

K. Public Interest

Regulatory

The Department has considered the effects of this project according to the public interest criteria that are specified in Section 373.414(1), F.S., and the Environmental Resource Permit Applicant's Handbook, Volume I, 10.2.3. The following is a brief summary of that evaluation for each of the public interest criteria:

- The activity is expected to have a positive effect on public safety, public welfare and the property of others;
- The activity is not expected to adversely affect the conservation of fish and wildlife, including endangered or threatened species, or their habitats;
- The activity is not expected to adversely affect navigation or the flow of water or cause harmful erosion or shoaling, and is intended to alleviate the effects of erosion;
- The activity is not expected to adversely affect the fishing or recreational values or marine productivity in the vicinity of the activity;
- The groin structures will be permanent in nature, while all other activities such as the dredging and sand placement are considered temporary in nature;
- The activity is not expected to adversely affect significant historical and archaeological resources under the provisions of s. 267.061; and
- The current condition and relative value of functions being performed by areas affected by the proposed activity are expected to be generally improved by the project.

After weighing the effects of the project for each of these criteria, and based on reasonable assurance provided by the Applicants, the Department has determined that the proposed activity is clearly in the public interest.

Proprietary

The proposed project will nourish a critically eroded shoreline, thereby providing protection to the existing upland property and structures from future storm events. The project will not adversely affect fish and wildlife habitat or other natural or cultural resources, and will not interfere with traditional recreational uses such as fishing, boating, and swimming. Pursuant to Rule 18-21.003(51), F.A.C., the demonstrable environmental, social, and economic benefits that would accrue to the public at large as a result of this activity would exceed all demonstrable environmental, social, and economic costs of the proposed action. Therefore, pursuant to Rule 18-21.004(1)(a), F.A.C., the Department has determined that this project is in the public interest.

EXISTING AND PROPOSED LAND USES AND ACTIVITIES

The Lido Key Hurricane and Storm Damage Reduction Project area consists of the coastline extending from FDEP monuments R-3.45 to R-44, a distance of about 1.6 miles. The upland bordering the project area consists of both publicly and privately owned property. The public lands are comprised of three City or County owned parks and approximately 780 public parking spaces located adjacent to the project area.

The three beachfront parks within the project area are: North Lido Beach, Lido Beach and Lido Beach Pool, and South Lido Beach and Park. The beach parks experience heavy recreational use at all times of year and also provide important sea turtle nesting habitat, including the endangered loggerhead sea turtles. The locations of the parks are shown on the project area aerial maps in Attachment No. 25.

Park facilities are open to the general public. There are no user fees assessed to the general public.

North Lido Beach is located on Lido Key, one quarter mile northwest of St. Armands Circle, off of John Ringling Blvd. There are no lifeguards on duty at this beach.

Lido Beach is located on Lido Key, one half mile southwest of St. Armand's Circle, on Ben Franklin Drive. The facilities offered at this location include: public rest rooms, concessions, gift shop, meeting room, playground equipment, handicapped accessible observation deck, beach umbrella and chair rentals, parking, a heated swimming pool and outdoor showers. The pool has a user fee of \$4/day for adults, \$2/day children, ages 4-11 and seniors 55+.

South Lido Park is located on Ben Franklin Drive at the southern tip of Lido Key. This park has a picnic area and a nature trail with scenic overlooks and a boardwalk. Additionally amenities include: rest rooms, picnic tables, cooking grills, playground equipment, volleyball court, nature trails, observation tower and decks, and a canoe trail. At this park lifeguards are on duty during weekends from Memorial Day to Labor Day.