

STATE OF DELAWARE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL

SHORELINE AND WATERWAY MANAGEMENT SECTION DIVISION OF WATERSHED STEWARDSHIP ENTERPRISE BUSINESS PARK 285 BEISER BOULEVARD, SUITE 102 DOVER, DELAWARE 19904

PHONE: (302) 608-5500 FAX: (302) 739-6724

September 18, 2024

Mike Snyder DNREC, Division of Climate, Coastal, and Energy Delaware Coastal Programs 100 W Water Street, Suite 7B Dover, Delaware 19904

Re: Coastal Zone Management Federal Consistency Review to Support the Indian River Flood Shoal Dredging and Beneficial Use <u>Emergency Project</u>

Dear Mr. Snyder,

Please accept this UPDATED request for a Federal Consistency review under the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 to support the proposed Indian River Flood Shoal Dredging and Beneficial Use Emergency Project. The proposed project would involve:

- Dredging up to 800,000 cubic yards of material from three potential borrow sites: the Indian River Inlet Flood Shoal, Middle Island Shoal, and/or Burton Island Shoal.
- Using all dredged material for renourishment of the northside Indian River Inlet Beach (North Beach), Delaware Seashore State Park, Sussex County, Delaware.

Since the sand bypass system became inoperable in 2019, DNREC Shoreline and Waterway Management Section has judiciously added sand to North Beach via truck haul, which has been ineffective for mitigating risk and can no longer keep up with the current rate of erosion. In response to the inadequate maintenance, the dune system at North Beach is severely eroded and prone to scour from direct wave energy on a regular high tide. North Beach needs to be rebuilt with a large volume of sand that is delivered rapidly. Given the recent dune breach on August 17-18, 2024 that flooded and closed the northbound lanes of SR-1 for several hours, the Project was escalated and DNREC Wetlands and Waterways Management Section approved a Waiver of the Subaqueous Lands Act on August 19, 2024 for an emergency beach nourishment repair. In addition, the US Army Corps of Engineers granted Special (Emergency) Permit Processing Procedures on August 23, 2024 for submitting an Individual Permit Application. Construction is planned for November 2024 through February 28, 2025. The following documents are included in the Updated Coastal Zone Management Federal Consistency Application Package for your review:

01 UPDATED CZM Fed Consistency Form_UPDATE_SIGNED.pdf 02 Project Design Plan_2024.09.18.pdf 03 Permit Supplement_2024.09.18.pdf 04 Modified Sampling and Analysis Plan_2024.08.30.pdf 05 SHPO Review 2nd Request_2024.09.16.pdf 06 EFH Worksheet Update_Combined.pdf 07 USACE IP Submission Portfolio.pdf

The following information will be provided as soon as available:

- 60% Project Design Plans
- Sediment Chemical Evaluation for all potential borrow site locations
- Updated SHPO Review to include Middle Island and Burton Island Shoals

Please let me know if you have any questions. We appreciate your help with this critical project!

Sincerely,

Karen A. Taylor

Karen A Taylor Coastal Environmental Scientist IV DNREC Shoreline and Waterway Management Section 901 Pilottown Rd. Lewes, DE 19958 <u>KarenAnn.Taylor@delaware.gov</u> (302) 855-7302