

Beaches Quick Guide

Public Assistance Projects

Often storms erode the coastline or leave dangerous escarpments on the beach. Beaches and shorelines may be eligible for emergency sand placement or permanent restoration. Project location, scope of work, sand source, and potential impacts to flora and fauna are all important components to be considered. Since these areas may be environmentally sensitive, coordination with multiple agencies may be required. All beach projects undergo extensive review by FEMA. The scope of work will determine the level of FEMA review and environmental consultation.

1. The Public Assistance Program and Policy Guide (FP 104-009-2 / June 2020, pg. 137, 180) states:
 - (a) If a natural or engineered beach has eroded to a point where flooding from a 5-year storm could damage improved property, cost-effective emergency protective measures on the beach that protect the improved property against damage from that 5-year storm are eligible.
 - (b) Eligible measures typically include the construction of emergency sand berms to protect against additional damage from a 5-year storm. Emergency sand berms are not intended to permanently restore the beach; they are intended only to provide protection from immediate threats. The Applicant may construct emergency berms with sand recovered from the beach or with imported sand. If the Applicant constructs the berms with imported sand, FEMA will only provide PA funding if the sand is from a source that meets applicable environmental regulations and one of the following circumstances exists:
 - (i) Recoverable quantities are insufficient; or
 - (ii) State, Territorial, Tribal, or local government regulations prohibit placement of the recovered sand.
 - (c) Placement of sand under the following circumstances does not meet this requirement:
 - (i) Emergency or “one-time” nourishment, even if to a design;
 - (ii) Emergency or “as-needed” renourishments when the beach has eroded to a critical condition where all original nourishment is gone;
 - (iii) Partial renourishments or “hot-spot” nourishments; or
 - (iv) Renourishment using material from a channel maintenance project when dredge spoils do not meet compatibility design criteria and the amount placed is dependent on the amount dredged, not the beach design.
 - (d) A beach is considered an eligible facility when all of the following conditions exist:
 - (i) The beach is not a federally constructed shoreline under the specific authority of USACE (i.e., not a specifically authorized and constructed Coastal Storm Risk Management Project);
 - (ii) The beach was constructed by the placement of imported sand—of proper grain size—to a designed elevation, width, and slope; and
 - (iii) The Applicant has established and adhered to a maintenance program involving periodic renourishment with imported sand to preserve the original design or a specific engineered

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design that is justified and clearly stated in the maintenance program.

2. Documentation Requirements

(a) Prior to project start:

- Latitude and longitude of project
- R-monuments or V-monuments
- Linear feet of beach involved/affected
- Above or below annual high tide line
- In or near Coastal Barrier Resource System (CBRS) unit
- Potentially affected threatened or endangered species
- Latitude and longitude of sand source
- Specify if upland sand or offshore borrow will be used
- Dune Slope Ratio
- Escarpment height and length
- Projected dates of construction
- Will the project consist of only the replacement of sand lost due to the disaster (standalone), or will the project be incorporated into the next scheduled re-nourishment and involve the replacement of sand lost due to non-disaster related erosion (comprehensive)
- Status of permits (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and/or Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP)) including copies of permits

- Compliance documentation from USACE permits can help expedite review. If available, please provide copies of State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) consultation and National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Essential Fish Habitat consultation

(b) After project is complete:

- Actual dates of construction (start to finish)
- U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) Conservation and Other Minimization Measures Required – statement of compliance with all general and specific permit and project conditions
- Turtle Monitoring program (monitoring results/report)

3. Potential Agency Coordination

(a) Federal

- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)
- National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)
- Federally-recognized Tribes
- U.S. Coast Guard (USCG)

(b) State

- Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ)
- Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks (MDWFP)

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- Mississippi Department of Marine Resources (MDMR)
- State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO)

4. Point of Contact

To coordinate your beach restoration activities or for more information please contact FEMA-
R4EHP@fema.dhs.gov

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- Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP)
- Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWCC)
- State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO)

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