal sponsor) fully supports the proposed Feasibility Study. (see attached letter from the County's Tourist Development Department Director).

NORTHWEST FLORIDA'S
**EMERALD
COAST**
Convention & Visitors Bureau

October 3, 2014

Curtis M. Flakes
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
CESAM-PD
109 St Joseph Street
Mobile, AL 36602

RE: Okaloosa County Storm Damage Reduction, Beach Protection and Restoration Project

Dear Mr. Flakes:

This letter is to advise you that Okaloosa County intends to act as a non-Federal sponsor for the above referenced Storm Damage Reduction, Beach Protection and Restoration Project proposed for Okaloosa County, Florida. The proposed project is to be executed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers under the authorization of Section 110 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1962. This Letter of Intent is provided as evidence of our continuing support of the project based upon information presented to Okaloosa County regarding the 905(b) Analysis - Okaloosa County, Florida, Storm Damage Reduction, Beach Protection and Restoration Reconnaissance Study prepared by the Mobile District.

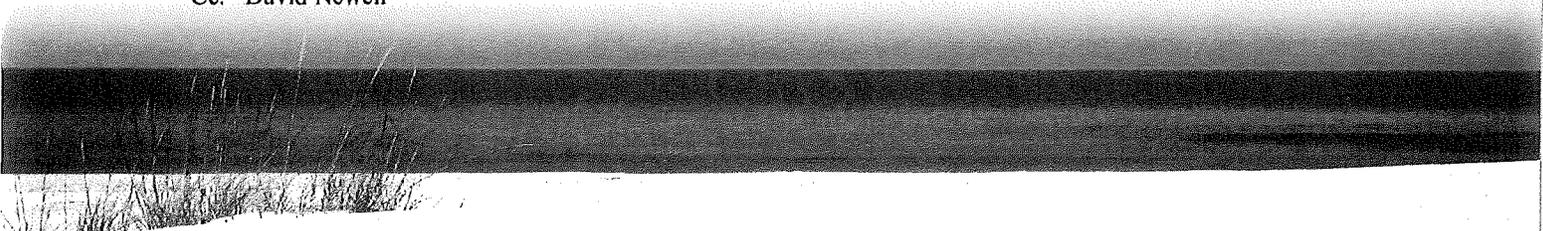
We understand that non-Federal cost sharing will be required for project construction. We are also aware that both the Corps and our responsibilities will be delineated in a Feasibility Cost Sharing Agreement (FCSA) which both parties will execute before the feasibility phase commences. Furthermore, we understand that Okaloosa County is in no way obligated to fulfill any of the requirements of the non-Federal sponsor until the FCSA is executed.

We understand that upon execution of the FCSA, we will be responsible for providing a proportionate share of the project cost to initiate the Feasibility Phase Study. We understand that the non-Federal share can be provided in cash and/or in-kind contributions with up to 100 percent of the non-Federal share in in-kind contributions. This share also includes provision of all lands, easements, rights-of-way, necessary relocations and disposal areas that may be required for project implementation. We also understand that the project must be maintained and operated by the local authority after completion without cost to the United States in accordance with regulations prescribed by the Secretary of the Army.

Sincerely,


Ed Schroeder, Director
Tourist Development Department

Cc: David Newell



Emerald Coast Convention & Visitors Bureau, Inc. 1540 Miracle Strip Parkway SE, Fort Walton Beach, Florida 32548
T 850.651.7131 / F 850.651.7149 / EmeraldCoastFL.com / Toll-Free 1.800.322.3319

*Get a Little Sand
In Your Soul.*

**NON-FEDERAL SPONSOR'S
SELF-CERTIFICATION OF FINANCIAL CAPABILITY
FOR DECISION DOCUMENTS**

I, Gary Stanford, do hereby certify that I am the Finance Officer of Okaloosa County (the "Non-Federal Sponsor"); that I am aware of the financial obligations of the Non-Federal Sponsor for the Okaloosa County Storm Damage Reduction, Beach Protection and Restoration Project; and that the Non-Federal Sponsor will have the financial capability to satisfy the Non-Federal Sponsor's obligations for that project. I understand that the Government's acceptance of this self-certification shall not be construed as obligating either the Government or the Non-Federal Sponsor to implement a project.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have made and executed this certification this 13th day of October, 2014.

BY: *Gary J. Stanford*

TITLE: Finance Officer/Deputy Clerk

DATE: October 13, 2014

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