

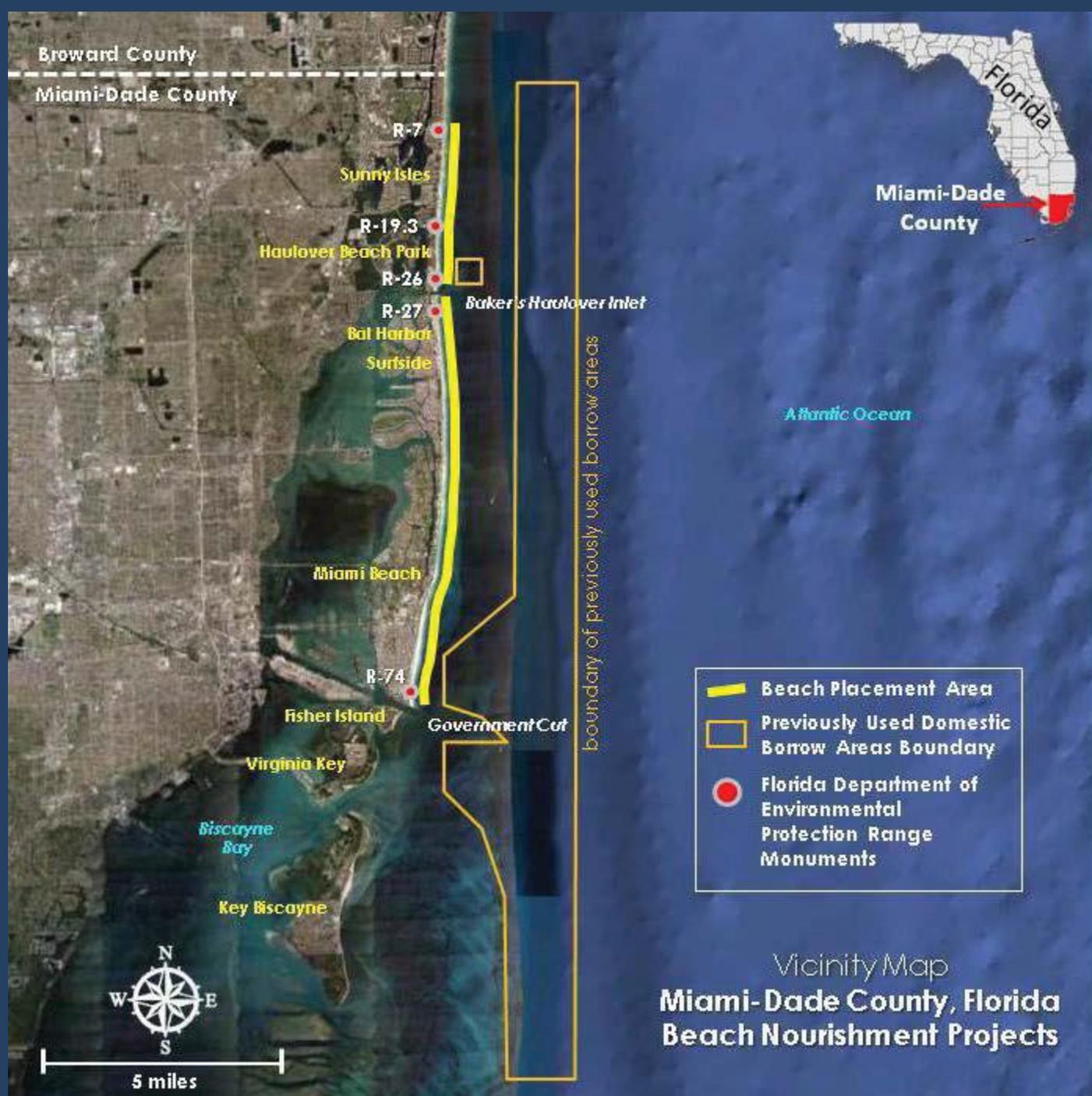
Draft Environmental Assessment Dade County Beach Erosion Control and Hurricane Protection Project



Introduction

- The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires that, at a minimum, an Environmental Assessment (EA) be completed for projects involving federal participation.
- The purpose of the Draft EA is:
 1. To review the environmental effects of utilizing sand source alternatives associated with the BEC&HP project for Miami-Dade County; and
 2. Determine whether the expected impacts from the project are significant enough to warrant preparation of a full Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

Project Summary



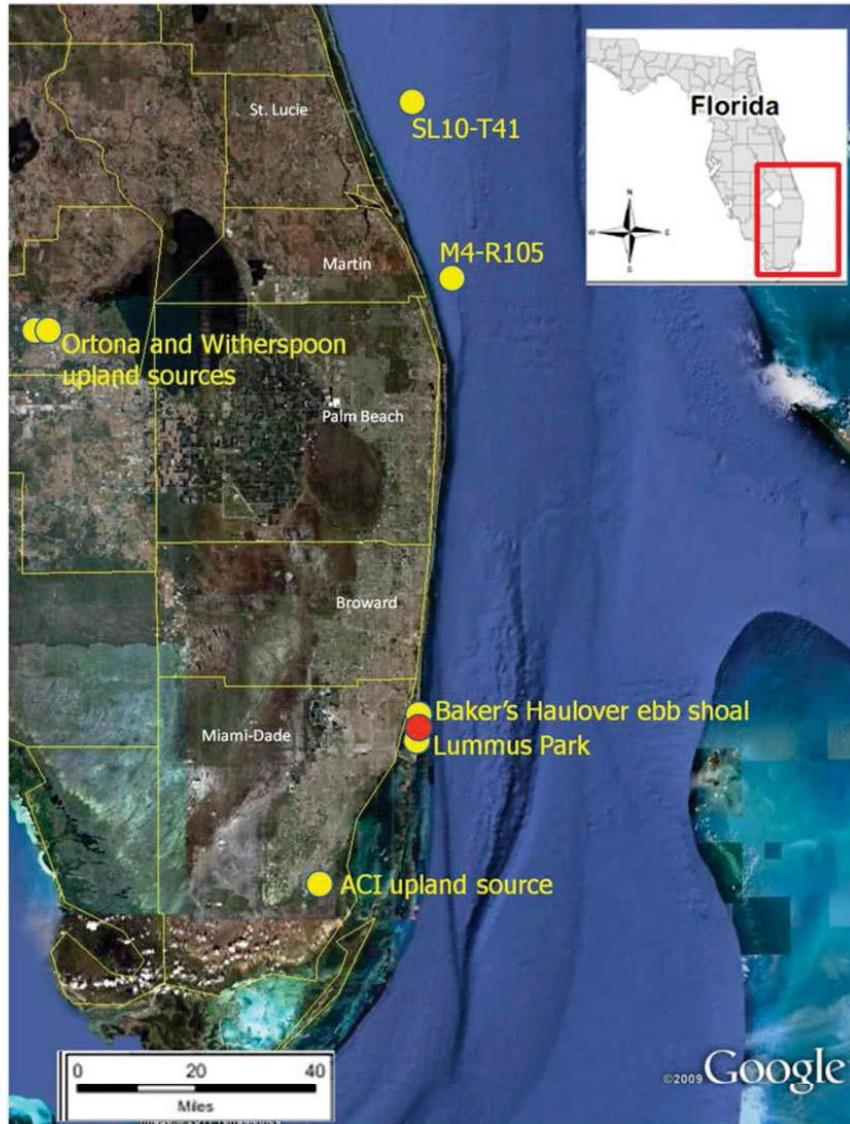
Alternative Sources of Sand

- The Corps along with state and local partners undertook an extensive effort to identify all potential domestic and non-domestic sources of sand.
- The process identified 111 potential sand sources.
- Most sand sources were screened out because:
 - Grain size or color not compatible
 - Source was being used for another project
 - Corps lacks authority to use non-domestic sources
 - Source was within three miles of the shoreline

Seven Sand Sources that Met Project Requirements

1. Site M4-R105 located offshore Martin County
2. Site SL10-T41 located offshore St. Lucie County
3. Baker's Haulover Inlet ebb shoal in Miami-Dade County
4. Lummus Park in Miami Beach
5. Atlantic Civil Inc. (ACI) sand mine in Miami-Dade County
6. Witherspoon Sand Plant sand mine in Glades County
7. Ortona Sand Plant and mine in Glades County

Potential Sand Sources After Screening



- Dade BEC&HP Project
- Sand source

Typical Hopper Dredge

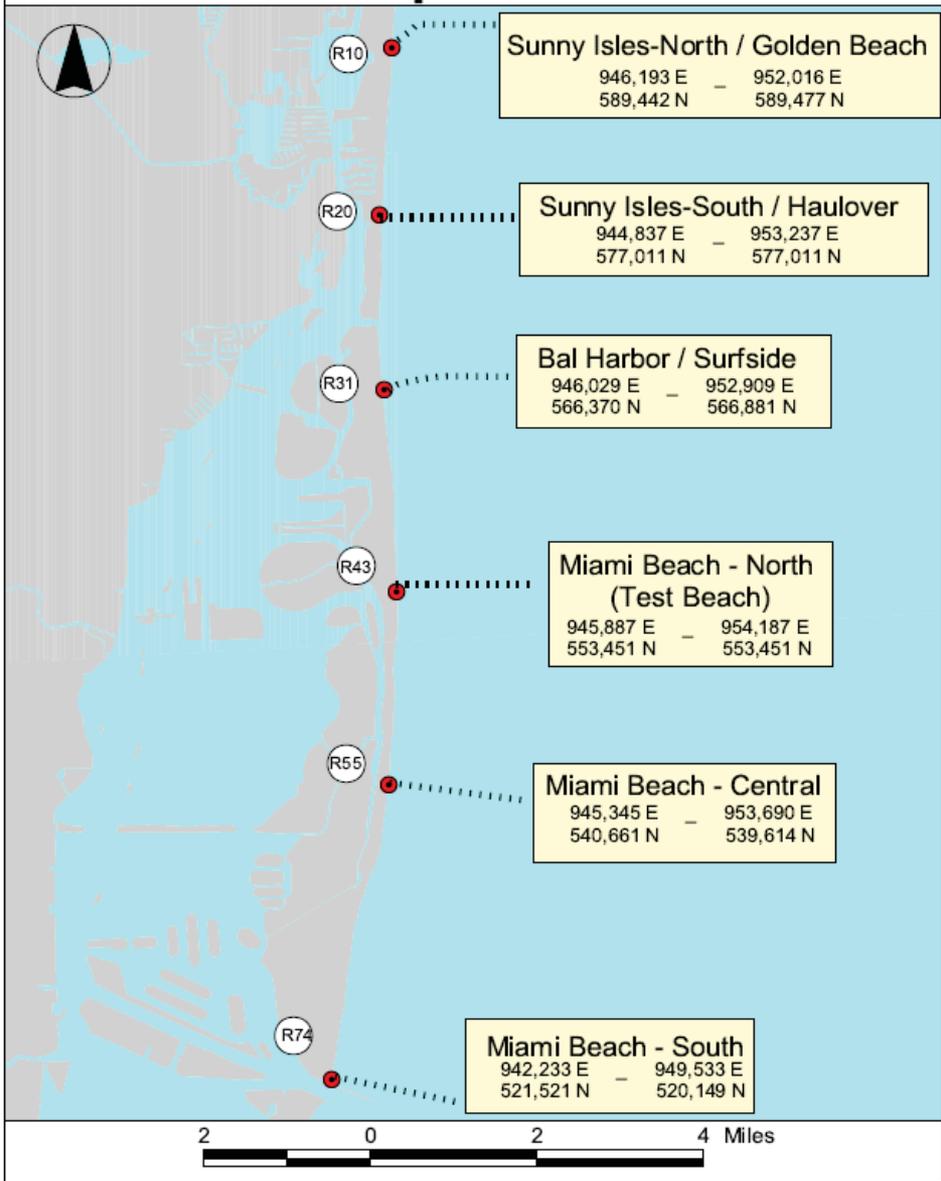


Typical Drag Head on Hopper Dredge





Beach Renourishment Pipeline Corridors



Floating the Pipeline into Place



Pipeline Elevated by Tires



Draft EA Preferred Alternative

- The preferred alternative is to use a combination of the seven sand sources to renourish the beach in Miami-Dade County.
- The Draft EA proposes mitigation to avoid and minimize potential and temporary impacts to coastal and marine resources, and compensation for unavoidable impacts.
- The unavoidable impacts are associated with the pipeline corridors and operations in Miami-Dade County.
- The Corps has issued a Draft Finding of No Significant Impact for the project.

Concerns

- The proposed project will result in significant financial impact to the ongoing beach renourishment activities of the local governments in the Treasure Coast Region.
- Martin and St. Lucie counties currently rely on offshore sand sources for beach renourishment projects.
- The use of sand sources in close proximity to Martin and St. Lucie counties will make these sources unavailable for Martin and St. Lucie county renourishment projects in future years.
- This will cause Martin and St. Lucie counties to seek more distant sources of sand for future renourishment activities, which will increase the cost of these projects.

Concerns

- The Draft EA identified several non-domestic sand sources considered for the project, including Ocean Cay, Bahamas.
- Use of a Bahamas site would eliminate economic impacts to local governments in the Treasure Coast Region.
- The Draft EA indicates a Bahamas site was eliminated from consideration, because the Corps lacks authority, under Section 935 of WRDA 1986, to acquire if domestic sources are economically/environmentally available.
- The Draft EA does not present an economic analysis of using a sand source in the Bahamas.

Report Recommendations

The Corps should conduct a full EIS that includes:

- Analysis of the total economic impacts to local governments.
- Analysis of when domestic sand sources will be exhausted.
- Analysis comparing the economic costs and benefits of using domestic versus non-domestic sand sources in the Bahamas.
- Mitigation plan for economic impacts to local governments.
- Statement Justifying use of non-domestic sand sources.

Staff Recommendation

- Council should adopt the draft report and authorize its transmittal to the Florida State Clearinghouse, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and other interested organizations and parties.