

**FEMA PUBLIC NOTICE OF
AVAILABILITY DRAFT
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
MEXICO BEACH JETTY EXTENSION AND REPAIRS PROJECT
CITY OF MEXICO BEACH, BAY COUNTY, FLORIDA**

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) hereby gives notice to the public of its intent to reimburse eligible applicants for eligible costs to repair or replace facilities damaged by **Hurricane Michael** occurring during the incident period of **October 7, 2018, to October 19, 2018**. This notice applies to the Public Assistance (PA) project for the City of Mexico Beach proposed Mexico Beach Jetty Extension and Repair Project at the entrance to St. Joseph's Bay located in Mexico Beach, Bay County, Florida, implemented under the authority of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C. §§ 5121-5207.

Under a major disaster declaration, **FEMA-DR-4399-FL**, signed by President Trump on **October 11, 2018**, Bay County was designated as adversely affected by the disaster and eligible for PA funding.

This public notice concerns activities pertaining to the City of Mexico Beach proposed Mexico Beach Jetty Extension and Repair project on the Mexico Beach Canal. The proposed construction activities would occur on the Gulf of Mexico in the vicinity of the entrance to St. Joseph's Bay, between Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) reference monuments R-127 and R-128, which are located on either side of the Mexico Beach Canal. The approximate start and end GPS coordinates for the entire length of the jetties are, East Jetty (29.950521, -85.430399 to 29.949807, -85.430080) and West Jetty (29.950492, -85.430684 to 29.949784, -85.430435).

The proposed project is to extend the east jetty 152 feet beyond its current location, for a total length of 339 feet and add 285 feet of sheet pile to the core of the east jetty as well as armor stone that would tie into the existing jetty head. Additional components include geotextile fabric, marine mattress, sand tightening to make it sand tight to prevent sand from transporting through the structure from the east. Repairs to the west jetty include repairing a 42 feet portion of the western jetty trunk through the demolition of the existing concrete box culverts and replacing them with a sheet pile core and armor stone that would tie into the existing western jetty head and existing sheet pile core. Additional components include geotextile fabric, marine mattress, sand tightening, and replacing the concrete walkway.

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations implementing NEPA (40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Parts 1500 to 1508), FEMA's Instruction 108-1-1 for implementing NEPA, the National Historic Preservation Act, Executive Order 11988, Executive Order 11990, and 44 CFR Part 9, FEMA has prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA). An alternatives analysis was performed, which included the evaluation of the proposed action, repair to pre-disaster conditions, and the no action alternative. Further detailed descriptions of all alternatives may be reviewed in the EA conducted by FEMA or by contacting FEMA-R4EHP-FLORIDA@fema.dhs.gov for a copy. The draft EA is available for public comment and can

be viewed on FEMA's and the City of Mexico Beach's websites at the following locations:

FEMA WEBSITE LOCATION:

<https://www.fema.gov/emergency-managers/practitioners/environmental-historic/nepa/environmental-assessment-mexico-beach>

CITY OF MEXICO BEACH WEBSITE LOCATION:

<https://mexicobeachfl.gov/uploads/2024/01/20240124-PA-4399-02299-PN-85616-COMB-Jetties-Draft-EA.pdf>

A hardcopy of the EA is available for review at City Hall, located in: 201 Paradise Path Mexico Beach, FL 32456, during normal business hours.

The Endangered Species Act (ESA) requires federal agencies to consult with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) for effects to federally listed threatened and endangered species. An informal consultation was conducted with the USFWS to determine the potential impacts of the Proposed Action. USFWS concurred that the Proposed Action may affect but is not likely to adversely affect the St. Andrew Beach Mouse, West Indian Manatee, Green Sea Turtle, Kemp's Ridley Sea Turtle, Loggerhead Sea Turtle, and Atlantic Sturgeon; nor adversely modify or destroy the existing designated critical habitat for piping plover, Gulf sturgeon, and Loggerhead sea turtle. An informal consultation was conducted with the NMFS to determine the potential impacts of the Proposed Action. NMFS concurred that the Proposed Action may affect but is not likely to adversely affect the Kemp's Ridley Sea Turtle, Loggerhead Sea Turtle, Green Sea Turtle, Atlantic Sturgeon, Smalltooth sawfish, and Giant manna ray; nor adversely modify or destroy the existing designated critical habitat for Gulf sturgeon and Loggerhead sea turtle.

The National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) requires federal agencies to take into account the effect of their undertakings on historic properties. FEMA consulted with the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) and received concurrence for a determination of No Adverse Effect to Historic Properties. Tribal consultation letters were submitted to ten federally recognized tribes with vested interest in Bay County, Florida. None of the tribes express any objections to the proposed project.

Presidential Executive Orders 11988 and 11990 require that all federal actions in or affecting the floodplain or wetlands be reviewed for opportunities to relocate and evaluated for social, economic, historical, environmental, legal, and safety considerations. The proposed Mexico Beach Jetty Extension and Repair project would be located within a special flood hazard area, per Bay County Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) #12005C0508H, dated June 02, 2009. The jetties are a functionally dependent facility that provides a higher level of flood protection and assists in reducing beach erosion to adjacent areas and sediment buildup in the Mexico Beach Canal. If no action is taken the shoreline would continue to be vulnerable to higher wave action and erosion and the sediment buildup in the Mexico Beach Canal would continue unmitigated.

This notice serves as the final public notice regarding the above-described action proposed for funded by the FEMA PA and Hazard Mitigation programs. Interested persons may obtain information about these actions by writing to the Federal Emergency Management Agency, Region 4, 3005 Chamblee Tucker Road, Atlanta, Georgia 30341, or by emailing FEMA-R4EHP-FLORIDA@fema.dhs.gov. Comments should be sent in writing with the subject line, “PA 4339-02299, Mexico Beach Jetty Extension and Repairs” at the above address within 30 days of the date of this notice.