



Draft Environmental Assessment

Public Assistance Grant Project

Alligator Drive, Alligator Point, Franklin County, Florida

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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

APE	area of potential effect
BMP	best management practice
CCCL	Coastal Construction Control Line
CCPRS	CH2M HILL, Inc. – CDM PA-TAC Recovery Services
CEQ	Council on Environmental Quality
CFR	<i>Code of Federal Regulations</i>
County	Franklin County
dB	decibel
dBA	A-weighted decibel
EA	Environmental Assessment
EO	Executive Order
ERP	Environmental Resource Permit
FCMP	Florida Coastal Management Program
FDEP	Florida Department of Environmental Protection
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
FNAI	Florida Natural Areas Inventory
FONSI	Finding of No Significant Impact
FWC	Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
GHG	greenhouse gas
MBTA	Migratory Bird Treaty Act
MHWL	mean high water line
NAAQS	National Ambient Air Quality Standards
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NHPA	National Historic Preservation Act
NOA	Notice of Availability
NPDES	National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
NRCS	Natural Resources Conservation Service
NRHP	National Register of Historic Places
OSHA	Occupational Safety and Health Administration
PA	Public Assistance
PW	Project Worksheet
ROW	right-of-way
SHPO	State Historic Preservation Office
Stafford Act	Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act
SWPPP	Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan
USEPA	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
USFWS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Between August 31 and September 9, 2016, Hurricane Hermine produced a 9-foot-high storm surge, heavy rainfall, and high winds in the coastal areas of Franklin County, including the Alligator Drive portion of Alligator Point, Florida (Appendix A, Figure 1). The tidal surge and large waves severely eroded and washed away approximately 1,000 linear feet of Alligator Drive between Tom Roberts Road and George Vause Road (Appendix A, Figure 2). The asphalt road surface, road base, road sub-base, riprap, and concrete barriers were washed away during the storm. Alligator Drive serves as the sole access and evacuation route for approximately 500 residential lots. For this reason, Franklin County constructed a one-lane temporary access road in the same location as the previous road.

Franklin County has applied for Public Assistance (PA) funds from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (Stafford Act), 42 *United States Code* 5121-5207, to replace the section of Alligator Drive damaged by Hurricane Hermine (4280-FL storm event) (PA-04-FL-4280-PW-00228). In accordance with the Stafford Act and regulations promulgated pursuant thereto and codified in Title 44 *Code of Federal Regulations* (CFR) Part 206 (44 CFR 206), FEMA is required to analyze the potential environmental impacts of the Proposed Action before making an informed decision about the project funding. FEMA has prepared this Environmental Assessment (EA) to analyze the potential environmental impacts of the Proposed Action. This EA was prepared in accordance with the implementing requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) (Public Law 91-190, as amended) and guidance adopted pursuant to Department of Homeland Security Directive 023-01, Rev. 01, FEMA Directive 108-1 and FEMA Instruction 108-1-1.

2.0 PURPOSE AND NEED

The purpose of the Proposed Action is to afford Franklin County the means to provide access for residents directly impacted by Hurricane Hermine along Alligator Drive. A permanent solution that will better withstand impacts from future storms and is economically feasible for taxpayers is required. The temporary one-lane road provides immediate access but is not considered a permanent solution.

The Proposed Action would be approved under Section 406 of the Stafford Act, which allows PA disaster relief funds to be allocated to local, county, and state governments to repair or replace infrastructure damaged during a declared disaster.

3.0 ALTERNATIVES

Under NEPA, this EA is required to analyze the potential environmental impacts of the Proposed Action, the No Action Alternative, and reasonable alternatives. Reasonable alternatives are those that meet the underlying purpose of, and need for, the Proposed Action; are feasible from both technical and economic standpoints; and meet reasonable screening criteria (selection standards) that are suitable to a particular action. Screening criteria may include requirements or constraints associated

with operational, technical, environmental, budgetary, and time factors. Alternatives that were determined to be not reasonable were eliminated from detailed analysis in this EA.

3.1 Alternative 1 – Repair Alligator Drive to Pre-disaster Conditions

Under Alternative 1, the damaged portion of Alligator Drive would be repaired in the same location to pre-disaster conditions (Appendix A, Figure 2). This alternative would include clearing remaining road material, rebuilding the road, and replacing the associated revetment. Construction would take approximately 8 months.

3.2 Alternative 2 – Repair Alligator Drive with Hazard Mitigation (Preferred Alternative)

Under Alternative 2, the damaged portion of Alligator Drive would be repaired in the same location with hazard mitigation protection to guard against future storm damage. This alternative would consist of clearing remaining road material, rebuilding the road, and implementing hazard mitigation including the installation of a sheet-pile retaining wall with associated rock revetment and a 10-foot-wide shoulder seaward of the road, and a 6-foot-wide shoulder landward of the road (Appendix A, Figure 2). Construction would take approximately 12 months.

3.3 Alternative 3 – No Action Alternative

Under Alternative 3, the Proposed Action would not be implemented. The existing one-lane access road would be retained, and no new road construction would occur.

3.4 Alternatives Eliminated from Detailed Analysis

During initial project planning in 2016 and 2017, Franklin County considered other potential alternatives to provide access to the approximately 500 residential lots for which Alligator Drive serves as the sole access and evacuation route.

Consideration was given to repairing Alligator Drive by using a bridge. This alternative would include clearing remaining road material and building a bridge in the location of the damaged road. This alternative was eliminated because it is not included in the existing Project Worksheet (PW) 228. This alternative would cost more and take longer to design, permit, and construct, which would extend the time the property owners would have to use the one-lane access road. There is also not enough information on this alternative to sufficiently analyze its potential impacts. A conceptual layout of the bridge has not been developed. It is not known how to provide access from the bridge to the 10 lots along the damaged portion of Alligator Drive. It is also not known where the bridge would start or end.

Consideration was also given to rerouting the damaged portion of Alligator Drive. This alternative was eliminated because there is no undeveloped land available through which the road could be rerouted.

4.0 AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

This section addresses the Affected Environment (existing conditions) and Environmental Consequences (potential impacts) of the Proposed Action. The following terms are used to describe the magnitude of impacts described in this EA:

- No Effect: The action would not cause a detectable change.
- Negligible: The impact would be at the lowest level of detection; the impact would not be significant.
- Minor: The impact would be slight but detectable; the impact would not be significant.
- Moderate: The impact would be readily apparent; the impact would not be significant.
- Major: The impact would be clearly adverse or positive; the impact has the potential to be significant. The significance of adverse and positive impacts is subject to interpretation and should be determined based on the final proposal. In cases of adverse impacts, the impact may be reduced to less than significant by mitigation, design features, and other measures that may be taken.

4.1 Potential Environmental Consequences

The Proposed Action was determined to have no effect on geology because it would not involve any intrusive activity that would affect subsurface geological formations; construction would be conducted using standard methods that would not impact geology. Therefore, geology was eliminated from detailed analysis in this EA.

The potential environmental consequences, environmental protection measures, and required permits of Alternative 1, Alternative 2, and the No Action Alternative are summarized in Table 4-1.

Table 4-1. Summary of Environmental Consequences, Environmental Protection Measures, and Required Permits

FEMA Franklin County EA

Resource	Environmental Consequences	Environmental Protection Measures and Required Permits
Air Quality See Section 4.2 for details.	Alternative 1: Negligible Impact – Not Significant Alternative 2: Negligible Impact – Not Significant No Action Alternative: Negligible Impact – Not Significant	Generated fugitive dust would be controlled using standard construction best management practices (BMPs), including watering of exposed surfaces and enclosing or covering stockpiled material.

Resource	Environmental Consequences	Environmental Protection Measures and Required Permits
<p>Noise See Section 4.3 for details.</p>	<p>Alternative 1: Minor Impact – Not Significant Alternative 2: Minor Impact – Not Significant No Action Alternative: No Effect</p>	<p>All construction and demolition activities would be conducted during daylight hours.</p>
<p>Soils See Section 4.4 for details.</p>	<p>Alternative 1: Minor Impact – Not Significant Alternative 2: Minor Beneficial Impact – Not Significant No Action Alternative: Minor Impact – Not Significant</p>	<p>Appropriate BMPs and engineering controls would be implemented during construction to prevent and minimize soil erosion and sedimentation, per the Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) that would be prepared and implemented.</p>
<p>Surface Water and Wetlands See Section 4.5 for details.</p>	<p><u>Surface Water</u> Alternative 1: Negligible Impact – Not Significant Alternative 2: Minor Impact – Not Significant No Action Alternative: Minor Impact – Not Significant</p> <p><u>Wetlands</u> Alternative 1: No Effect Alternative 2: No Effect No Action Alternative: No Effect</p>	<p>Alternatives 1 and 2 would require an Environmental Resource Permit (ERP) and a Coastal Construction Control Line (CCCL) permit from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP).</p> <p>Alternative 2, and potentially Alternative 1, would require a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) stormwater construction permit from the FDEP. An associated SWPPP, which would identify the BMPs and engineering controls to prevent and minimize indirect erosion, sedimentation, and pollution impacts to the Gulf of Mexico, would be required to be prepared and implemented.</p> <p>Alternative 2 would require a federal Section 404/Section 10 Permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Compensatory mitigation for impacts to the Gulf of Mexico may be required.</p>
<p>Groundwater See Section 4.6 for details.</p>	<p>Alternative 1: Negligible Impact – Not Significant Alternative 2: Negligible Impact – Not Significant No Action Alternative: No Effect</p>	<p>Hazardous materials used and hazardous wastes generated during construction would be managed in accordance with applicable environmental compliance regulations to prevent releases to groundwater.</p>

Resource	Environmental Consequences	Environmental Protection Measures and Required Permits
Floodplains See Section 4.7 for details.	Alternative 1: No Effect Alternative 2: Minor Impact – Not Significant No Action Alternative: No Effect	Coordination with the Franklin County Floodplain Administrator, Amy Kelly, is required.
Vegetation See Section 4.8 for details.	Alternative 1: Negligible Impact – Not Significant Alternative 2: Negligible Impact – Not Significant No Action Alternative: No Effect	Not applicable.
Wildlife See Section 4.9 for details.	Alternative 1: Negligible Impact – Not Significant Alternative 2: Minor Impact – Not Significant No Action Alternative: No Effect	Not applicable.

Resource	Environmental Consequences	Environmental Protection Measures and Required Permits
<p>Threatened and Endangered Species See Section 4.10 for details.</p>	<p>Alternative 1: No Effect Alternative 2: No Effect on the Piping Plover; May Affect but Not Likely to Adversely Affect the Loggerhead Sea Turtle and Green Sea Turtle No Action Alternative: No Effect</p>	<p>Under Alternative 1, the following protection measures would be implemented during sea turtle nesting season (May 1 through October 31):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Equipment staging areas would not be located on the beach. • Construction activity including vehicle operation, equipment use, and foot traffic would not occur on the beach. • To prevent potential disorientation of sea turtle hatchlings, the portion of the project area in the vicinity of the beach would not be artificially illuminated during nighttime. If artificial lighting must be used to secure construction and staging areas at nighttime, only lighting approved by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) for the protection of sea turtles would be used. <p>Under Alternative 2, if construction occurs during sea turtle nesting season (May 1 through October 31), a qualified biologist would survey the suitable sea turtle nesting habitat within the project area every morning prior to initiation of construction activities. If sea turtles or sea turtle nests are sighted by the biologist within the construction area, no work would occur and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and National Marine Fisheries Service would be immediately consulted.</p> <p>Standard sea turtle and manatee conditions (protection measures) for in-water work would be implemented during construction.</p>

Resource	Environmental Consequences	Environmental Protection Measures and Required Permits
<p>Cultural Resources See Section 4.11 for details.</p>	<p>Alternative 1: No Effect Alternative 2: No Effect No Action Alternative: No Effect</p>	<p>FEMA would protect human remains or archaeological artifacts that could be unexpectedly discovered during ground-disturbing activities within the project area by including the following statement in the Engineering Plans: Applicant will monitor ground disturbance and, if any potential cultural resources are discovered, will immediately cease construction in that area and notify the state and FEMA. The State Division of Historic Resources contact number is (850) 245-6333, and the FEMA Environmental Planning and Historic Preservation compliance point of contact is Eric Thurston at (404) 536-4114.</p>
<p>Hazardous Materials/Waste and Solid Waste See Section 4.12 for details.</p>	<p>Alternative 1: Negligible Impact – Not Significant Alternative 2: Negligible Impact – Not Significant No Action Alternative: No Effect</p>	<p>Handling, storage, and disposal of hazardous materials and wastes during construction activities, including measures to prevent releases, would be conducted in accordance with applicable environmental compliance regulations. Non-hazardous solid waste generated under Alternatives 1 or 2 would be disposed of at an offsite landfill or recycled/reused as appropriate.</p>
<p>Utilities See Section 4.13 for details.</p>	<p>Alternative 1: Negligible Impact – Not Significant Alternative 2: Negligible Impact – Not Significant No Action Alternative: No Effect</p>	<p>Utilities in the area would be located before construction, and Franklin County would coordinate construction activities with utility companies. If planned outages are necessary, utility customers would be given advance notice.</p>
<p>Land Use See Section 4.14 for details.</p>	<p>Alternative 1: No Effect Alternative 2: Negligible Impact – Not Significant No Action Alternative: No Effect</p>	<p>Not applicable.</p>

Resource	Environmental Consequences	Environmental Protection Measures and Required Permits
<p>Transportation and Traffic See Section 4.15 for details.</p>	<p>Alternative 1: Moderate Impact – Not Significant Alternative 2: Moderate Beneficial Impact – Not Significant No Action Alternative: Moderate Impact – Not Significant</p>	<p>Not applicable.</p>
<p>Occupational Health and Safety See Section 4.16 for details.</p>	<p>Alternative 1: Negligible Impact – Not Significant Alternative 2: Negligible Impact – Not Significant No Action Alternative: Minor Impact – Not Significant</p>	<p>To minimize occupational health and safety risks, workers would wear and use appropriate personal protective equipment and follow applicable Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) standards and procedures.</p> <p>A health and safety plan would be developed and implemented.</p> <p>Work areas would be clearly marked with appropriate signage and secured against unauthorized entry.</p> <p>Standard construction traffic control measures would be used to protect workers, residents, and the travelling public.</p>
<p>Socioeconomics See Section 4.17 for details.</p>	<p>Alternative 1: Minor Beneficial Impact – Not Significant Alternative 2: Minor Beneficial Impact – Not Significant No Action Alternative: Minor Impact – Not Significant</p>	<p>Not applicable.</p>
<p>Environmental Justice and Protection of Children See Section 4.18 for details.</p>	<p>Alternatives 1 and 2 and the No Action Alternative would not have disproportionately high or adverse human health or environmental effects on minority or low-income populations, and they would not result in disproportionate health or safety risks to children.</p>	<p>All work areas would be secured against unauthorized entry to prevent health or safety risks to children.</p>

Resource	Environmental Consequences	Environmental Protection Measures and Required Permits
Cumulative Impacts See Section 5.0 for details.	When added to past, present, and reasonably foreseeable actions, Alternatives 1 and 2 and the No Action Alternative are not expected to have significantly adverse cumulative impacts on any resource.	Not applicable.

4.2 Air Quality

4.2.1 Existing Environment

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) has established National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for the following criteria pollutants: carbon monoxide, lead, nitrogen dioxide, ozone, particulate matter, and sulfur dioxide. Areas that meet the air quality standard for the criteria pollutants are designated as being in attainment. Areas that do not meet the air quality standard for one of the criteria pollutants are designated as being in nonattainment for that standard. Franklin County currently is classified as being in attainment for all criteria pollutants stipulated under NAAQS (USEPA, 2017).

Greenhouse gases (GHGs) are emitted by both natural processes and human activities, and their accumulation in the atmosphere regulates temperature. GHGs include water vapor, carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxides, and other compounds. There are no established thresholds or standards for GHGs.

4.2.2 Environmental Consequences

The threshold level for a significant impact to air quality is defined as a violation of an ambient air quality standard or regulatory threshold.

Alternative 1 – Repair Alligator Drive to Pre-disaster Conditions

Under Alternative 1, repairing Alligator Drive in its original location to pre-disaster conditions would generate short-term construction equipment exhaust emissions and short-term fugitive dust emissions. These air emissions would vary daily, depending on the level and type of work conducted and would be limited to the estimated 8-month construction period.

Pollutants that would be emitted from the internal combustion engine exhausts of construction vehicles and equipment include certain criteria pollutants, volatile organic compounds, and certain GHGs. Annual construction emissions are expected to be less than the federal *de minimis* thresholds for criteria pollutants and volatile organic compounds. Construction-related GHG emissions are expected to be negligible in terms of overall quantity and within the range expected for construction of this type and size.

Fugitive dust would be generated by construction vehicle and equipment operation on dirt surfaces and by wind action on stockpiled materials. Generated fugitive dust would consist primarily of non-

toxic particulate matter and would be controlled at the sites using BMPs, including watering of exposed surfaces and enclosing/covering stockpiled material.

Based on the review conducted, Alternative 1 would have a negligible impact on air quality. The impact would not be significant.

Alternative 2 – Repair Alligator Drive with Hazard Mitigation (Preferred Alternative)

Under Alternative 2, repairing Alligator Drive in its original location with hazard mitigation protection would have construction-related impacts on air quality similar to those described for Alternative 1; however, the construction-related impacts would occur over the estimated 12-month construction period.

Based on the review conducted, Alternative 2 would have a negligible impact on air quality. The impact would not be significant.

Alternative 3 – No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, the existing one-lane access road would be retained and no new road construction would occur. Fugitive dust would continue to be generated by vehicle operation and wind action on the temporary unpaved road. Therefore, the No Action Alternative would have negligible impact on air quality. The impact would not be significant.

4.3 Noise

4.3.1 Existing Environment

Noise is unwanted sound. Sound levels are measured in decibels (dB). A-weighted sound measurements emphasize the frequency range of human hearing and are expressed in terms of A-weighted decibels (dBA). The effects of noise on humans include annoyance, sleep disturbance, and health impacts. The primary source of ambient noise in the project area is vehicular traffic. Franklin County does not have a noise ordinance.

4.3.2 Environmental Consequences

The threshold level for a significant noise impact is defined as a permanent increase in noise or prolonged periods of nighttime noise in noise-sensitive areas.

Alternative 1 – Repair Alligator Drive to Pre-disaster Conditions

Under Alternative 1, repairing Alligator Drive to pre-disaster conditions would temporarily increase ambient noise levels in and around the construction site. The nearest noise-sensitive receptors are houses immediately adjacent to the damaged portion of Alligator Drive.

Based on data presented in *Noise from Construction Equipment and Operations, Building Equipment, and Home Appliances* (USEPA, 1971), the main phases of outdoor construction typically generate noise levels that range from 78 dBA to 89 dBA, approximately 50 feet from the construction site. Noise levels are estimated to decrease by approximately 6 dBA with every doubling of distance from a noise source. Construction noise may at times be between 78 and 89 dBA outside the houses

adjacent to the construction site, depending on the type of construction activity that is conducted; noise levels inside the houses would be approximately 30 to 40 dBA lower. Based on the noise dissipation estimated to occur, noise levels between 66 and 77 dBA may occur outside houses 200 feet from the site, and noise levels between 54 and 65 dBA may occur outside houses 800 feet from the site; noise levels inside the houses would be approximately 30 to 40 dBA lower. Under Alternative 1, construction noise that is audible in the nearest residential areas would be heard only during daytime and only over the duration of the estimated 8-month construction period.

Based on the review conducted, Alternative 1 would have minor noise-related effects. The impact would not be significant.

Alternative 2 – Repair Alligator Drive with Hazard Mitigation (Preferred Alternative)

Under Alternative 2, construction of Alligator Drive with hazard mitigation protection would have construction-related noise impacts similar to those described for Alternative 1. Overall noise impacts under Alternative 2 may be greater due to the longer estimated construction period.

Based on the review conducted, Alternative 2 would have minor noise-related effects. The impact would not be significant.

Alternative 3 – No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, the existing one-lane access road would be retained, and no road construction would occur. Therefore, the No Action Alternative would have no noise-related effects.

4.4 Soils

4.4.1 Existing Environment

A 1947 map plat of the project area shows a 100-foot-wide right-of-way (ROW) for Alligator Drive, 100-foot-wide residential lots south of Alligator Drive, and approximately 100 feet of beach south of the lots (Franklin County, 1946; Franklin County 1948). Due to coastal erosion that has occurred since that time, only 40 feet of the ROW remain, and the southern residential lots and beach are now underwater.

According to Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) soil data, soils underlying the project area include Beaches sand, Corolla sand, and Duckston sand (NRCS, 2017). These soil types are up to 80 inches deep. The depth to the water table is between 0 and 8 inches in the Beaches sand series, between 18 and 36 inches in the Corolla sand series, and about 12 inches in the Duckston sand series. These map units are not classified as prime farmland by the NRCS. Prime farmland is defined as land that has the best combination of physical and chemical characteristics for producing food, feed, forage, fiber, and oilseed crops, and is available for these uses.

4.4.2 Environmental Consequences

The threshold level for a significant impact to soils is defined as (1) a substantial loss of soil, or (2) a rating of 160 or higher on the Farmland Conversion Impact Rating Form (AD-1006 Form), which would indicate further consideration for protection under the Farmland Protection Policy Act.

Alternative 1 – Repair Alligator Drive to Pre-disaster Conditions

Under Alternative 1, repairing Alligator Drive to pre-disaster conditions would disturb soils during grading and paving within and adjacent to the footprint of the temporary one-lane road. The soils are not prime farmland, and they have already been disturbed by the existing road and by Hurricane Hermine. Appropriate BMPs and engineering controls would be implemented during construction to prevent and minimize potential soil erosion and sedimentation (discussed in Section 4.5). This section of Alligator Drive would continue to be susceptible to damage and erosion of soils during future storm events.

Based on the review conducted, Alternative 1 would have a minor impact on soils. The impact would not be significant.

Alternative 2 – Repair Alligator Drive with Hazard Mitigation (Preferred Alternative)

Alternative 2 would have greater construction-related impacts on soils than Alternative 1 because it would include paved shoulders and a sheet-pile retaining wall. However, these hazard mitigation features would minimize road damage and erosion of soils during future storm events.

Based on the review conducted, Alternative 2 would have a minor beneficial impact on soils. The impact would not be significant.

Alternative 3 – No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, the existing one-lane access road would be retained, and no new road construction would occur. Without improvements, the road could slowly erode over time, particularly following storm events, and impact soils. Therefore, the No Action Alternative would have a minor impact on soils. The impact would not be significant.

4.5 Surface Water and Wetlands

4.5.1 Existing Environment

Executive Order (EO) 11990, *Protection of Wetlands*, requires federal agencies to avoid, to the extent possible, the long- and short-term adverse impacts associated with the destruction or modification of wetlands and to avoid direct or indirect support of new construction in wetlands wherever there is a practicable alternative.

The Florida Coastal Management Program (FCMP) is based on a network of agencies implementing 23 statutes that protect and enhance Florida's natural, cultural, and economic coastal resources. The FDEP implements the FCMP through the Florida State Clearinghouse. Following their review, the FCMP state agencies provide comments and recommendations to the Clearinghouse based on their statutory authorities. Based on an evaluation of the comments and recommendations, FDEP makes the state's final consistency determination, which will either agree or disagree with the applicant's own consistency determination.

Section 404 of the Clean Water Act regulates the discharge of dredged or fill material into waters of the U.S., including wetlands. Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act grants the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers permitting jurisdiction for structures or works in or affecting navigable waters of the U.S.

Florida's ERP program regulates dredging and filling in wetlands and surface waters, and activities in uplands that generate stormwater runoff or otherwise alter surface water flows. In Florida, an NPDES stormwater construction permit is required from the FDEP for any proposed project that would disturb 1 acre or more of land. As part of either permit, the project proponent is required to prepare and implement a SWPPP, which outlines the BMPs and engineering controls to be used to prevent and minimize erosion, sedimentation, and pollution during construction. In Florida, a CCCL permit is required for any proposed project that would occur seaward of the CCCL. The boundary of the CCCL in Franklin County is defined in Chapter 62B-26, Florida Administrative Code. The CCCL generally runs along the coast and extends from the mean high water line (MHWL) landward to established permanent reference points. The entire project area is located seaward of the CCCL established for the area.

The project area is bordered by the Gulf of Mexico to the south and Alligator Harbor to the north. No wetlands or Outstanding Florida Waters are within the project area (Appendix A, Figure 3). Alligator Harbor and a contiguous portion of the Gulf of Mexico west of the project area are designated as the Alligator Harbor Aquatic Preserve, which is classified as an Outstanding Florida Water. The project area is not within the boundary of the Alligator Harbor Aquatic Preserve.

4.5.2 Environmental Consequences

The threshold level for a significant impact to surface water and wetlands would be a violation of state water quality criteria, a violation of federal or state discharge permits, or an unpermitted dredge or fill within the boundary of a jurisdictional water body or wetland.

Alternative 1 – Repair Alligator Drive to Pre-disaster Conditions

Under Alternative 1, repairing Alligator Drive to pre-disaster conditions would require an ERP and CCCL permit from the FDEP. Based on preliminary estimates, the total area of land disturbance under Alternative 1 would be slightly less than 1 acre. If the design requires more than 1 acre of land disturbance, Franklin County would be required to obtain an NPDES stormwater construction permit from the FDEP and to prepare and implement an associated SWPPP. Appropriate BMPs and engineering controls would be implemented during construction to prevent and minimize indirect erosion, sedimentation, and pollution impacts to the waters of the Gulf of Mexico. These measures would be identified in the ERP and in the SWPPP if a stormwater construction permit is required.

Based on the review conducted, Alternative 1 would have no effect on wetlands and a negligible impact on surface water. The impact would not be significant.

Alternative 2 – Repair Alligator Drive with Hazard Mitigation (Preferred Alternative)

Under Alternative 2, repairing Alligator Drive with hazard mitigation protection would require an ERP and CCCL permit from the FDEP. Based on the preliminary design, the total area of land disturbance under Alternative 2 would be greater than 1 acre; therefore, Franklin County would obtain

an NPDES stormwater construction permit from the FDEP and prepare and implement an associated SWPPP.

Alternative 2 would include installation of a vertical sheet-pile revetment at the MHWL and riprap below the MHWL; therefore, Alternative 2 would require a federal Section 404/Section 10 Permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Based on the nature and extent of the proposed work that would occur at and below the MHWL, the overall impact to navigable waters of the U.S. would be minor. Franklin County would provide any compensatory mitigation that is required for the proposed impacts; mitigation requirements would be determined during the permitting phase of the project. Appropriate BMPs and engineering controls would be implemented during construction to prevent and minimize indirect erosion, sedimentation, and pollution impacts to the waters of the Gulf of Mexico. These measures would be identified in the ERP, SWPPP, and Section 404/Section 10 Permit. In an email dated September 13, 2017, the Florida State Clearinghouse indicated that the State had no objections to Alternative 2 and determined that Alternative 2 was consistent with the FCMP (Appendix B). Final concurrence will be given during the environmental permitting process.

Based on the review conducted, Alternative 2 would have no effect on wetlands and a minor impact on surface water. The impact would not be significant.

Alternative 3 – No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, the existing one-lane access road would be retained and no new road construction would occur. Without improvements, the road could slowly erode over time, particularly following storm events, and impact the Gulf of Mexico. Therefore, the No Action Alternative would have no effect on wetlands and a minor impact on surface water. The impact would not be significant.

4.6 Groundwater

4.6.1 Existing Conditions

The depth to the water table in the soils within the project area ranges from 0 to 36 inches. Actual groundwater elevations in the project area will be measured during the geotechnical investigations to be conducted for the project design. In Franklin County, potable water is obtained from the Floridan aquifer.

4.6.2 Environmental Consequences

The threshold level for a significant impact to groundwater would be a release of contamination into groundwater that exceeds FDEP standards.

Alternative 1 – Repair Alligator Drive to Pre-disaster Conditions

Under Alternative 1, repairing Alligator Drive to pre-disaster conditions would not involve withdrawals from or discharges to groundwater. Shallow groundwater may be encountered during certain types of construction activities such as excavation. Any dewatering necessary during such construction activities would be conducted using standard methods and would have no effect on groundwater quality or flow. Hazardous materials used and hazardous wastes generated during

construction would be managed in accordance with applicable environmental compliance regulations to prevent releases to groundwater.

Based on the review conducted, Alternative 1 would have a negligible impact on groundwater. The impact would not be significant.

Alternative 2 – Repair Alligator Drive with Hazard Mitigation (Preferred Alternative)

Under Alternative 2, repairing Alligator Drive with hazard mitigation protection would have construction-related impacts on groundwater similar to those described for Alternative 1. Therefore, Alternative 2 would have a negligible impact on groundwater. The impact would not be significant.

Alternative 3 – No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, the existing one-lane access road would be retained, and no new road construction would occur. Therefore, the No Action Alternative would have no effect on groundwater.

4.7 Floodplains

4.7.1 Existing Environment

EO 11988, *Floodplain Management*, amended January 29, 2015, and as implemented in 44 CFR 9, requires federal agencies to “avoid to the extent possible the long- and short-term adverse impacts associated with the occupancy and modification of floodplains and to avoid direct or indirect support of floodplain development wherever there is a practicable alternative.”

The 100-year floodplain is the area covered by water in the event of a 100-year flood, which is a flood that has a 1 percent chance of being equaled or exceeded in magnitude in any given year. The 500-year floodplain is the area covered by water in the event of a 500-year flood, which is a flood that has a 0.2 percent chance of being equaled or exceeded in magnitude in any given year. The 100- and 500-year floodplains are mapped on FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Maps.

Based on the current FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Map that covers the project area, the entire project area is located within the 100-year coastal floodplain (Appendix A, Figure 4).

4.7.2 Environmental Consequences

The threshold level for a significant impact to floodplains would be an excessive loss of floodplain area with an associated increase in flooding potential.

Alternative 1 – Repair Alligator Drive to Pre-disaster Conditions

Under Alternative 1, repairing Alligator Drive to pre-disaster conditions would involve the replacement of impervious surface that was removed by Hurricane Hermine and, therefore, would not result in net loss of floodplain area. The eight-step decision-making process, as described in 44 CFR 9, for projects within or that have the potential to impact a floodplain was completed (Appendix C). The County must coordinate with the Franklin County Floodplain Administrator point of contact, Amy Kelly, at (850) 653-9783 extension 167.

Based on the review conducted, Alternative 1 would have no effect on floodplains.

Alternative 2 – Repair Alligator Drive with Hazard Mitigation (Preferred Alternative)

Under Alternative 2, repairing Alligator Drive with hazard mitigation protection would displace approximately 16,000 square feet (0.37 acre) of floodplain via the construction of impervious road shoulders. This amount of floodplain loss would be minor and is expected to have no effect on overall flooding potential in the general area. The eight-step decision-making process, as described in 44 CFR 9, for projects within or that have the potential to impact a floodplain was completed (Appendix C). The County must coordinate with the Franklin County Floodplain Administrator point of contact, Amy Kelly, at (850) 653-9783 extension 167.

Based on the review conducted, Alternative 2 would have a minor impact on floodplains. The impact would not be significant.

Alternative 3 – No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, the existing one-lane access road would be retained, and no new road construction would occur. Therefore, the No Action Alternative would have no effect on floodplains.

4.8 Vegetation

4.8.1 Existing Environment

The project area contains very little vegetation. The portion of the project area north of Alligator Drive consists of disturbed areas that have sparse shrub and ground cover. The portion of the project area south of Alligator Drive consists of an extensive amount of boulder riprap and a small amount of beach that are both devoid of vegetation.

4.8.2 Environmental Consequences

The threshold level for a significant impact to vegetation is defined by (1) excessive loss or impairment of unique or sensitive vegetative communities or (2) introduction or spread of exotic plant species.

Alternative 1 – Repair Alligator Drive to Pre-disaster Conditions

Under Alternative 1, repairing Alligator Drive to pre-disaster conditions would impact the vegetation north of Alligator Drive that is within the construction footprint; the vegetation that would be impacted is sparse and within a disturbed area. Therefore, Alternative 1 would have a negligible impact on vegetation. The impact would not be significant.

Alternative 2 – Repair Alligator Drive with Hazard Mitigation (Preferred Alternative)

Under Alternative 2, repairing Alligator Drive with hazard mitigation protection would have construction-related impacts on vegetation similar to those described for Alternative 1. Therefore, Alternative 2 would have a negligible impact on vegetation. The impact would not be significant.

Alternative 3 – No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, the existing one-lane access road would be retained, and no new road construction would occur. Therefore, the No Action Alternative would have no effect on vegetation.

4.9 Wildlife

4.9.1 Existing Environment

The portion of the project area north of Alligator Drive consists of disturbed areas that abut residential lots and, therefore, provides little to no habitat for wildlife. The portion of the project area south of Alligator Drive consists mostly of boulder riprap; the easternmost portion of this area includes approximately 0.2 acre of beach that is bordered by boulder riprap, Alligator Drive, and a residence (Appendix A, Figure 5). The area covered by boulder riprap provides low-quality habitat for wildlife; certain shorebird and wading bird species may forage on the riprap near the water. Wildlife that may occur on the beach includes various species of shorebirds, wading birds, sea birds, ghost crabs, and sea turtles (during sea turtle nesting season; further discussed in Section 4.10). A number of bird species protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) have the potential to occur in the project area.

The project area includes portions of the shoreline that are submerged during high tide. Various species of fish, crustaceans, and other aquatic biota have the potential to occur in these littoral areas when they are inundated during high tide. The littoral areas have shallow slopes and, therefore, are shallow when inundated. Aquatic biota in the littoral areas would be limited to small species that occur in water depths less than approximately 2 feet. Based on the field investigation conducted for the EA on July 13, 2017, most of the littoral area in the project area is composed of rubble; the littoral area adjacent to the beach is composed of sand and shells. No seagrass, fish, or other aquatic biota were observed in the littoral area during the field investigation.

4.9.2 Environmental Consequences

The threshold level for a significant impact to wildlife is defined by (1) a loss of individuals that negatively affects the regional population of a species or (2) the take of birds in violation of the MBTA.

Alternative 1 – Repair Alligator Drive to Pre-disaster Conditions

Under Alternative 1, repairing Alligator Drive to pre-disaster conditions would involve replacement of roadway that was recently removed by storms and, therefore, would not result in a net loss of wildlife habitat. Vegetative habitat within the construction footprint is sparse and already disturbed; physical impacts to these disturbed areas is not expected to adversely impact any wildlife species, including any bird species protected under the MBTA. Noise generated during construction may temporarily disturb wildlife; however, any disturbance experienced by wildlife would be limited to the construction period and is expected to be negligible.

Based on the review conducted, Alternative 1 would have a negligible impact on wildlife. The impact would not be significant.

Alternative 2 – Repair Alligator Drive with Hazard Mitigation (Preferred Alternative)

Alternative 2 would have greater construction-related impacts on wildlife than Alternative 1 because it would have a larger construction footprint and longer construction period. Construction activity under Alternative 2 would disturb the boulder riprap, beach, and shallow littoral areas south of Alligator Drive. The existing boulder riprap that covers most of the shoreline south of Alligator Drive would be adjusted only as needed; impacts to this low-quality habitat would be negligible and temporary. All or a portion of the beach may be permanently impacted by the road shoulder and installation of riprap seaward of the road shoulder. Given that the maximum loss of beach habitat would be approximately 0.2 acre, the overall loss of beach habitat and the associated impacts on wildlife that potentially use the beach, including migratory birds and nesting sea turtles, would be minor. Installation of a vertical sheet-pile revetment at the MHWL and riprap below the MHWL would impact littoral habitat that is inundated and exposed by tides. Most of the littoral area is covered by boulder riprap; therefore, the overall impact to littoral habitat and aquatic biota that potentially use the habitat would be minor. Physical impacts to wildlife during construction activity are expected to be negligible. Birds and most aquatic biota would avoid the construction area, and measures would be implemented to prevent harm to nesting sea turtles (further discussed in Section 4-10). Some sessile or slow-moving biota in the project area, such as crabs, may be injured or killed during construction; the overall impact on such biota would be minor. Any noise disturbance experienced by wildlife under Alternative 2 would be limited to the construction period and is expected to be negligible.

Based on the review conducted, Alternative 2 would have a minor impact on wildlife. The impact would not be significant.

Alternative 3 – No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, the existing one-lane access road would be retained, and no new road construction would occur. Therefore, the No Action Alternative would have no effect on wildlife.

4.10 Threatened and Endangered Species

4.10.1 Existing Environment

Potential occurrence of threatened and endangered species in and near the project area was evaluated during a field investigation conducted on July 13, 2017, and by using the Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI) Biodiversity Matrix Map Server, which is a screening tool that provides data on rare species occurrences in Florida. Based on the FNAI Map Server, there are no documented occurrences of any federally listed or state-listed threatened or endangered species in or within 1 mile of the project area (FNAI, 2017). Based on the FNAI Map Server, the federally threatened loggerhead sea turtle (*Caretta caretta*), the federally threatened green sea turtle (*Chelonia mydas*), and the federally threatened piping plover (*Charadrius melodus*) are likely to occur within or near the project area.

Most of the coastline within the project area is covered by boulder riprap and, therefore, does not provide suitable nesting habitat for sea turtles. Suitable sea turtle nesting habitat exists only on the 0.2-acre beach in the easternmost portion of the project area; this beach is bordered by boulder riprap, Alligator Drive, and a residence (Appendix A, Figure 5). Based on the field investigation, the beach is not considered to be suitable nesting habitat for the piping plover because it is moderately sloped, narrow (width from road to sea), and small in overall size (0.2 acre).

4.10.2 Environmental Consequences

The threshold level for a significant impact to threatened and endangered species is defined by the take of an individual protected under the Endangered Species Act.

Alternative 1 – Repair Alligator Drive to Pre-disaster Conditions

The area within the construction footprint of Alternative 1 does not provide suitable habitat for any federal or state-listed species. If construction under Alternative 1 occurs during sea turtle nesting season (May 1 through October 31), the following protection measures would be implemented to prevent potential impacts to sea turtles that may nest on the 0.2-acre beach:

- Equipment staging areas would not be located on the beach.
- Construction activity, including vehicle operation, equipment use, and foot traffic would not occur on the beach.
- To prevent potential disorientation of sea turtle hatchlings, the portion of the project area in the vicinity of the beach would not be artificially illuminated during nighttime. If artificial lighting must be used to secure construction and staging areas at nighttime, only lighting approved by the FWC for the protection of sea turtles (FWC, 2011) would be used.

Provided that these protection measures are implemented, Alternative 1 is expected to have no effect on sea turtles.

Based on the review conducted, Alternative 1 would have no effect on threatened or endangered species.

Alternative 2 – Repair Alligator Drive with Hazard Mitigation (Preferred Alternative)

Repairing Alligator Drive with hazard mitigation protection under Alternative 2 would potentially result in the loss of the 0.2-acre beach in the easternmost portion of the project area. As discussed in Section 4.10.1, this beach provides suitable nesting habitat for sea turtles but does not provide suitable nesting habitat for the piping plover. Based on its location, surrounding land use, and small size, the sea turtle nesting habitat is suboptimal. No impacts to sea turtles or marine mammals are expected to occur during construction activities. Limited in-water work would be conducted by equipment on land to install the vertical sheet-pile revetment at the MHWL and riprap below the MHWL. The work is not expected to extend seaward of the mean low water line. Standard sea turtle and manatee conditions (protection measures) for in-water work would be implemented during construction (Appendix D).

If construction under Alternative 2 occurs during sea turtle nesting season (May 1 through October 31), a qualified biologist would survey the suitable sea turtle nesting habitat within the project area every morning prior to initiation of construction activities. If sea turtles or sea turtle nests are sighted by the biologist within the construction area, no work would occur and the USFWS and National Marine Fisheries Service would be immediately consulted. Provided that these protection measures are implemented, Alternative 2 is not expected to adversely affect sea turtles.

For the species that potentially occur in the project area, FEMA has determined that Alternative 2 may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect the loggerhead sea turtle and green sea turtle, and would have no effect on the piping plover. FEMA received concurrence from USFWS on these effect determinations in a letter dated August 17, 2017 (Appendix B).

Alternative 3 – No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, the existing one-lane access road would be retained, and no new road construction would occur. Therefore, the No Action Alternative would have no effect on threatened or endangered species.

4.11 Cultural Resources

4.11.1 Existing Environment

Cultural resources include historic architectural properties (including buildings, structures, and objects), prehistoric and historic archaeological sites, historic districts, designed landscapes, and traditional cultural properties. The primary federal statutes that apply to cultural resources are NEPA and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (NHPA), as amended. The NHPA created the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) and criteria to determine if cultural resources are eligible for listing in the NRHP. The NHPA defines historic properties as any prehistoric or historic district, site, building, structure, or object that is listed in, or eligible for listing in, the NRHP (36 CFR 800.16). Generally, properties must be at least 50 years old to be eligible for the NRHP, unless they are proven to have exceptional importance. When historic properties are present, federal agencies must assess the effect of the undertaking on them and consider ways to avoid, minimize, or mitigate potential adverse effects.

FEMA determined that the area of potential effect (APE) for cultural resources was limited to the area within which all construction and ground-disturbing activity would be confined and the viewshed of the proposed project. No potential for indirect effects outside of the viewshed of the proposed project existed.

A Secretary of the Interior-qualified FEMA cultural resources specialist conducted a literature review through the Florida Master Site File in June 2017. The literature review focused on the APE and included a 1-mile buffer around the APE, referred to as the study area, to ensure that previously conducted cultural resources investigations and previously recorded cultural resources in the vicinity of the proposed project area were reviewed. The literature review indicated that the entire length of the APE was previously surveyed in 2015 for archaeological and architectural resources. In addition,

four cultural resources investigations had been conducted within the study area for the proposed project.

The literature review indicated that no archaeological or architectural resources that are eligible for or listed in the NRHP are within the APE; therefore, no historic properties are within the APE. No known sacred sites or traditional cultural properties have been identified within the APE or the study area.

4.11.2 Environmental Consequences

The threshold level for significant impacts to cultural resources under NEPA would be those impacts that adversely affect any historic property that is eligible for or listed in the NRHP under Section 106, or has been identified by a federally recognized Native American tribe as a sacred site.

No historic properties are within the APE. In a letter to the Florida State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) dated July 7, 2017, FEMA defined the undertaking as restoring 1,000 linear feet of Alligator Drive to pre-disaster condition and completing hazard mitigation at the site (Alternative 2 [Preferred Alternative]). FEMA determined that the undertaking would result in a finding of no historic properties affected. In its letter to the Florida SHPO, FEMA specified the measures it required to protect human remains or intact archaeological deposits that are unexpectedly discovered during ground-disturbing activities within the APE. FEMA also consulted with the following Native American tribes on the proposed undertaking via letters dated July 12, 2017: Alabama-Quassarte Tribal Town; Jena Band of Choctaw Indians; Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida; Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians; Muscogee (Creek) Nation; Poarch Band of Creek Indians; Seminole Tribe of Florida; and the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma. The Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida stated that the tribe has no issues with the undertaking as long as the Florida SHPO concurred with the finding of no historic properties affected. No other responses have been received from the Native American tribes consulted. Coordination letters are included in Appendix B.

The Florida SHPO concurred with the finding of no historic properties affected in a letter dated July 14, 2017 (Appendix B). In its correspondence with the Florida SHPO and Native American tribes, FEMA defined the undertaking as Alternative 2 (Preferred Alternative). However, because the APE would remain the same for all proposed alternatives, Alternatives 1, 2, and 3 would all result in a finding of no historic properties affected under Section 106.

Based on the background research and Section 106 consultation, Alternatives 1, 2, and 3 would be expected to have no effect on historic properties.

For all alternatives, if prehistoric or historic artifacts, such as pottery or ceramics, projectile points, dugout canoes, metal implements, historic building materials, or any other physical remains that could be associated with Native American, early European, or American settlement are encountered at any time within the project area, all project activities involving subsurface disturbance in the vicinity of the discovery would cease. Franklin County would contact the FEMA Environmental Planning and Historic Preservation compliance point of contact, Eric Thurston, at (404) 536-4114 and the Florida Department of State, Division of Historic Resources, Compliance Review Section at (850) 245-6333. Project activities would not resume without verbal or written authorization. If unmarked human

remains were encountered during permitted activities, all work would stop immediately and the proper authorities would be notified in accordance with Section 872.05, Florida Statutes.

4.12 Hazardous Materials/Waste and Solid Waste

4.12.1 Existing Environment

Hazardous materials have been declared hazardous through various regulations including 40 CFR 302.4 and 355 and 29 CFR 1910.1200. Hazardous waste is any solid, liquid, or contained gas waste that is dangerous or potentially harmful to human health or the environment. No known hazardous materials, waste, or solid waste are within the project area.

4.12.2 Environmental Consequences

The threshold level for a significant impact to hazardous materials and waste would include a release of hazardous materials or waste, or a violation of local, state, or federal regulations pertaining to hazardous materials or waste.

Alternative 1 – Repair Alligator Drive to Pre-disaster Conditions

Under Alternative 1, repairing Alligator Drive to pre-disaster conditions would involve the use of typical construction-related hazardous materials. Handling, storage, and disposal of hazardous materials and wastes during construction activities, including measures to prevent releases, would be conducted in accordance with applicable environmental compliance regulations. Non-hazardous solid waste generated during construction would be disposed of at an offsite landfill or recycled/reused as appropriate.

Based on the review conducted, Alternative 1 would have a negligible impact on hazardous materials/wastes and solid waste. The impact would not be significant.

Alternative 2 – Repair Alligator Drive with Hazard Mitigation (Preferred Alternative)

Under Alternative 2, repairing Alligator Drive with hazard mitigation protection would have construction-related impacts on hazardous materials/waste and solid waste similar to those described for Alternative 1. Therefore, Alternative 2 would have a negligible impact on hazardous materials/wastes and solid waste. The impact would not be significant.

Alternative 3 – No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, the existing one-lane access road would be retained, and no new road construction would occur. Therefore, the No Action Alternative would have no effect on hazardous materials/wastes or solid waste.

4.13 Utilities

4.13.1 Existing Environment

Existing utilities within the original 100-foot-wide Franklin County ROW include a potable-water line owned by the Alligator Point Water Resources District and electric power poles and lines owned by Duke Energy. There are no sanitary sewer lines in the utility ROW because Alligator Point uses onsite sewage disposal systems (Franklin County, 2017). Due to erosion, only approximately 40 feet of the ROW currently exist.

4.13.2 Environmental Consequences

The threshold level for a significant impact to utilities would be an exceedance of the existing utility service capacity.

Alternative 1 – Repair Alligator Drive to Pre-disaster Conditions

Under Alternative 1, repairing Alligator Drive to pre-disaster conditions would not change the number of persons living in the local area and, therefore, would have no effect on energy or potable water consumption or domestic wastewater generation. Under Alternative 1, utility service disruptions could potentially occur during road construction. Planned outages would be avoided to the extent possible; if planned outages are necessary, utility customers would be given advance notice. To avoid accidental outages, utilities in the area would be located before construction, and Franklin County would coordinate construction activities with utility companies.

Based on the review conducted, Alternative 1 would have a negligible impact on utilities. The impact would not be significant.

Alternative 2 – Repair Alligator Drive with Hazard Mitigation (Preferred Alternative)

Under Alternative 2, repairing Alligator Drive with hazard mitigation protection would have construction-related impacts on utilities similar to those described for Alternative 1. There would be no change in utility use under Alternative 2.

Based on the review conducted, Alternative 2 would have a negligible impact on utilities. The impact would not be significant.

Alternative 3 – No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, the existing one-lane access road would be retained, and no new road construction would occur. There would be no change in utility use under this alternative. Therefore, the No Action Alternative would have no effect on utilities.

4.14 Land Use

4.14.1 Existing Environment

The project area consists of Alligator Drive within the approximately 40-foot-wide ROW that remains. Privately owned lots to the north of the damaged section of Alligator Drive consist of single-family houses and vegetated open space. The land to the south of the damaged section of Alligator Drive consists of open beach and submerged areas.

4.14.2 Environmental Consequences

The threshold level for a significant impact to land use is defined as the disruption or displacement of an existing or planned land use without providing a suitable means to replace or relocate the affected land use.

Alternative 1 – Repair Alligator Drive to Pre-disaster Conditions

Under Alternative 1, repairing Alligator Drive to pre-disaster conditions would not change or adversely affect the land use within or adjacent to the project area. Therefore, Alternative 1 would have no effect on land use.

Alternative 2 – Repair Alligator Drive with Hazard Mitigation (Preferred Alternative)

Under Alternative 2, repairing Alligator Drive with hazard mitigation protection would change the open space along Alligator Drive to paved shoulders. This would not adversely affect the land use within or adjacent to the project area. Therefore, Alternative 2 would have a negligible impact on land use.

Alternative 3 – No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, the existing one-lane access road would be retained, and no new road construction would occur. Therefore, the No Action Alternative would have no effect on land use.

4.15 Transportation and Traffic

4.15.1 Existing Environment

The damaged section of Alligator Drive in the project area is approximately 1,000 linear feet long and currently a one-lane access road. Roads in the vicinity of the project area include the undamaged portions of Alligator Drive that extend east and west of the project area and the following roads that intersect the damaged section of Alligator Drive: Tom Roberts Road, Angus Morrison Road, and George Vause Road (Appendix A, Figure 2). The County has set up temporary traffic signals on each end of the damaged road section that provides only one-way traffic flow. The damaged road section is currently constructed of compacted limestone but could be paved with milled asphalt in the near term to reduce maintenance costs. Traffic in the area is relatively light and consists primarily of residential and recreational users.

4.15.2 Environmental Consequences

The threshold level for a significant impact to transportation and traffic would be an elimination of a used road without suitable replacement, a permanent increase in traffic volume in a given area, or an increase in road hazards.

Alternative 1 – Repair Alligator Drive to Pre-disaster Conditions

Under Alternative 1, repairing Alligator Drive to pre-disaster conditions would result in a short-term increase in traffic in the area during construction. The overall associated impact on traffic is expected to be minor because traffic would be intermittent, localized, and temporary (limited to the construction period). During active construction periods, construction workers would direct traffic through and around the construction area. Alternative 1 would not add or remove sources of vehicle traffic outside the construction period and, therefore, would have no net effect on long-term traffic levels in the area.

Due to its location, the rebuilt portion of Alligator Drive would be susceptible to being damaged again by future storms. Therefore, Alternative 1 is expected to have a moderate impact on transportation infrastructure over the long-term.

Based on the review conducted, Alternative 1 would have a moderate impact on transportation and traffic. The impact would not be significant.

Alternative 2 – Repair Alligator Drive with Hazard Mitigation (Preferred Alternative)

Under Alternative 2, repairing Alligator Drive with hazard mitigation protection would have construction-related impacts on traffic levels similar to those described for Alternative 1; the duration of the impacts would be longer under Alternative 2. Alternative 2 would provide a sheet-pile retaining wall and a 10-foot-wide shoulder seaward of the road that would reduce the probability of Alligator Drive being severely damaged by future storms and, therefore, would have a moderate beneficial impact on transportation infrastructure.

Based on the review conducted, Alternative 2 would have a moderate beneficial impact on transportation and traffic. The impact would not be significant.

Alternative 3 – No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, the existing one-lane access road would be retained, and no new road construction would occur. Not paving the one-lane access road would increase the potential for the road to be damaged by future storms, Franklin County is considering paving the road in the near future. In addition, residents of the approximately 500 lots that are serviced by this section of Alligator Drive would continue to be inconvenienced by use of the road with one-way traffic flow. Therefore, the No Action Alternative would have a moderate impact on transportation and traffic.

4.16 Occupational Health and Safety

4.16.1 Existing Environment

Occupational health and safety hazards could include chemical agents (such as asbestos or lead), physical agents (such as noise or vibration), physical hazards (such as slip, trip, and fall hazards,

electricity, or machinery), or biological hazards (such as infectious waste, poisonous plants, ticks, or other hazardous biota). Occupational health and safety concerns could affect both workers and non-workers near the project site. Franklin County employees and contractors are responsible for following applicable OSHA regulations and for conducting their work in a manner that does not pose any risk to other workers or the public.

4.16.2 Environmental Consequences

The threshold level for a significant impact to occupational health and safety would be (1) exposure of workers to health and safety hazards without proper protection or (2) creating health and safety hazards that could affect the public.

Alternative 1 – Repair Alligator Drive to Pre-disaster Conditions

Occupational health and safety hazards under Alternative 1 would include those common to construction, such as loud noise, heavy machinery, debris, electricity, and hazardous materials used or encountered during work. To minimize occupational health and safety risks, workers would wear and use appropriate personal protective equipment and follow applicable OSHA standards and procedures. A health and safety plan would be developed and implemented for work. Work areas would be clearly marked with appropriate signage and secured against unauthorized entry. Standard construction traffic control measures would be used to protect workers, residents, and the travelling public.

Based on the review conducted, Alternative 1 would have a negligible impact on occupational health and safety. The impact would not be significant.

Alternative 2 – Repair Alligator Drive with Hazard Mitigation (Preferred Alternative)

Occupational health and safety hazards under Alternative 2 would be similar to those for Alternative 1. Therefore, Alternative 2 would have a negligible impact on occupational health and safety. The impact would not be significant.

Alternative 3 – No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, the existing one-lane access road would be retained, and no new road construction would occur. Not paving the temporary road would increase the potential for the road to be damaged by future storms. Storm damage to the road could be a general health and safety risk if the road cannot be used by the residents or emergency service personnel. Therefore, the No Action Alternative would have a minor impact on general health and safety.

4.17 Socioeconomics

4.17.1 Existing Environment

In 2010, the population of Franklin County was 11,549 (U.S. Census Bureau, 2010). Based on American Community Survey 5-year estimates for 2011 to 2015, the median age in the County is 42.1, the total labor force is 4,780, the median household income is \$40,401, and the per capita income is \$20,868 (U.S. Census Bureau, 2015).

4.17.2 Environmental Consequences

The threshold level for a significant impact to socioeconomics would be a substantial change in population, demographics, economic conditions, housing, or public services.

Alternative 1 – Repair Alligator Drive to Pre-disaster Conditions

Under Alternative 1, repairing Alligator Drive to pre-disaster conditions would not directly change the number of persons living in the local area. Therefore, Alternative 1 would have no impact on the demographics, number of persons living in housing, number of children attending schools, and demand for emergency services (medical, police, and fire-fighting) in the area.

Construction work under Alternative 1 would have a minor, short-term, beneficial impact on the local economy. Construction work would have a negligible impact on the total labor force and employment in the region due to the low number of jobs that would be created.

Based on the review conducted, Alternative 1 would have a minor beneficial impact on socioeconomics. The impact would not be significant.

Alternative 2 – Repair Alligator Drive with Hazard Mitigation (Preferred Alternative)

Under Alternative 2, repairing Alligator Drive with hazard mitigation protection would have impacts on socioeconomics similar to those described for Alternative 1. Therefore, Alternative 2 would have a minor beneficial impact on socioeconomics. The impact would not be significant.

Alternative 3 – No Action Alternative

The No Action Alternative would have a minor impact on socioeconomics in the Alligator Point community. Under the No Action Alternative, the existing one-lane access road would be retained, and no road construction would occur. Future storms would likely wash out the one-lane road, impeding access to sections of Alligator Point to the west, which would change the economic conditions in the community because of a decrease in population and patronage to businesses further down on Alligator Point.

4.18 Environmental Justice and Protection of Children

4.18.1 Existing Environment

On February 11, 1994, the President issued EO 12898, *Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority and Low-Income Populations*. This EO requires federal agencies to address disproportionate environmental and human health impacts from federal actions on minority populations and low-income populations. The President directed all federal agencies to analyze the environmental effects, including human health, social, and economic effects, on minority and low-income communities.

Guidelines for the protection of children are specified in EO 13045, *Protection of Children from Environmental Health Risks and Safety Risk* (*Federal Register*, Volume 62, Number 78, April 23, 1997). This EO requires that federal agencies make it a high priority to identify and assess environmental health and safety risks that may disproportionately affect children and ensure that

policies, programs, and standards address disproportionate adverse risks to children that result from environmental health or safety risks.

In 2010, the population of Franklin County was 11,549 (U.S. Census Bureau, 2010). Based on American Community Survey 5-year estimates for 2011 to 2015, children 14 years and younger in the County are 14.1 percent of the population; minorities (African-American, Native American, Asian, Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islanders, or a mix of these races) are 18 percent of the population; and persons below the poverty level are 20 percent of the population (U.S. Census Bureau, 2015).

4.18.2 Environmental Consequences

The threshold level for a significant impact to environmental justice is disproportionately high or adverse human health or environmental effects on minority or low-income populations. The threshold level for a significant impact to protection of children is disproportionate environmental health or safety risks to children.

Alternative 1 – Repair Alligator Drive to Pre-disaster Conditions

Alternative 1 would have at most, minor impacts on the resources most relevant for assessing impacts on human populations, which are air quality, noise, groundwater, surface water, and hazardous materials/wastes. The potential impacts that Alternative 1 would have on these resources would not adversely affect human populations. Therefore, Alternative 1 would not have disproportionately high or adverse human health or environmental effects on minority or low-income populations. No activity under Alternative 1 would result in disproportionate health or safety risks to children.

Alternative 2 – Repair Alligator Drive with Hazard Mitigation (Preferred Alternative)

The impact analysis for Alternative 2 is the same as the impact analysis for Alternative 1.

Alternative 3 – No Action Alternative

The impact analysis for the No Action Alternative is the same as the impact analysis for Alternative 1.

5.0 CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

Cumulative impacts are defined in the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations implementing provisions of NEPA (40 CFR 1508.7) as “the impact on the environment which results from the incremental impact of the action when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions regardless of what agency (federal or non-federal) or person undertakes such other actions. Cumulative impacts can result from individually minor but collectively significant actions taking place over a period of time.”

Coastal areas of Franklin County regularly sustain damage from tropical storms and hurricanes. Over the past 12 years, the County has completed or initiated a number of road repair projects with assistance from the Florida Department of Transportation and FEMA. In 2004, Hurricane Ivan damaged approximately 2,800 linear feet of Alligator Drive. The damaged road sections were replaced in 2007. In 2005, Alligator Drive was damaged by Hurricane Dennis, and in 2008 it was damaged by Hurricane Gustav. The County repaired the damaged road sections. Between 2009 and

2011, vulnerable sections of Alligator Drive were relocated to areas less susceptible to storms, and an enhanced rock revetment was constructed to protect another vulnerable segment of the road. Between June 23 and June 26, 2012, Tropical Storm Debby produced high winds, wind-driven rain, and severe widespread flooding in Franklin County. Alligator Drive was damaged by the loss of the road shoulder (approximately 650 feet by 12 feet), 109 tons of displaced bedding stones, and 283 tons of riprap. In 2013, Franklin County excavated 588 cubic yards and placed 329 square yards of filter fabric, 109 tons of bedding stone, and 283 tons of riprap.

High winds and flooding from Tropical Storm Debby also caused damage on the eastern end of Gulf Shore Boulevard in the Lighthouse Point area of Alligator Point. The tidal surge and large waves severely eroded and washed away Gulf Shore Boulevard. Approximately 785 linear feet of road including the road base, bituminous concrete, and asphalt were washed away as a result of the storm. For this reason, Franklin County constructed an unpaved temporary replacement road just north of the old road to allow access to the privately owned residential property lots located along the former Gulf Shore Boulevard. The temporary replacement access road ran along the front of the residential lots.

In September 2016, Hurricane Hermine washed away the Gulf Shore Boulevard temporary replacement access road. In November 2016, Franklin County installed another temporary access road, which was unpaved and extended south from Bald Point Road to the rear of seven residential lots. Franklin County is currently working on a project to construct a permanent access road that follows the same path as the current temporary access road, extending south from Bald Point Road. The new access road would run along the rear of the seven lots that require access. Franklin County is estimated to start construction of the permanent access road before the end of 2017. Also during Hurricane Hermine, a section of Chip Morrison Drive was damaged. This area is to the west of the section of Alligator Drive under consideration in this EA. That PA project is documented in PW 153 and was approved by FEMA in July 2017. Franklin County is estimated to start repair of the road before the end of 2017. As noted, the roads that support access to Alligator Point have sustained repetitive damage from past storm events. Implementing Alternative 2 to protect this section of Alligator Drive would not protect the remaining road sections that would continue to be susceptible to damage from storm events.

The Florida Department of Transportation plans to provide Franklin County with the funds to construct a bike path along portions of Alligator Point. Phase I of the construction would occur to the west of the project area between Tom Roberts Road and Harry Morrison Road, within the Tom Roberts Road ROW. Phase I is included in the Florida Department of Transportation 2020 5-year Plan. Future phases of the bike path construction could occur within the Alligator Drive ROW within the proposed project area discussed in this EA.

The Proposed Action would have no effect, a negligible impact, or a beneficial impact on air quality, geology, wetlands, groundwater, vegetation, threatened and endangered species, cultural resources, hazardous materials/waste, solid waste, utilities, land use, occupational health and safety, socioeconomics, environmental justice, or protection of children. Therefore, when added to past,

present, and reasonably foreseeable actions, the Proposed Action is not expected to have significantly adverse cumulative impacts on any of these resources.

Noise

Construction noise under the Proposed Action would be temporary and intermittent as would construction noise from other current and foreseeable future projects in the area. Therefore, significantly adverse cumulative impacts are not expected from potential concurrent construction noise from the Proposed Action and other planned projects.

Soils

Construction under the Proposed Action would impact soils that have already been disturbed by the existing road and by Hurricane Hermine. Appropriate BMPs and engineering controls would be implemented during construction to prevent and minimize potential soil erosion and sedimentation. Such measures would also be implemented during other construction projects in the area. The hazard mitigation features that would be implemented under Alternative 2 would minimize road damage and erosion of soils during future storm events. For these reasons, the combination of the Proposed Action and other projects in the area would not have significantly adverse cumulative impacts on soils.

Surface Water

In-water construction under Alternative 2 would have a minor impact on the waters of the Gulf of Mexico. Applicable federal and state permits would be obtained, and any required compensatory mitigation would be provided for the impacts. All unavoidable impacts to surface waters incurred by other current and future projects in the area would also be permitted and offset by compensatory mitigation. Alternative 2, as well as all other projects in the area that disturb 1 acre or more of land, would obtain an NPDES stormwater construction permit from FDEP and implement an associated SWPPP. For these reasons, significantly adverse cumulative impacts on surface waters or wetlands are not expected when the Proposed Action is combined with other projects in the area.

Floodplains

Construction under Alternative 2 would displace a small amount of floodplain (0.37 acre); no associated increase in flooding potential is expected to result from this amount of floodplain loss. Current and foreseeable future projects in the area are not expected to result in major losses of floodplain. For these reasons, significantly adverse cumulative impacts on floodplains are not expected when the Proposed Action is combined with other projects in the area.

Wildlife

Construction activity under Alternative 2 would impact approximately 0.2 acre of beach habitat and a narrow stretch of littoral area parallel to Alligator Drive. The overall loss of beach habitat and the associated impacts on wildlife that potentially use the beach would be minor. Most of the littoral area is covered by boulder riprap; therefore, the overall impact to littoral habitat and aquatic biota that potentially use the habitat would also be minor. Impacts to wildlife and habitat from current and foreseeable future projects in the area are expected to be comparable. For these reasons, significantly

adverse cumulative impacts on wildlife are not expected when the Proposed Action is combined with other projects in the area.

Transportation and Traffic

The Proposed Action is expected to have no long-term effects on traffic in the local area. Construction would temporarily increase traffic. The associated impacts would be minor because traffic would be intermittent, localized, and temporary (limited to the construction period). Any cumulative impacts on traffic levels in the area that may result from other construction activity that occurs concurrently with construction under the Proposed Action would be temporary and not expected to be significantly adverse. Alternative 2 would provide an access road that would have a reduced probability of being severely damaged by future storms and, therefore, would have a moderate beneficial impact on transportation infrastructure. A number of current and foreseeable future projects in the area specifically involve roadway improvements and, therefore, would have beneficial cumulative impacts on transportation and traffic in the area when combined with Alternative 2.

Conclusion for Cumulative Impacts

Based on the review conducted, when added to past, present, and reasonably foreseeable actions, the Proposed Action is not expected to have significantly adverse cumulative impacts on any resource.

6.0 PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

FEMA is the federal agency conducting the NEPA analysis for the repair of Alligator Drive.

Scoping letters were sent on July 6, 2017, to the approximately 500 local addresses for which Alligator Drive serves as the sole access and evacuation route. The letters informed residents that an EA was being prepared and requested comments about topics that residents wanted to have considered during preparation of the EA. To date, two responses have been received from residents requesting additional information on the timing of the project and stating support of the project. Letters sent and responses received are included in Appendix B.

The Draft EA and Draft Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) will be available to the public for 30 days. FEMA will publish the Notice of Availability (NOA) for the EA public comment period in the *Apalachicola Times* and *Tallahassee Democrat* newspapers on November 9, 2017; a copy of the NOA is in Appendix E. Hard copies of the Draft EA and Draft FONSI will be available at the Franklin County Library, 311 St. James Avenue, Carrabelle, Florida, and the Franklin County Department of Planning and Building Department, 34 Forbes Street, Suite 1, Apalachicola, Florida. The Draft EA and Draft FONSI will be available on County and FEMA websites. In addition, signage will be posted along the temporary one-lane road during the 30-day period, notifying users of the availability of the Draft EA and Draft FONSI.

7.0 AGENCY COORDINATION

The following agencies and organizations were contacted during the preparation of this EA:

- USFWS (Panama City Ecological Services Field Office)

- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Panama City Permitting Office and the Jacksonville District
- FDEP – Northwest District
- Franklin County Floodplain Manager/Administrator
- FWC
- Florida State Clearinghouse
- Apalachicola Area Historical Society
- Alligator Point Taxpayers Association
- Alligator Point Water Resources District
- Florida Division of Historical Resources (SHPO)
- Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas
- Alabama-Quassarte Tribal Town
- Jena Band of Choctaw Indians
- Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians
- Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida
- Muscogee (Creek) Nation
- Poarch Band of Creek Indians
- Seminole Tribe of Florida
- Seminole Nation of Oklahoma

The Florida State Clearinghouse provided comments to the July 31, 2017, scoping letter on September 13, 2017. The comments are summarized as follows:

- The state had no objections to Alternative 2 (Preferred Alternative) and determined it was consistent with the FCMP. Final concurrence will be given during the environmental permitting process.
- The FWC recommends that the County consider the following during design, permitting, and construction:
 - Use of vertical seawalls adjacent to sea turtle nesting habitat instead of the use of rock revetments. FWC noted that the replacement of storm-damaged rock revetment within its previous construction limits is not expected to reduce nesting habitat. If the final project extends further seaward than the existing roadway and rock revetment, FWC recommends that the coastal armoring be located as far landward as possible. FWC recognizes that FEMA is coordinating with the USFWS. (FEMA received USFWS concurrence on August 17, 2017.)
 - Work on sandy beach shorelines occurs outside of the main period of the sea turtle nesting season (May 1 through October 31). If work is going to occur during the nesting season, the County intends to have a qualified biologist survey the area prior to construction each day. (FEMA has included these requirements and the County has agreed to them; the final measures to be taken will be determined during the permitting process.)

Consultations with the USFWS are discussed in Section 4.10, and SHPO and Native American tribes are discussed in Section 4.11.

8.0 CONCLUSIONS

Based on the review conducted in this EA, FEMA concludes that Alternative 2 would not have a significant impact on the natural or human environment either by itself or considering cumulative impacts. The environmental protection measures that would be implemented and the required permits that would be obtained for the Proposed Action are identified in this EA. The NEPA requirements for the Proposed Action have been fulfilled. An Environmental Impact Statement is not required and will not be prepared.

A list of the conditions that FEMA will include in the grant to Franklin County is in Appendix F.

9.0 LIST OF PREPARERS

Name	Organization	Primary Responsibility
Saidat Thomas	FEMA	Project Manager
Stephanie Madson	FEMA	Regional Environmental Officer
Eric Thurston	FEMA	Senior Environmental Protection Specialist
Larissa Hyatt	FEMA	Environmental and Historic Preservation Advisor
Andrea Naccarato	CCPRS	Project Manager/Quality Control
Tunch Orsoy	CCPRS	Senior Technical Lead
Laura Haught	CCPRS	Technical Lead
MaryNell Nolan-Wheatley	CCPRS	Cultural Resources/Support
Lori Price	CCPRS	Senior Reviewer/Cultural Resources
Brian Caufield	CCPRS	Coastal Design Specialist

10.0 REFERENCES

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC). 2011. FWC Approved Sea Turtle Lighting. April 26.

Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI). 2017. FNAI Biodiversity Matrix Map Server. <http://www.fnai.org/biointro.cfm>.

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Franklin County. 1946. Peninsular Point Unit No. 1. A Part of Fractional Sections 6 & 7 Township 7, Section Range 1 West, Franklin County, Florida. August.

Franklin County. 2017. Pierce, Alan, Director of Administrative Services. Personal communication with Andrea Naccarato, Project Manager, CPPRS. August 28.

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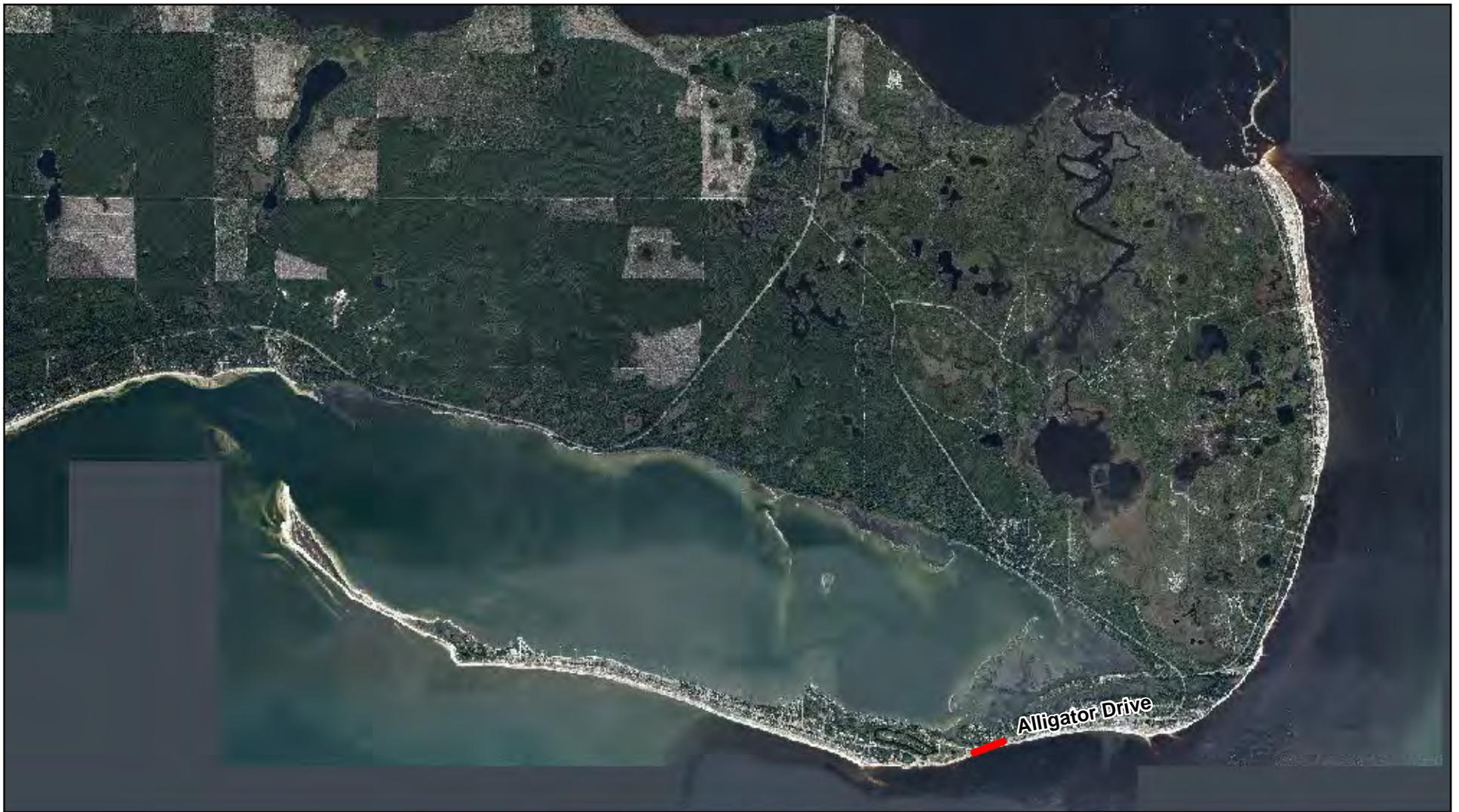
U.S. Census Bureau. 2010. 2010 Census. <http://factfinder.census.gov>.

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Appendix A

Figures



Quad Name: Lighthouse Point

ArcGIS Publish Date 2015

Legend

-  Approximate Roadway Layout (Preferred Alternative)

Data Source:

1. Franklin County, 2016
2. FDOT Imagery, 2016

Notes:

1. Service Layer Credits: Sources: Esri, HERE, DeLorme, USGS, Intermap, INCREMENT P, NRCan, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), Esri Korea, Esri (Thailand), MapmyIndia, NGCC, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community



FIGURE 1
Project Vicinity
FEMA 4280-FL EA



Legend


 Approximate Roadway
 Layout (Preferred
 Alternative)

Data Source:
 1. Franklin County, 2016

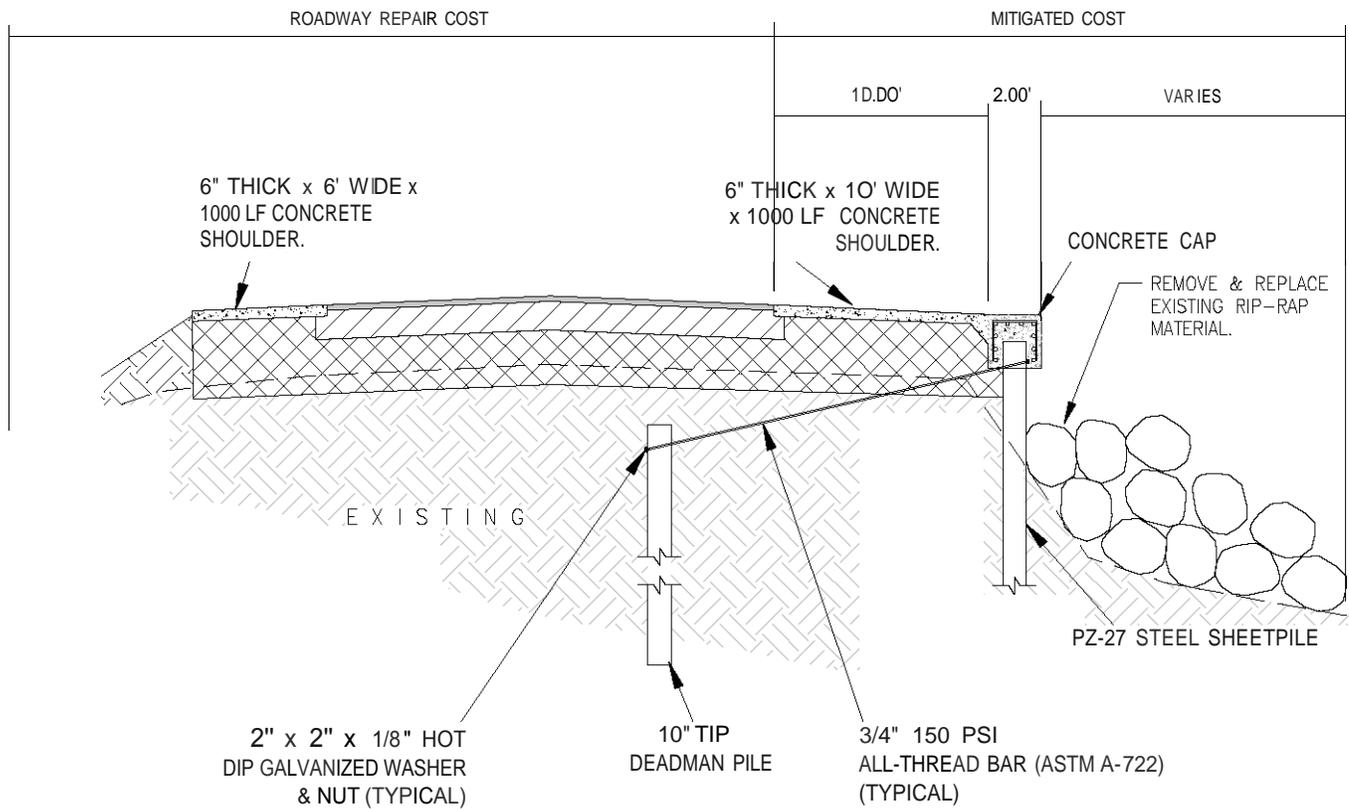
Notes:

1. Service Layer Credits: Sources: Esri, HERE, DeLorme, USGS, Intermap, INCREMENT P, NRCan, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), Esri Korea, Esri (Thailand), MapmyIndia, NGCC, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community
 Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AeroGRID, IGN, and the GIS User Community



FIGURE 2
Project Area
 FEMA 4280-FL EA

HMP PROPOSAL
FRANKLIN COUNTY – ALLIGATOR ROAD – 4280 FL – PW REF FCCDT10

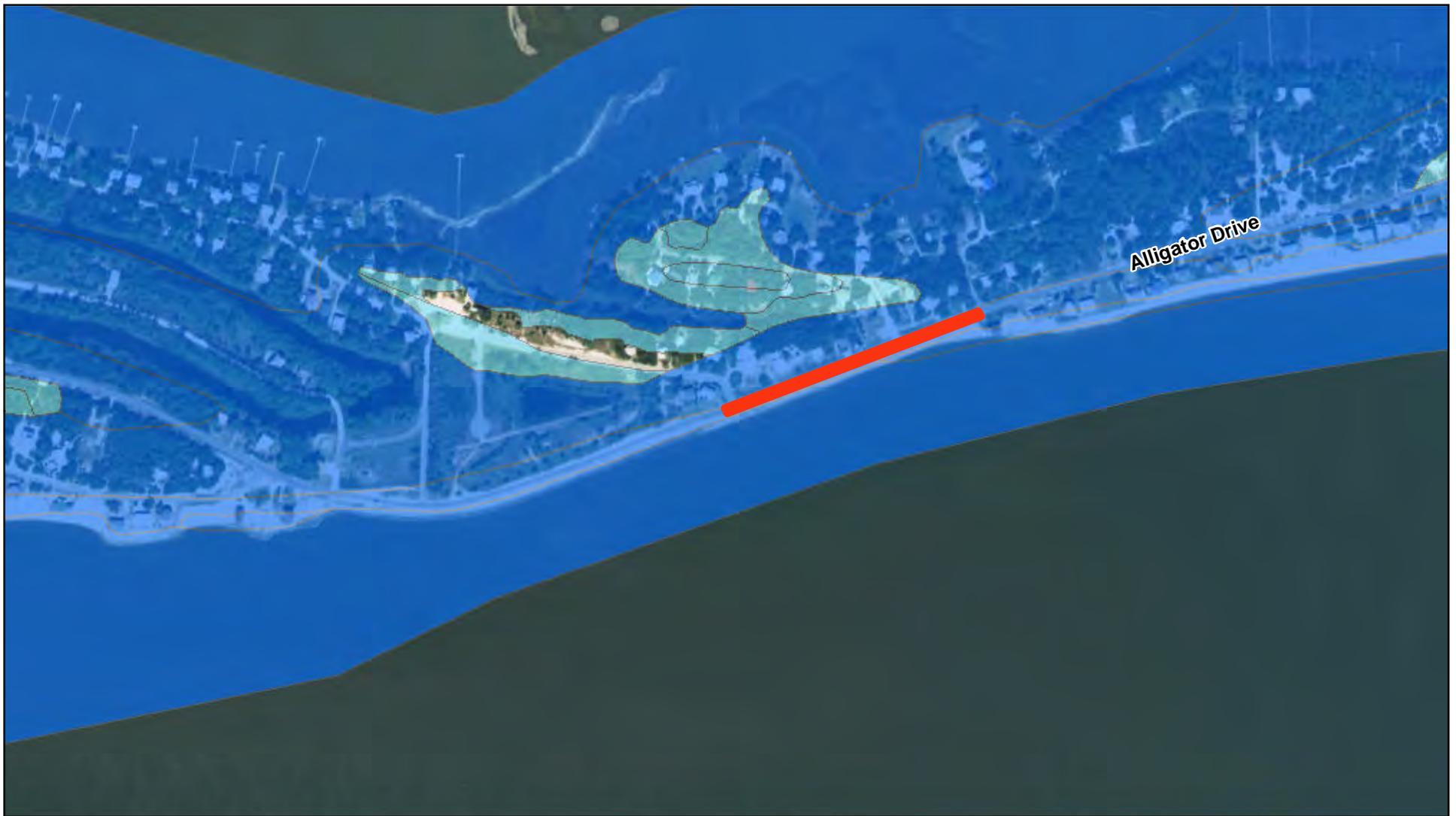


NOTE:
EMBEDMENT DEPTHS TO BE
DETERMINED BY GEOTECH.

HMP:

1. Sheet piling PZ-27 steel sheet pile furnished and installed to include dead-man anchoring and 2 FT X approximately 2 FT X 1000 LF of concrete cap over sheet pile.
2. Concrete shoulder ocean side 10 FT X .5 FT X 1000 LF.
3. Concrete shoulder land side 6 FT X .5 FT X 1000 LF.
4. The riprap material is being addressed as part of the pre-disaster design, function, and capacity.

FIGURE 3
Conceptual Typical
FEMA 4280-FL EA



Legend

-  Approximate Roadway Layout (Preferred Alternative)
-  100-Year Coastal Floodplain
-  100-Year Floodplain

Data Source:

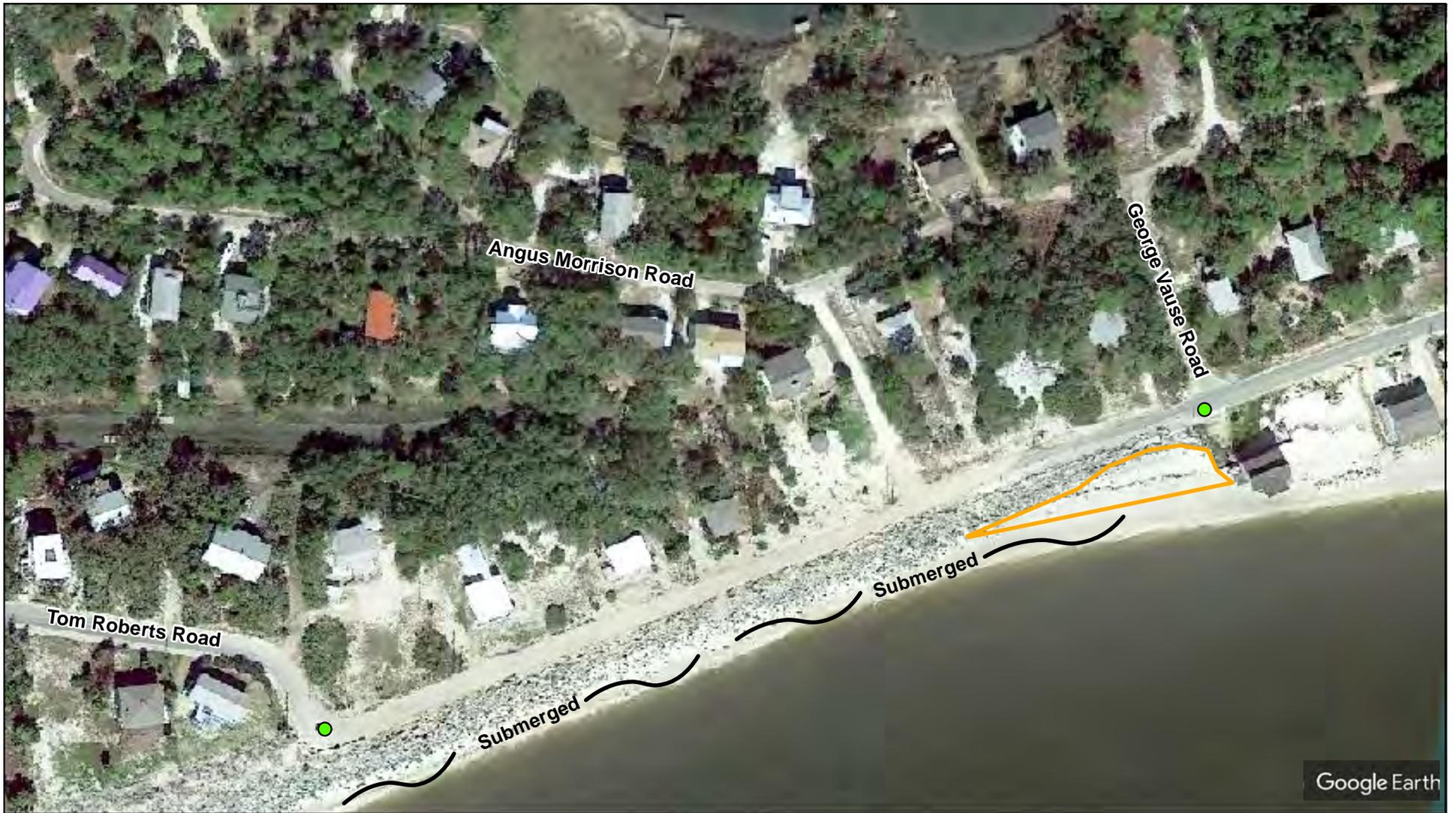
1. Franklin County, 2016
2. FEMA Flood Zones, 2015

Notes:

1. Service Layer Credits: Sources: Esri, HERE, DeLorme, USGS, Intermap, INCREMENT P, NRCan, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), Esri Korea, Esri (Thailand), MapmyIndia, NGCC, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community
 Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AeroGRID, IGN, and the GIS User Community



FIGURE 4
FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Map
FEMA 4280-FL EA



Google Earth

Legend

- Project End Points
- Suitable Sea Turtle Nesting Habitat

Notes:
1. Google Earth Imagery, February 2017



FIGURE 5
Project Location Map
FEMA 4280-FL EA



Legend

-  Approximate Roadway Layout (Preferred Alternative)
-  Estuarine and Marine Deepwater
-  Estuarine and Marine Wetland
-  Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetland

Data Source:

1. Franklin County, 2016
2. National Wetland Inventory, 2015

Notes:

1. Service Layer Credits: Sources: Esri, HERE, DeLorme, USGS, Intermap, INCREMENT P, NRCan, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), Esri Korea, Esri (Thailand), MapmyIndia, NGCC, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community
 Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AeroGRID, IGN, and the GIS User Community



FIGURE 6
Wetlands and Surface Waters
FEMA 4280-FL EA

Appendix B
Agency and Public Correspondence

Coordination Letters



FEMA

July 6, 2017

RE: FEMA Scoping Notification –FEMA Project DR 4280 FL PW 228; Franklin County, Florida

Dear Interested Party:

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) for a Public Assistance project to repair and mitigate approximately 1,000 linear feet of Alligator Drive in Franklin County, Florida, that was destroyed during 9-foot storm surge from Hurricane Hermine in 2016 (Figures 1 and 2). The EA is being prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 and will document compliance with other relevant environmental regulations, including Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. FEMA is coordinating with local, state, and federal agencies and has identified interested parties as part of the NEPA scoping process.

During preparation of the EA, detailed investigations will be undertaken to identify potential social, economic, and environmental impacts related to the proposed action. These impacts will be documented in the EA, which will be made available for a 30-day public review period. The completion of the EA is estimated to take 7 months. FEMA will work closely with the Florida Division of Emergency Management and Franklin County to expedite the completion of the EA.

As part of the NEPA early scoping process, key issues are being identified to be addressed in the EA. FEMA requests that you provide any comments that should be considered during preparation of the EA for the proposed project. Please send an email to FEMA-R4EHP@dhs.gov with your response within 30 days so we may sufficiently address key project issues and maintain the project schedule. You may also send me a hard copy of your response at the address below. If you need to discuss this project in greater detail, please contact Alan Pierce, Franklin County Director of Administrative Services, at (850) 653-9783, ext. 161.

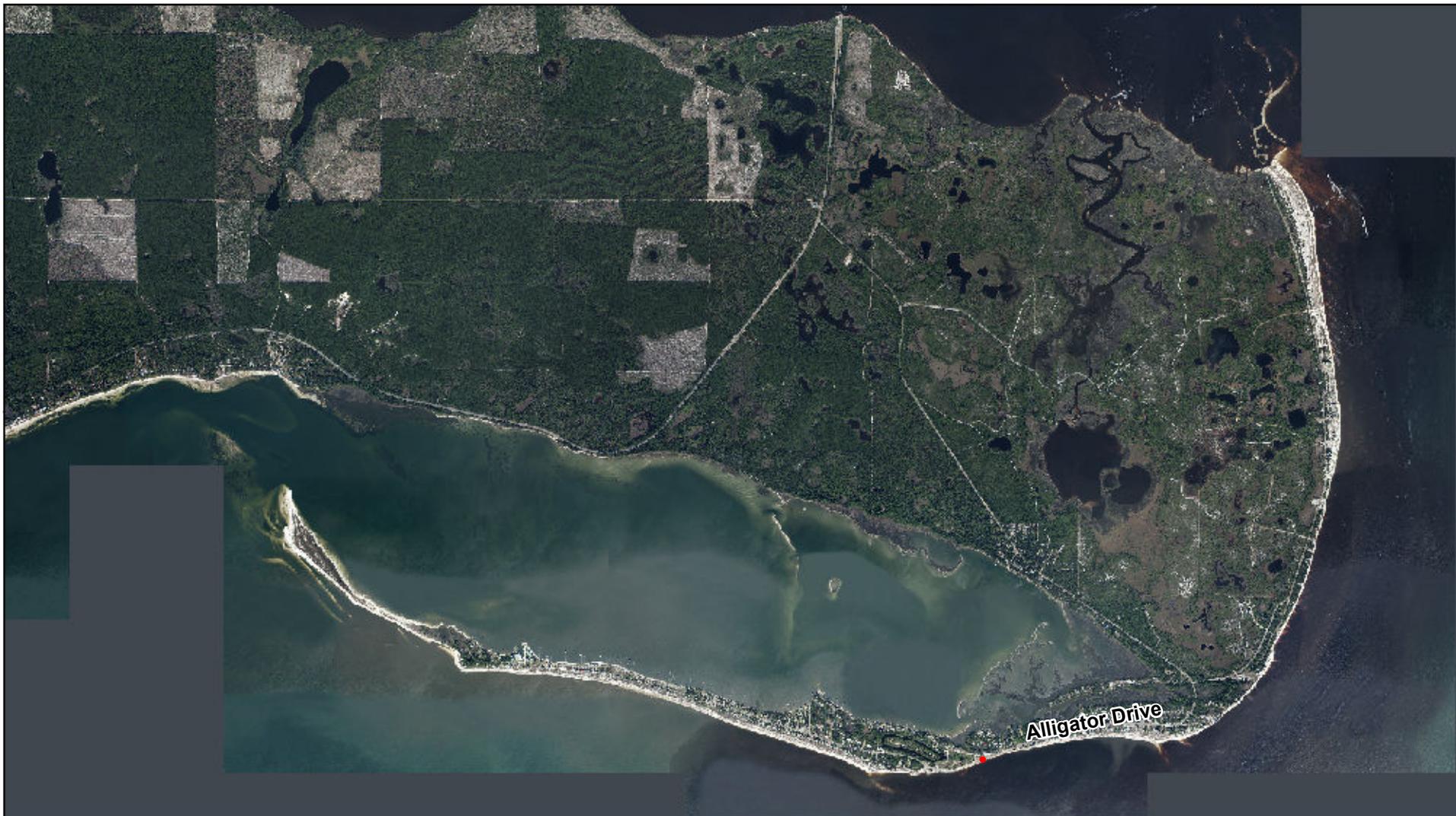
Thank you for your assistance with this request. We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eric M. Thurston".

Eric Thurston
Senior Environmental Protection Specialist
FEMA Region IV
3003 Chamblee-Tucker Road – Hollins Building
Atlanta, GA 30341

Enclosure: Figures 1 and 2



Quad Name: Lighthouse Point

ArcGIS Publish Date 2015

Legend

- Approximate Roadway Layout (Preferred Alternative)

Data Source:

1. Franklin County, 2016
2. FDOT Imagery, 2016

Notes:

1. Service Layer Credits: Sources: Esri, HERE, DeLorme, USGS, Intermap, INCREMENT P, NRCan, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), Esri Korea, Esri (Thailand), MapmyIndia, NGCC, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community



FIGURE 1
Project Vicinity
FEMA 4280-FL Environmental Assessment



Legend

-  Approximate Roadway Layout (Preferred Alternative)

Data Source:
1. Franklin County, 2016

Notes:

1. Service Layer Credits: Sources: Esri, HERE, DeLorme, USGS, Intermap, INCREMENT P, NRCan, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), Esri Korea, Esri (Thailand), MapmyIndia, NGCC, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community
Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AeroGRID, IGN, and the GIS User Community

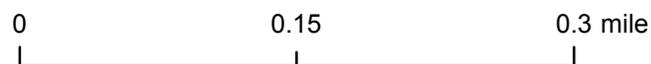


FIGURE 2
Project Area
FEMA 4280-FL Environmental Assessment



FEMA

July 7, 2017

Mr. Jason Aldridge
Division of Historical Resources
500 South Bronough Street
RA Gray Building, Room 305
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0250

**RE: FEMA Section 106 Notification
FEMA Project DR 4280 FL PW 228; Franklin County, Florida**

Dear Mr. Aldridge:

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is notifying your office of a road repair project and the associated, proposed hazard mitigation project in Franklin County, Florida using Public Assistance (PA) funds. In compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), FEMA is identifying historic properties listed in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) and any properties not listed that would be considered eligible for listing that are located within the geographic area of potential effects (APE) of the proposed project and identifying the potential effects of its undertakings on these historic properties. FEMA is requesting to consult with your office on the existing and proposed scope of work and is requesting your concurrence with FEMA's determination of **no effect to historic properties**.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION (UNDERTAKING)

Franklin County proposes to restore a 1000 linear feet section of Alligator Drive, Alligator Point, by extending from 29.894849, -84.370146 to 29.895864, -84.36709, to pre-disaster condition and complete hazard mitigation at the site. Franklin County has previously installed a temporary gravel access road at this site and proposes to repair this section of road, which has been damaged from previous federal declared disaster declarations by replacing road base, replacing the road surface, replacing precast concrete barriers, and replacing riprap. In addition, Franklin County proposes to mitigate the 1000 feet of roadway by adding a six-foot concrete shoulder to the landward side of the road, a ten-foot concrete shoulder to the ocean side of the road, and a sheet pile retaining wall with an approximate depth of sixteen feet, capped by the ten-foot section of shoulder.

AREA OF POTENTIAL EFFECTS

As defined in 36 CFR §800.16(d), the area of potential effects (APE) is the geographic area or areas within which an undertaking may directly or indirectly cause changes in the character or use of historic properties if any such properties exist. Based on this definition and the nature and scope of the undertaking, FEMA has determined that the APE is limited to the areas within which all construction and ground disturbing activity would be confined and the viewshed of the proposed project. No potential exists for indirect effects outside of the viewshed of the proposed project.

IDENTIFICATION OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Literature Review Results

An SOI Qualified FEMA cultural resources specialist conducted a literature review through the Florida Master Site File in June 2017. The literature review focused on the APE and included a study area, covering a one-mile radius around the start and end point of the proposed project. The literature review indicated that five cultural resources investigations have been conducted within the study area for the proposed project. The cultural resources identified by the investigations in the project vicinity are listed in Table 1. Note that Survey number 22380 listed below is an archaeological and structural survey which covers a four-mile section of Alligator Drive including the entire length of the APE.

Table 1. Previously Conducted Cultural Resources Investigations in the Study Area

Report Number	Report Author; Date	Report Title
06361	Wisembaker, Michael and Brenda Swann (C.A.R.L. Archaeological Survey); 2001	<i>An Archaeological and Historical Survey of Bald Point State Park, Franklin County, Florida</i>
09924	Glowacki, Mary and Patrick Gensler (Division of Historical Resources [DHR]); 2004	<i>Bald Point State Park, Franklin County: Property Inspection Following Forest Fire and Prescribed Burn</i>
12293	Watts, Gordon P. and Raymond Tubby (Coastal Planning and Engineering, Inc.); 2005	<i>Archaeological Remote Sensing Survey Alligator Point Erosion Control Project, Franklin County, Florida</i>
22380	Chambless, Elizabeth J., Laurel L. Bartlett, Christopher Clement, and Marie Pokrant (SEARCH); 2015	<i>Cultural Resource Assessment Survey for the Proposed Multi-Use Path Along CR 370/Alligator Drive, Franklin County, Florida</i>
23350	Archaeological Consultants, Inc.; 2016	<i>Cultural Resources Assessment Survey, Gulf Shore Boulevard Relocation, Franklin County, Florida</i>

Based on the literature review and Survey 22380, no cultural resources are within the APE.

Seven archaeological sites were identified outside of the APE, within the larger study area. Archeological resources identified in the literature review and their NRHP status are listed in Table 2.

Table 2. Previously Recorded Archeological Resources in the Project Vicinity

Site Number	Description	Status	Recorded by
FR00004	Tucker burial mound site (prehistoric); located .95 miles northeast of APE.	Eligible for the NRHP	Penton, Daniel T.; 1971 Tesar, Louis D. and B. Calvin Jones; 1995
FR00005	Yent burial mound site (prehistoric); located 1 mile northeast of APE.	Eligible for the NRHP	Penton, Daniel T.; 1971 Tesar, Louis D. and B. Calvin Jones; 1995
FR00026	Lab site habitation (prehistoric); located .75 miles of APE.	Not evaluated for the NRHP	Jackson, C.L.; 1950 White, Ken; 1969
FR00036	Habitation (prehistoric); located 1 mile northeast of APE.	Not evaluated for the NRHP	Smith, Hale; 1950
FR00808	Mud Cove burial mound; located .07 miles north of APE.	Not evaluated for the NRHP	L.K. (DHR); 1988
FR00826	Prehistoric refuse scatter; located .85 miles northeast of APE.	Insufficient information to be individually eligible for the NRHP	Watson, Thomas C.; 1991 Glowacki, Mary (FBCA); 2004
FR01293	Alligator Point Kettle isolate; 19 th and 20 th century American; located .6 miles southwest of APE.	Not evaluated for the NRHP (insufficient information)	Montgomery, Earl (DHR); 2013

The literature review confirmed that no NRHP-eligible architectural resources are within the APE. Five architectural resources were identified outside of the APE, within the larger study area. The seven architectural resources within the APE, identified in the literature review, and their NRHP status are listed and highlighted in Table 3.

Table 3. Previously Recorded Architectural Resources in the Project APE

Site Number	Description	Status	Eligibility Determination
FR01319	1378 Alligator Drive (1963, resource group of four utility buildings); outside of APE	Ineligible for the NRHP	October, 2015
FR01320	1254 Alligator Drive (c. 1962, frame vernacular residence); outside of APE	Ineligible for the NRHP	October, 2015
FR01321	1260 Alligator Drive (c. 1965, masonry vernacular residence); outside of APE	Ineligible for the NRHP	October, 2015
FR01322	1266 Alligator Drive (c. 1958, masonry vernacular residence) ; outside of APE	Ineligible for the NRHP	October, 2015
FR01323	1270 Alligator Drive (c. 1962, frame vernacular residence)	Ineligible for the NRHP	October, 2015

Table 3. Previously Recorded Architectural Resources in the Project APE

Site Number	Description	Status	Eligibility Determination
FR01324	1274 Alligator Drive (c. 1959, masonry vernacular residence)	Ineligible for the NRHP	October, 2015
FR01325	1278 Alligator Drive (c. 1948, masonry vernacular residence)	Ineligible for the NRHP	October, 2015
FR01326	1286 Alligator Drive (c. 1962, masonry vernacular residence)	Ineligible for the NRHP	October, 2015
FR01327	1290 Alligator Drive (c. 1962, masonry vernacular residence)	Ineligible for the NRHP	October, 2015
FR01328	1290 Alligator Drive, Building 2 (c. 1960, frame vernacular residence)	Ineligible for the NRHP	October, 2015
FR01329	1292 Alligator Drive (c. 1948, frame vernacular residence)	Ineligible for the NRHP	October, 2015
FR01334	1336 Alligator Drive (c. 1940, frame vernacular residence); outside of APE	Ineligible for the NRHP	October, 2015

DETERMINATION OF EFFECT

No archaeological sites or marine resources were identified within the APE. Seven architectural resources were identified within the APE; however, none were found to be NRHP-eligible as of October, 2015. Therefore, based on the results of our historic property identification efforts, there is a finding of No Effect to Historic Properties for this undertaking in accordance with 36 CFR 800.5(b).

Project work will take place largely in previously disturbed soils and rights of way. This section of roadway has been repetitively damaged in the past and has been subject to numerous repairs. In addition, severe beach erosion within the area proposed for hazard mitigation footprint makes it unlikely unidentified cultural resources will be uncovered in the proposed project area.

For your review, four enclosures are included with this letter: (1) an aerial map showing the APE; (2) a topographical map of the project area; (3) photographs; (4) conceptual drawing; (5) map of field surveys in project area; (6) map of archeological sites and structures in project area.

SPECIAL CONDITIONS

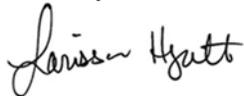
To ensure that FEMA-funded activities will not adversely affect archaeological resources, FEMA is placing the following conditions on the project for the treatment of fortuitous finds or unexpected discoveries during ground disturbing activities within the project area:

- If human remains or intact archaeological deposits are uncovered, work in the vicinity of the discovery will stop immediately and all reasonable measures to avoid or minimize harm to the finds will be taken. The applicant will ensure that archaeological discoveries are secured in place, that access to the sensitive area is restricted, and that all reasonable measures are taken to avoid further disturbance of the discoveries. The applicant's contractor will provide immediate notice of such discoveries to the applicant. The applicant shall contact the *Florida Division of Historical Resources* and FEMA within 24 hours of the discovery. Work in the vicinity of the discovery may not resume until FEMA has completed consultation with SHPO, Tribes, and other consulting parties as necessary. In the event that unmarked human remains are encountered during permitted activities, all work shall stop immediately and the proper authorities notified in accordance with Florida Statutes, Section 872.05.
- Construction vehicles and equipment shall be stored on site during the project or at existing access points within the applicant's right of way.
- Any changes to the approved scope of work will require submission to, and evaluation and approval by, the State and FEMA, prior to initiation of any work, for compliance with Section 106.

FEMA requests your concurrence with this finding of **no effect to historic properties**. Please send an e-mail to FEMA-R4EHP@dhs.gov with your response within 15 days so we may add it to our Section 106 consultation files for the undertaking. You may also send a hard copy of your response to the address below. Should you need to discuss this project in greater detail, you may contact Larissa Hyatt, EHP Advisor, at the above email or by phone at (770) 403-9739.

Thank you very much for your assistance with this request. We look forward to your response.

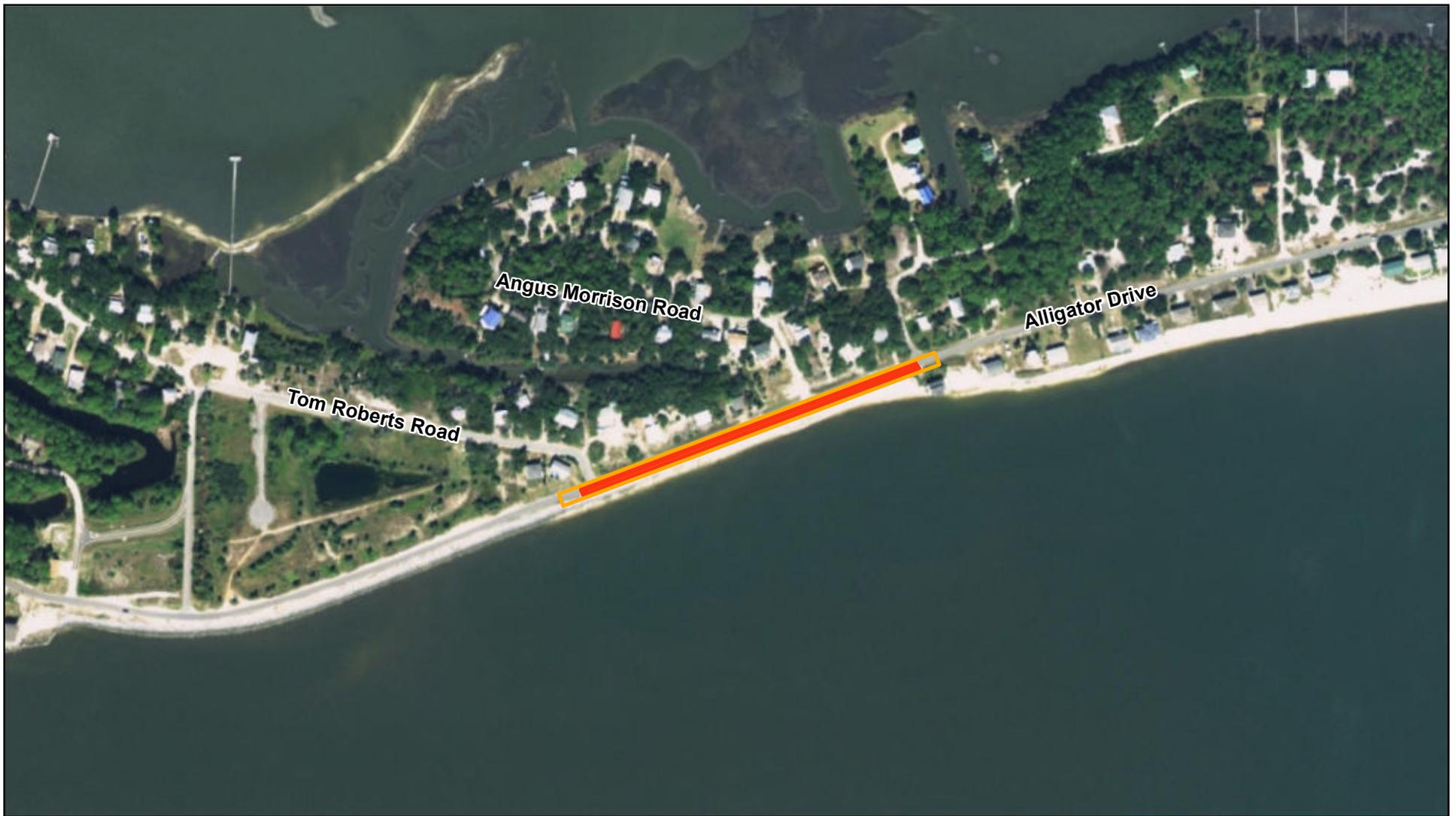
Sincerely,



Larissa Hyatt
Environmental & Historic Preservation Advisor

Enclosures:

- Project Location Map
- Topographic Location Map
- Photographs
- Conceptual Drawing
- Map of Field Surveys
- Map of Archeological Sites and Structures



Legend

-  Approximate Roadway Layout (Preferred Alternative)
-  Area of Potential Effects (APE)

Data Source:
1. Franklin County, 2016

Notes:

1. Service Layer Credits: Sources: Esri, HERE, DeLorme, USGS, Intermap, INCREMENT P, NRCan, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), Esri Korea, Esri (Thailand), MapmyIndia, NGCC, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community
Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AeroGRID, IGN, and the GIS User Community



FIGURE 2
Area of Potential Effects
FEMA 4280-FL EA



Quad Name: Lighthouse Point

ArcGIS Publish Date 2017

Legend

- Approximate Roadway Layout (Preferred Alternative)

Data Source:

1. Franklin County, 2016
2. USGS Topographic Base Map, 2017

Notes:

1. Service Layer Credits: Sources: Esri, HERE, DeLorme, Intermap, increment P Corp., GEBCO, USGS, FAO, NPS, NRCAN, GeoBase, IGN, Kadaster NL, Ordnance Survey, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), swisstopo, MapmyIndia, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community
 Sources: Esri, HERE, DeLorme, USGS, Intermap, INCREMENT P, NRCan, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), Esri Korea, Esri (Thailand), MapmyIndia, NGCC, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community
 Copyright © 2013 National Geographic Society, i-cubed



FIGURE 1
Approximate Project Area Location
 FEMA 4280-FL EA



Figure 1. Ground level photograph showing project site.

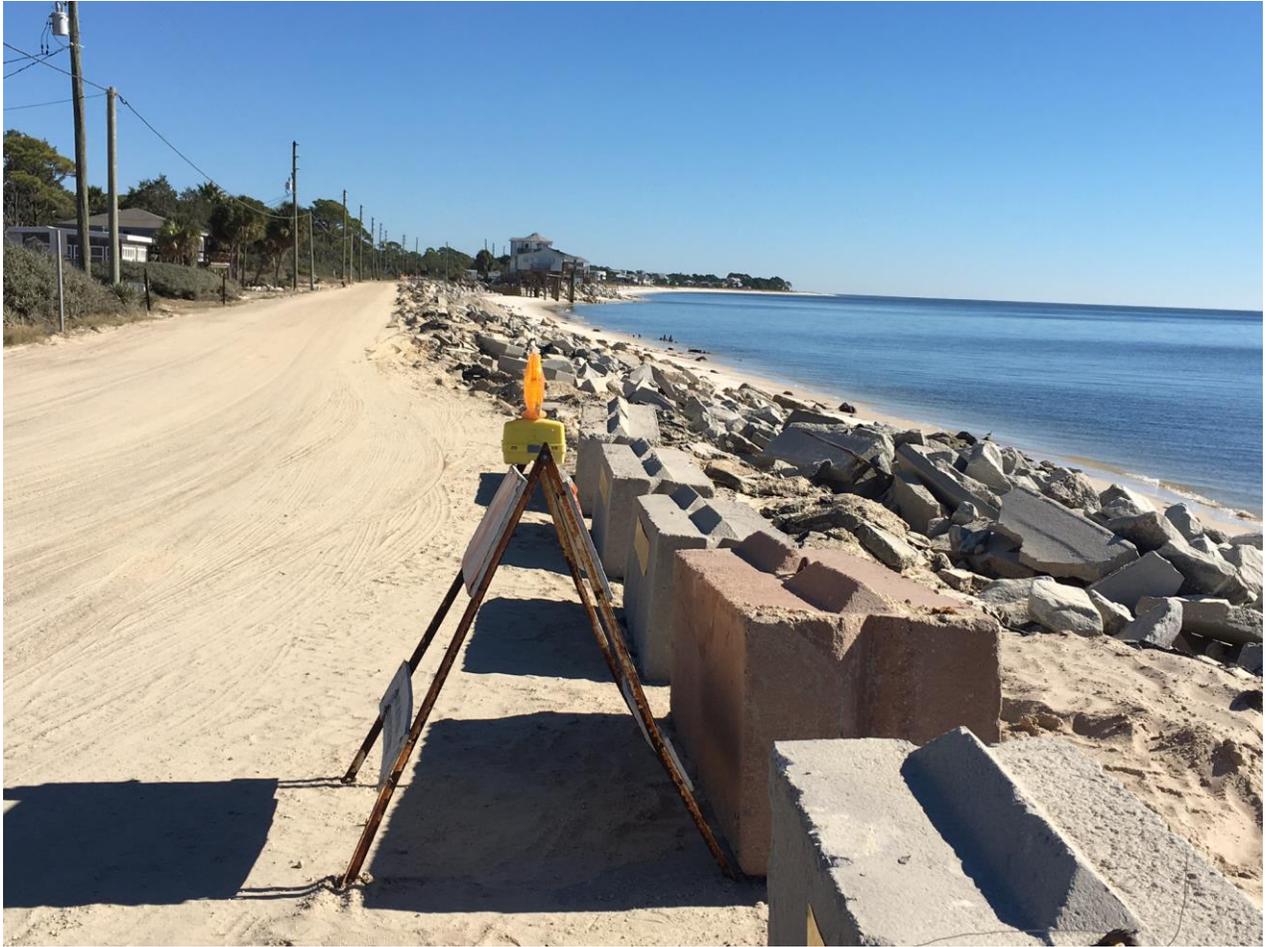
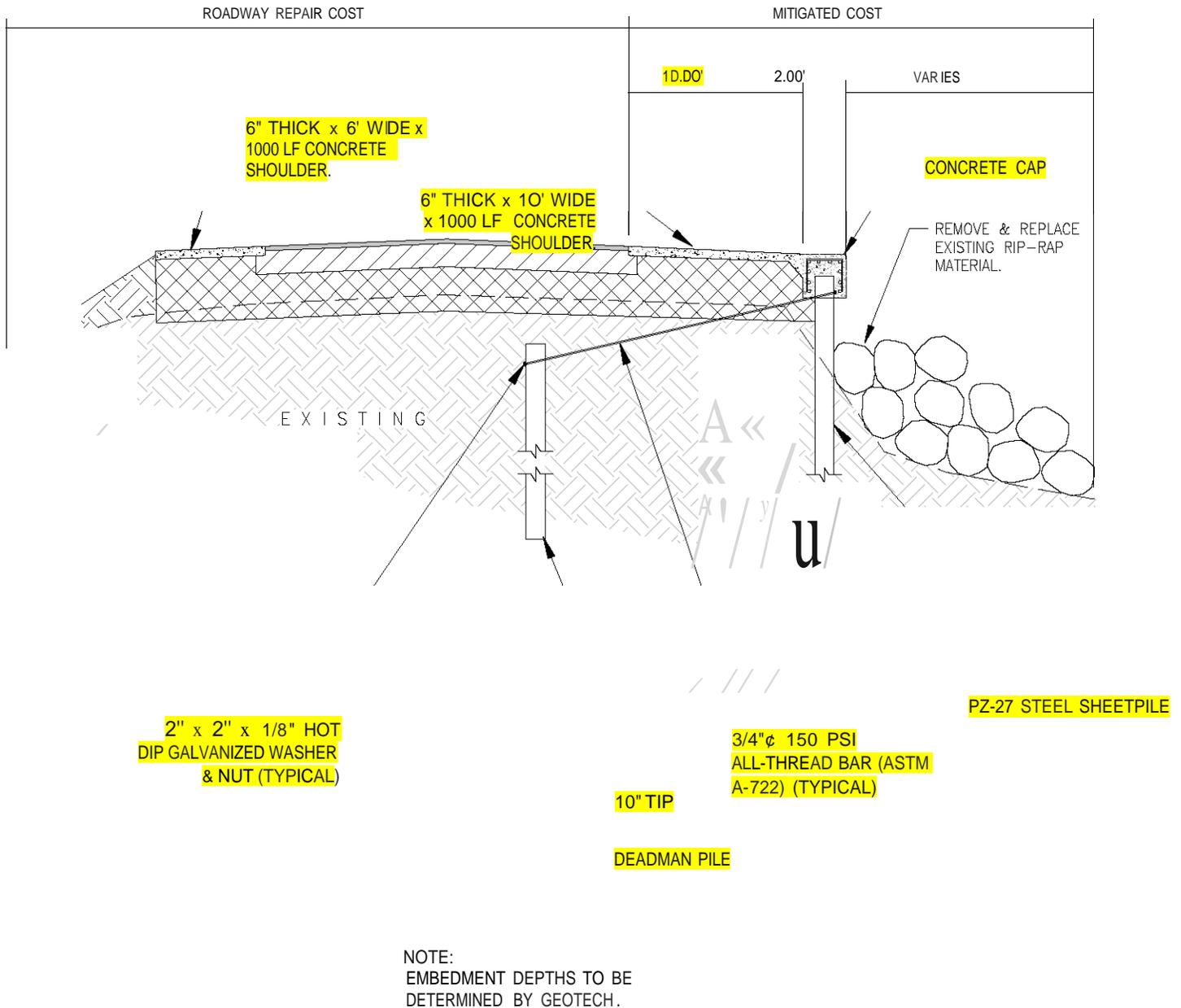


Figure 2. Ground level photograph showing project site and current barrier.



Figure 3. Ground level photograph showing project start area.

HMP PROPOSAL:
FRANKLIN COUNTY – ALLIGATOR ROAD – 4280 FL – PW REF FCCDT10



HMP:

1. Sheet piling PZ-27 Steel sheet pile furnished and installed to include dead-man anchoring And 2 FT X approximately 2 FT X 1000 LF of Concrete Cap over sheet pile. (Per bid tab provided Estimated cost \$1497.00 per LF installed cost)
2. Concrete shoulder ocean side 10 FT X .5 FT X 1000 LF (Per bid tab provided Estimated cost \$125.00 per SY installed cost)
3. Concrete shoulder Land side 6 FT X .5 FT X 1000 LF (Per bid tab provided Estimated cost \$125.00 per SY installed cost)
4. The Rip Rap Material is being addressed as part of the pre-disaster design, function and capacity.

CONCEPTUAL TYPICAL

SCALE: N.T.S.



Figure 1. Alligator Point field surveys

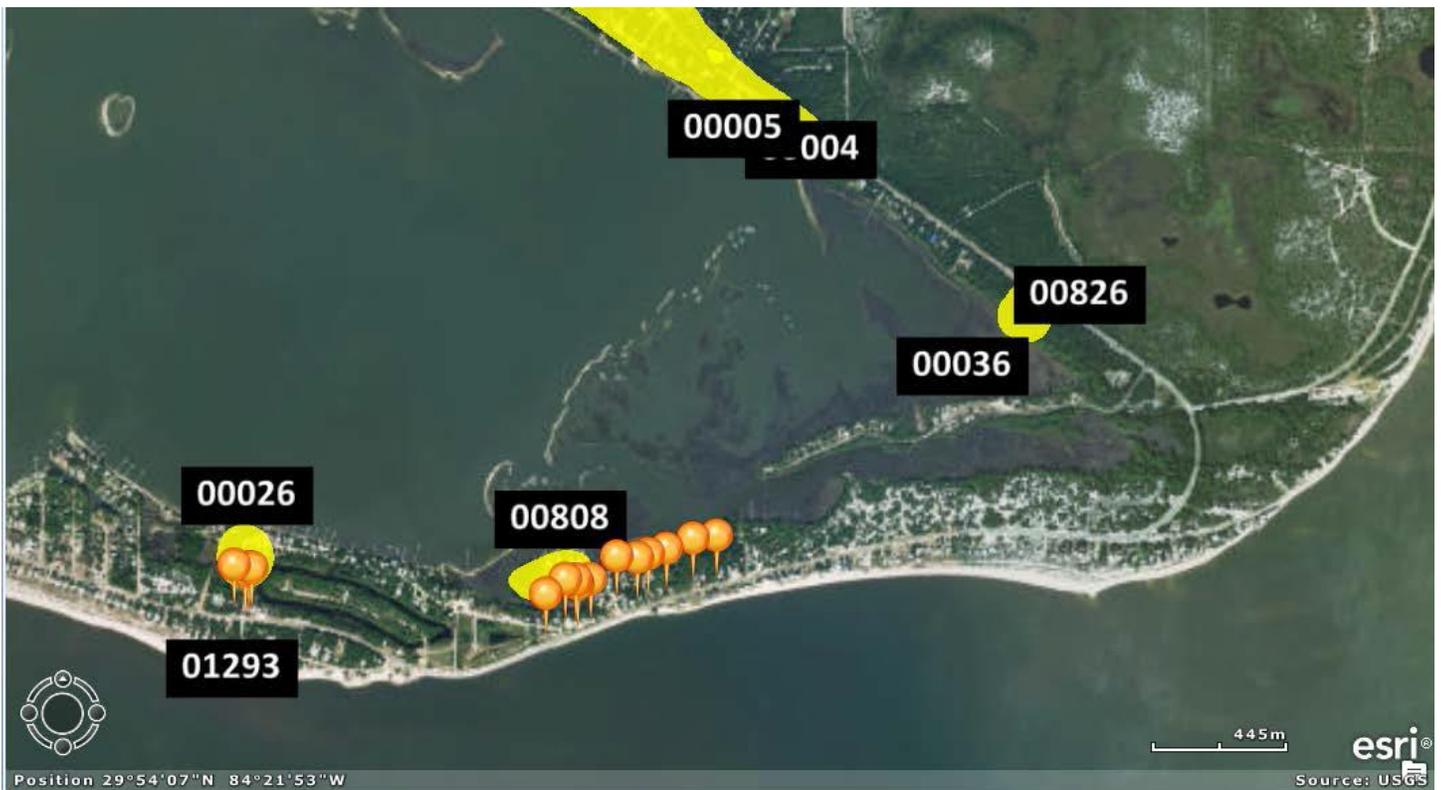


Figure 2. Alligator Point archeological sites and structures



FEMA

July 12, 2017

Ms. Alina Shively
Deputy Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
Jena Band of Choctaw Indians
PO Box 14
Jena, LA 71342

**RE: FEMA Section 106 Notification
FEMA Project DR 4280 FL PW 228; Franklin County, Florida**

Dear Ms. Shively:

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is notifying your office of a road repair project and the associated, proposed hazard mitigation project in Franklin County, Florida using Public Assistance (PA) funds. In compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), FEMA is identifying historic properties listed in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) and any properties not listed that would be considered eligible for listing that are located within the geographic area of potential effects (APE) of the proposed project and identifying the potential effects of its undertakings on these historic properties. FEMA is requesting to consult with your office on the existing and proposed scope of work and is requesting your concurrence with FEMA's determination of **no effect to historic properties.**

PROJECT DESCRIPTION (UNDERTAKING)

Franklin County proposes to restore a 1000 linear feet section of Alligator Drive, Alligator Point, by extending from 29.894849, -84.370146 to 29.895864, -84.36709, to pre-disaster condition and complete hazard mitigation at the site. Franklin County has previously installed a temporary gravel access road at this site and proposes to repair this section of road, which has been damaged from previous federal declared disaster declarations by replacing road base, replacing the road surface, replacing precast concrete barriers, and replacing riprap. In addition, Franklin County proposes to mitigate the 1000 feet of roadway by adding a six-foot concrete shoulder to the landward side of the road, a ten-foot concrete shoulder to the ocean side of the road, and a sheet pile retaining wall with an approximate depth of sixteen feet, capped by the ten-foot section of shoulder.

AREA OF POTENTIAL EFFECTS

As defined in 36 CFR §800.16(d), the area of potential effects (APE) is the geographic area or areas within which an undertaking may directly or indirectly cause changes in the character or use of historic properties if any such properties exist. Based on this definition and the nature and scope of the undertaking, FEMA has determined that the APE is limited to the areas within which all construction and ground disturbing activity would be confined and the viewshed of the proposed project. No potential exists for indirect effects outside of the viewshed of the proposed project.

IDENTIFICATION OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Literature Review Results

An SOI Qualified FEMA cultural resources specialist conducted a literature review through the Florida Master Site File in June 2017. The literature review focused on the APE and included a study area, covering a one-mile radius around the start and end point of the proposed project. The literature review indicated that five cultural resources investigations have been conducted within the study area for the proposed project. The cultural resources identified by the investigations in the project vicinity are listed in Table 1. Note that Survey number 22380 listed below is an archaeological and structural survey which covers a four-mile section of Alligator Drive including the entire length of the APE.

Table 1. Previously Conducted Cultural Resources Investigations in the Study Area

Report Number	Report Author; Date	Report Title
06361	Wisembaker, Michael and Brenda Swann (C.A.R.L. Archaeological Survey); 2001	<i>An Archaeological and Historical Survey of Bald Point State Park, Franklin County, Florida</i>
09924	Glowacki, Mary and Patrick Gensler (Division of Historical Resources [DHR]); 2004	<i>Bald Point State Park, Franklin County: Property Inspection Following Forest Fire and Prescribed Burn</i>
12293	Watts, Gordon P. and Raymond Tubby (Coastal Planning and Engineering, Inc.); 2005	<i>Archaeological Remote Sensing Survey Alligator Point Erosion Control Project, Franklin County, Florida</i>
22380	Chambless, Elizabeth J., Laurel L. Bartlett, Christopher Clement, and Marie Pokrant (SEARCH); 2015	<i>Cultural Resource Assessment Survey for the Proposed Multi-Use Path Along CR 370/Alligator Drive, Franklin County, Florida</i>
23350	Archaeological Consultants, Inc.; 2016	<i>Cultural Resources Assessment Survey, Gulf Shore Boulevard Relocation, Franklin County, Florida</i>

Based on the literature review and Survey 22380, no cultural resources are within the APE.

Seven archaeological sites were identified outside of the APE, within the larger study area. Archeological resources identified in the literature review and their NRHP status are listed in Table 2.

Table 2. Previously Recorded Archeological Resources in the Project Vicinity

Site Number	Description	Status	Recorded by
FR00004	Tucker burial mound site (prehistoric); located .95 miles northeast of APE.	Eligible for the NRHP	Penton, Daniel T.; 1971 Tesar, Louis D. and B. Calvin Jones; 1995
FR00005	Yent burial mound site (prehistoric); located 1 mile northeast of APE.	Eligible for the NRHP	Penton, Daniel T.; 1971 Tesar, Louis D. and B. Calvin Jones; 1995
FR00026	Lab site habitation (prehistoric); located .75 miles of APE.	Not evaluated for the NRHP	Jackson, C.L.; 1950 White, Ken; 1969
FR00036	Habitation (prehistoric); located 1 mile northeast of APE.	Not evaluated for the NRHP	Smith, Hale; 1950
FR00808	Mud Cove burial mound; located .07 miles north of APE.	Not evaluated for the NRHP	L.K. (DHR); 1988
FR00826	Prehistoric refuse scatter; located .85 miles northeast of APE.	Insufficient information to be individually eligible for the NRHP	Watson, Thomas C.; 1991 Glowacki, Mary (FBCA); 2004
FR01293	Alligator Point Kettle isolate; 19 th and 20 th century American; located .6 miles southwest of APE.	Not evaluated for the NRHP (insufficient information)	Montgomery, Earl (DHR); 2013

The literature review confirmed that no NRHP-eligible architectural resources are within the APE. Five architectural resources were identified outside of the APE, within the larger study area. The seven architectural resources within the APE, identified in the literature review, and their NRHP status are listed and highlighted in Table 3.

Table 3. Previously Recorded Architectural Resources in the Project APE

Site Number	Description	Status	Eligibility Determination
FR01319	1378 Alligator Drive (1963, resource group of four utility buildings); outside of APE	Ineligible for the NRHP	October, 2015
FR01320	1254 Alligator Drive (c. 1962, frame vernacular residence); outside of APE	Ineligible for the NRHP	October, 2015
FR01321	1260 Alligator Drive (c. 1965, masonry vernacular residence); outside of APE	Ineligible for the NRHP	October, 2015
FR01322	1266 Alligator Drive (c. 1958, masonry vernacular residence) ; outside of APE	Ineligible for the NRHP	October, 2015
FR01323	1270 Alligator Drive (c. 1962, frame vernacular residence)	Ineligible for the NRHP	October, 2015

Table 3. Previously Recorded Architectural Resources in the Project APE

Site Number	Description	Status	Eligibility Determination
FR01324	1274 Alligator Drive (c. 1959, masonry vernacular residence)	Ineligible for the NRHP	October, 2015
FR01325	1278 Alligator Drive (c. 1948, masonry vernacular residence)	Ineligible for the NRHP	October, 2015
FR01326	1286 Alligator Drive (c. 1962, masonry vernacular residence)	Ineligible for the NRHP	October, 2015
FR01327	1290 Alligator Drive (c. 1962, masonry vernacular residence)	Ineligible for the NRHP	October, 2015
FR01328	1290 Alligator Drive, Building 2 (c. 1960, frame vernacular residence)	Ineligible for the NRHP	October, 2015
FR01329	1292 Alligator Drive (c. 1948, frame vernacular residence)	Ineligible for the NRHP	October, 2015
FR01334	1336 Alligator Drive (c. 1940, frame vernacular residence); outside of APE	Ineligible for the NRHP	October, 2015

DETERMINATION OF EFFECT

No archaeological sites or marine resources were identified within the APE. Seven architectural resources were identified within the APE; however, none were found to be NRHP-eligible as of October, 2015. Therefore, based on the results of our historic property identification efforts, there is a finding of No Effect to Historic Properties for this undertaking in accordance with 36 CFR 800.5(b).

Project work will take place largely in previously disturbed soils and rights of way. This section of roadway has been repetitively damaged in the past and has been subject to numerous repairs. In addition, severe beach erosion within the area proposed for hazard mitigation footprint makes it unlikely unidentified cultural resources will be uncovered in the proposed project area.

For your review, four enclosures are included with this letter: (1) an aerial map showing the APE; (2) a topographical map of the project area; (3) photographs; (4) conceptual drawing; (5) map of field surveys in project area; (6) map of archeological sites and structures in project area.

SPECIAL CONDITIONS

To ensure that FEMA-funded activities will not adversely affect archaeological resources, FEMA is placing the following conditions on the project for the treatment of fortuitous finds or unexpected discoveries during ground disturbing activities within the project area:

- If human remains or intact archaeological deposits are uncovered, work in the vicinity of the discovery will stop immediately and all reasonable measures to avoid or minimize harm to the finds will be taken. The applicant will ensure that archaeological discoveries are secured in place, that access to the sensitive area is restricted, and that all reasonable measures are taken to avoid further disturbance of the discoveries. The applicant's contractor will provide immediate notice of such discoveries to the applicant. The applicant shall contact the *Florida Division of Historical Resources* and FEMA within 24 hours of the discovery. Work in the vicinity of the discovery may not resume until FEMA has completed consultation with SHPO, Tribes, and other consulting parties as necessary. In the event that unmarked human remains are encountered during permitted activities, all work shall stop immediately and the proper authorities notified in accordance with Florida Statutes, Section 872.05.
- Construction vehicles and equipment shall be stored on site during the project or at existing access points within the applicant's right of way.
- Any changes to the approved scope of work will require submission to, and evaluation and approval by, the State and FEMA, prior to initiation of any work, for compliance with Section 106.

FEMA requests your concurrence with this finding of **no effect to historic properties**. Please send an e-mail to FEMA-R4EHP@dhs.gov with your response within 15 days so we may add it to our Section 106 consultation files for the undertaking. You may also send a hard copy of your response to the address below. Should you need to discuss this project in greater detail, you may contact Larissa Hyatt, EHP Advisor, at the above email or by phone at (770) 403-9739.

Thank you very much for your assistance with this request. We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Ashley Bechtold
FEMA Region 4 Section 106 Lead
3003 Chamblee-Tucker Rd.
Atlanta, GA 30341

Enclosures:

Project Location Map
Topographic Location Map
Photographs
Conceptual Drawing
Map of Field Surveys
Map of Archeological Sites and Structures

Coordination letters similar to the one shown on the previous pages were also sent to the following recipients:

Dr. Paul N. Backhouse
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
Seminole Tribe of Florida
30290 Josie Billie Highway, PMB 1004
Clewiston, FL 33440

Mr. Theodore Isham
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
Seminole Nation of Oklahoma
P.O. Box 1498
Wewoka, OK 74884

Mr. Pare Bowlegs
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
Alabama-Quassarte Tribal Town
P. O. Box 187, 117 N. Main
Wetumka, OK 74883

Ms. Corain Lowe-Zepeda
Historic and Cultural Preservation
Department, THPO
Muscogee (Creek) Nation
PO Box 580 - Hwy 75 & Loop 56
Okmulgee, OK 74447

Mr. Ken Carleton
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians
101 Industrial Road
Choctaw, MS 39350

Mr. Robert Thrower
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
Poarch Band of Creek Indians
5811 Jack Springs Road
Atmore, AL 36502

Mr. Fred Dayhoff
Tribal Representative
Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida
P.O. Box 440021 Tamiami Station
Miami, FL 33144



U.S. Department of Homeland Security
FEMA Region IV
3003 Chamblee Tucker Road
Atlanta, GA 30341-4130

FEMA

July 28, 2017

Dr. Catherine Phillips
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Panama City Field Office, Ecological Services
1601 Balboa Avenue
Panama City, FL 32405

**RE: FEMA Section 7 Coordination
FEMA Project PA-04-FL-4280-PW-00228; Alligator Drive, Franklin County, Florida**

Dr. Phillips:

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) for a Public Assistance project to replace the section of Alligator Drive damaged by Hurricane Hermine in early September 2016 in Franklin County, Florida (Figure 1; Attachment 1). The EA is being prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and will document compliance with Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act. FEMA has determined that the project **may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect**, the loggerhead sea turtle and green sea turtle and would have **no effect** on the piping plover. FEMA requests concurrence with these determinations within 30 days from the date on this letter.

Hurricane Hermine's tidal surge and large waves severely eroded and washed away approximately 1,000 linear feet of Alligator Drive between Tom Roberts Road and George Vause Road. The asphalt road surface, road base, road sub-base, riprap, and concrete barriers were washed away during the storm. Alligator Drive serves as the sole access and evacuation route for approximately 500 homes. Franklin County constructed a one-lane temporary access road in the same location as the previous road.

FEMA and Franklin County propose to repair the damaged portion of Alligator Drive with hazard mitigation protection to shelter against future storm damage. The rubble, which includes the remaining road material and previous rock revetment, would be removed from the area and the road would be rebuilt. The hazard mitigation would include installation of a sheet pile retaining wall, a 10-foot-wide shoulder seaward of the road, and a 6-foot-wide shoulder landward of the road (Figure 2; Attachment 1). There would be limited work in the water to replace existing rubble or facilitate installation of the sheet piles. All construction equipment would be operated on land; no equipment or vessels would be operated in the water.

Potential occurrence of threatened and endangered species in and near the project area was evaluated using the Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI) Biodiversity Matrix Map Server. Based on the FNAI Map Server, there are no documented occurrences of any federally listed or state-listed threatened or endangered species in or within 1 mile of the project area (FNAI, 2017). Based on the FNAI Map Server, the federally threatened loggerhead sea turtle (*Caretta caretta*), the federally threatened green sea turtle (*Chelonia mydas*), and the federally threatened piping plover (*Charadrius melodus*) are likely to occur within or near the project area.

July 28, 2017

Page 2

Most of the coastline within the 1,000-foot-long section is covered by rock revetment (boulder riprap) and pieces of broken road. Photographs of this area are included in Attachment 2. Suitable sea turtle nesting habitat exists only along the easternmost portion of the 1,000-foot-long project area; sea turtle nesting habitat is absent throughout most of the project area due to the presence of extensive amounts of rubble. The extent of suitable sea turtle nesting habitat in the project area is approximately 0.20 acre and is shown on Figure 1 (Attachment 1). The easternmost portion of the road is not considered to be suitable nesting habitat for the piping plover because it is moderately sloped, narrow (width from road to sea), and small in overall size (0.20 acre).

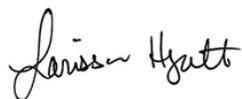
The proposed project would result in a loss of only 0.20 acre of suboptimal sea turtle nesting habitat. No impacts to sea turtles or marine mammals are expected to occur during construction activities. Limited in-water work would be conducted by equipment on land to install vertical sheet pile and replace existing rock revetment along the seaward face of the sheet pile. The work is not expected to extend seaward of the mean low water line. The attached standard sea turtle and manatee conditions (protection measures) for in-water work would be implemented during construction (Attachment 3).

If construction occurs during sea turtle nesting season (May 1 through October 31), a qualified biologist would survey the suitable sea turtle nesting habitat within the project area every morning prior to initiation of construction activities. If sea turtles or sea turtle nests are sighted by the biologist within the construction area, no work would occur and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and National Marine Fisheries Service would be immediately consulted. Overall, it is highly unlikely that sea turtle nesting would occur on the 0.20-acre suboptimal habitat in the construction area.

Please send an e-mail to FEMA-R4EHP@dhs.gov with your response. You may also send a hard copy of your response to the address below. Should you need to discuss this project in greater detail, you may contact Larissa Hyatt, Environmental and Historic Preservation Advisor, at the above e-mail address or by phone at (770) 403-9739.

Thank you very much for your assistance with this request. We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

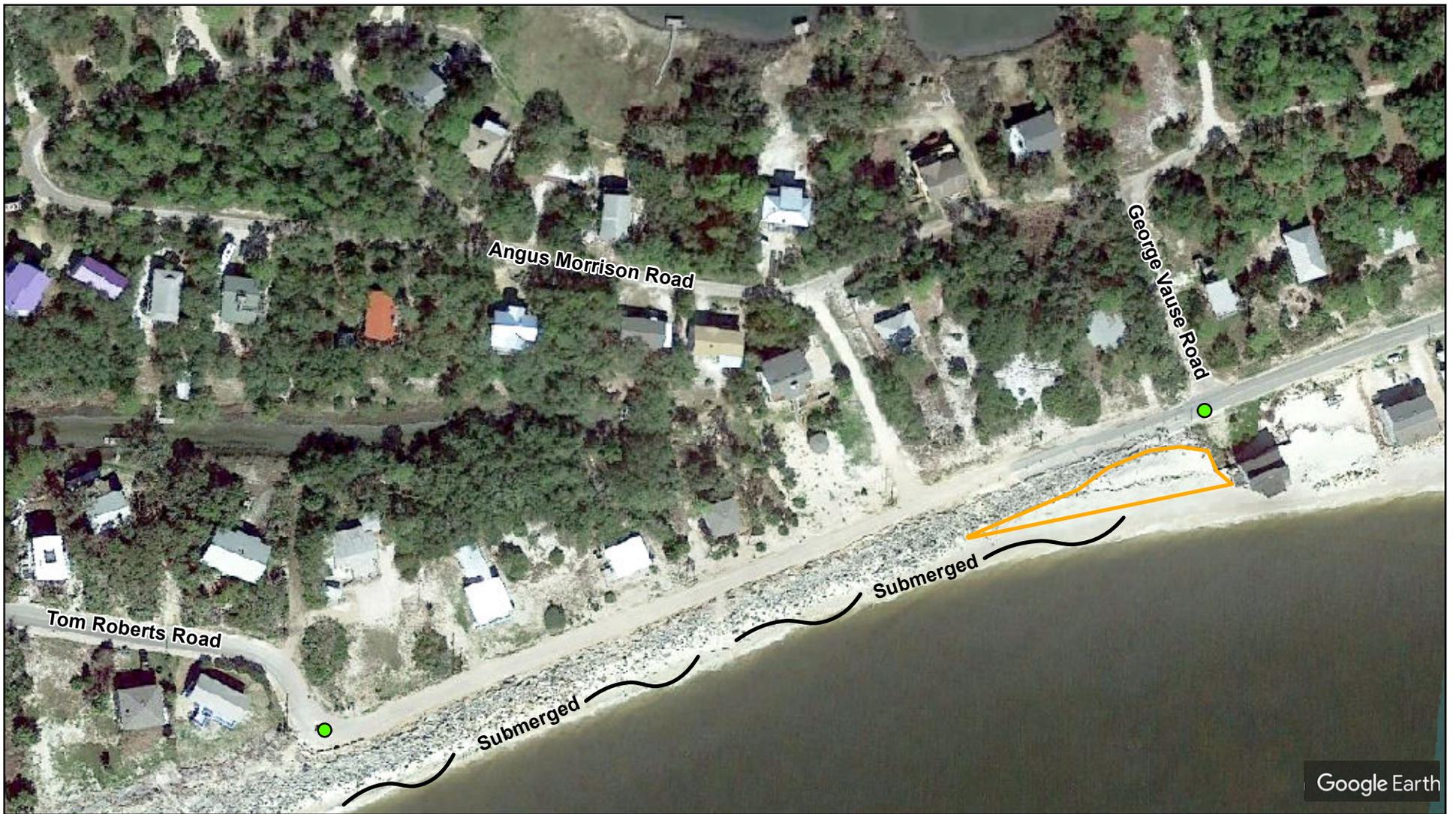


Larissa Hyatt
Environmental and Historic Preservation Advisor
FEMA Region IV
3003 Chamblee Tucker Road – Hollins Building
Atlanta, GA 30341-4130

Enclosures:

Attachment 1 – Figures
Attachment 2 – Photographs
Attachment 3 – Conditions for In-Water Work

Attachment 1
Figures



Legend

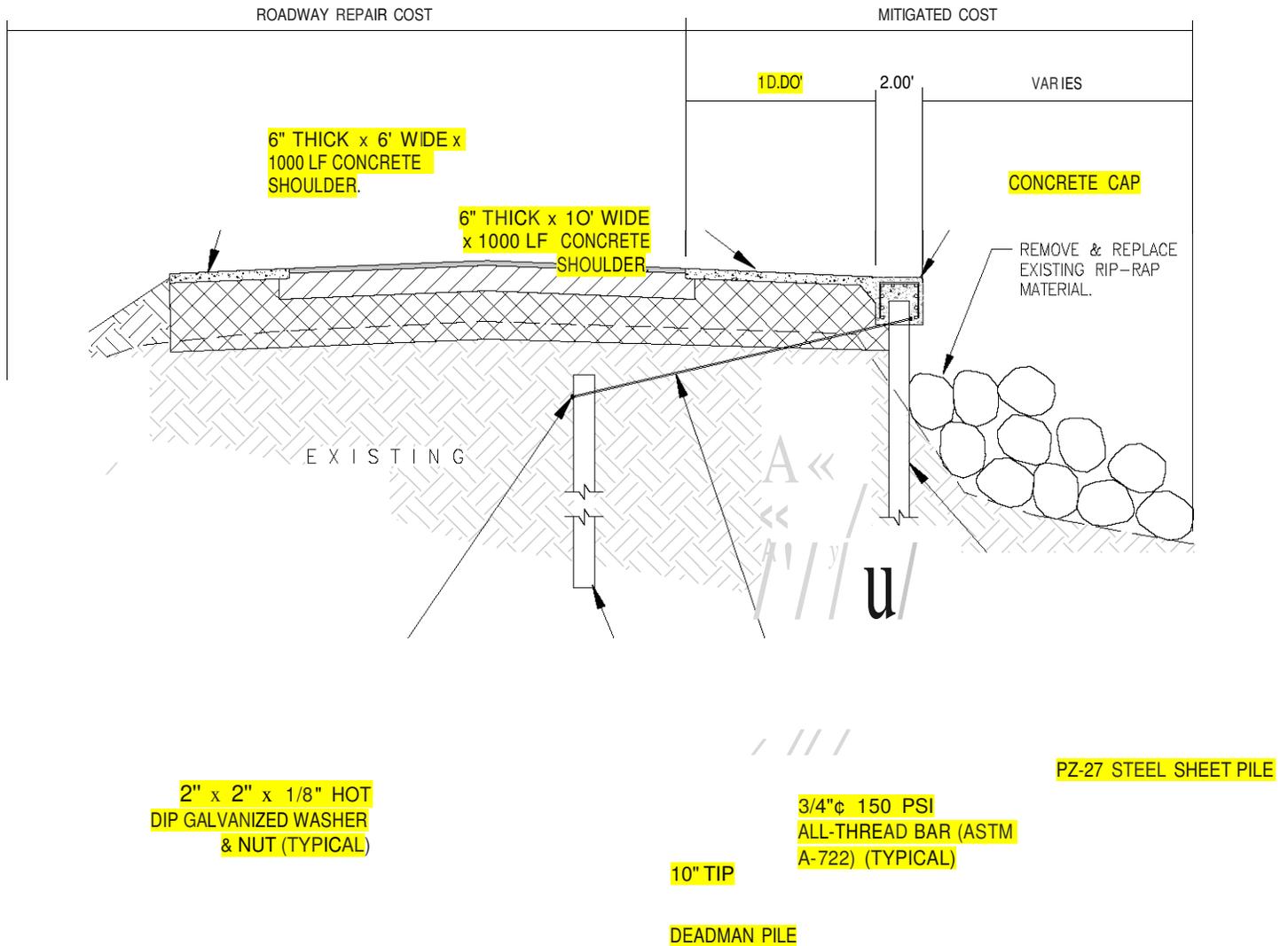
- Project End Points
- Suitable Sea Turtle Nesting Habitat

Notes:
 1. Google Earth Imagery, February 2017



FIGURE 1
Project Location Map
FEMA 4280-FL EA

HMP PROPOSAL:
FRANKLIN COUNTY – ALLIGATOR ROAD – 4280 FL – PW REF FCCDT10



NOTE:
EMBEDMENT DEPTHS TO BE
DETERMINED BY GEOTECH.

HMP:

1. Sheet piling PZ-27 Steel sheet pile furnished and installed to include dead-man anchoring and 2 ft x approximately 2 ft x 1000 LF of Concrete Cap over sheet pile. (Per bid tab provided Estimated cost \$1497.00 per LF installed cost).
2. Concrete shoulder ocean side 10 ft x .5 ft x 1000 LF (Per bid tab provided estimated cost \$125.00 per SY installed cost.)
3. Concrete shoulder land side 6 ft x .5 ft x 1000 LF (Per bid tab provided estimated cost \$125.00 per SY installed cost.)
4. The riprap material is being addressed as part of the pre-disaster design, function, and capacity.

Figure 2

CONCEPTUAL TYPICAL

SCALE: N.T.S.

Attachment 2
Photographs



Western Portion of the Project Area – Facing East



Eastern Portion of the Project Area – Facing East



Potential Sea Turtle Nesting Habitat in the Eastern Portion of the Project Area – Facing West

Attachment 3
Conditions for In-Water Work



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
Southeast Regional Office
263 13th Avenue South
St. Petersburg, FL 33701

SEA TURTLE AND SMALLTOOTH SAWFISH CONSTRUCTION CONDITIONS

The permittee shall comply with the following protected species construction conditions:

- a. The permittee shall instruct all personnel associated with the project of the potential presence of these species and the need to avoid collisions with sea turtles and smalltooth sawfish. All construction personnel are responsible for observing water-related activities for the presence of these species.
- b. The permittee shall advise all construction personnel that there are civil and criminal penalties for harming, harassing, or killing sea turtles or smalltooth sawfish, which are protected under the Endangered Species Act of 1973.
- c. Siltation barriers shall be made of material in which a sea turtle or smalltooth sawfish cannot become entangled, be properly secured, and be regularly monitored to avoid protected species entrapment. Barriers may not block sea turtle or smalltooth sawfish entry to or exit from designated critical habitat without prior agreement from the National Marine Fisheries Service's Protected Resources Division, St. Petersburg, Florida.
- d. All vessels associated with the construction project shall operate at "no wake/idle" speeds at all times while in the construction area and while in water depths where the draft of the vessel provides less than a four-foot clearance from the bottom. All vessels will preferentially follow deep-water routes (e.g., marked channels) whenever possible.
- e. If a sea turtle or smalltooth sawfish is seen within 100 yards of the active daily construction/dredging operation or vessel movement, all appropriate precautions shall be implemented to ensure its protection. These precautions shall include cessation of operation of any moving equipment closer than 50 feet of a sea turtle or smalltooth sawfish. Operation of any mechanical construction equipment shall cease immediately if a sea turtle or smalltooth sawfish is seen within a 50-ft radius of the equipment. Activities may not resume until the protected species has departed the project area of its own volition.
- f. Any collision with and/or injury to a sea turtle or smalltooth sawfish shall be reported immediately to the National Marine Fisheries Service's Protected Resources Division (727-824-5312) and the local authorized sea turtle stranding/rescue organization.
- g. Any special construction conditions, required of your specific project, outside these general conditions, if applicable, will be addressed in the primary consultation.

Revised: March 23, 2006



STANDARD MANATEE CONDITIONS FOR IN-WATER WORK

2011

The permittee shall comply with the following conditions intended to protect manatees from direct project effects:

- a. All personnel associated with the project shall be instructed about the presence of manatees and manatee speed zones, and the need to avoid collisions with and injury to manatees. The permittee shall advise all construction personnel that there are civil and criminal penalties for harming, harassing, or killing manatees which are protected under the Marine Mammal Protection Act, the Endangered Species Act, and the Florida Manatee Sanctuary Act.
- b. All vessels associated with the construction project shall operate at "Idle Speed/No Wake" at all times while in the immediate area and while in water where the draft of the vessel provides less than a four-foot clearance from the bottom. All vessels will follow routes of deep water whenever possible.
- c. Siltation or turbidity barriers shall be made of material in which manatees cannot become entangled, shall be properly secured, and shall be regularly monitored to avoid manatee entanglement or entrapment. Barriers must not impede manatee movement.
- d. All on-site project personnel are responsible for observing water-related activities for the presence of manatee(s). All in-water operations, including vessels, must be shutdown if a manatee(s) comes within 50 feet of the operation. Activities will not resume until the manatee(s) has moved beyond the 50-foot radius of the project operation, or until 30 minutes elapses if the manatee(s) has not reappeared within 50 feet of the operation. Animals must not be herded away or harassed into leaving.
- e. Any collision with or injury to a manatee shall be reported immediately to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) Hotline at 1-888-404-3922. Collision and/or injury should also be reported to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Jacksonville (1-904-731-3336) for north Florida or Vero Beach (1-772-562-3909) for south Florida, and to FWC at ImperiledSpecies@myFWC.com
- f. Temporary signs concerning manatees shall be posted prior to and during all in-water project activities. All signs are to be removed by the permittee upon completion of the project. Temporary signs that have already been approved for this use by the FWC must be used. One sign which reads *Caution: Boaters* must be posted. A second sign measuring at least 8 ½" by 11" explaining the requirements for "Idle Speed/No Wake" and the shut down of in-water operations must be posted in a location prominently visible to all personnel engaged in water-related activities. These signs can be viewed at MyFWC.com/manatee. Questions concerning these signs can be sent to the email address listed above.



U.S. Department of Homeland Security
FEMA Region IV
3003 Chamblee Tucker Road
Atlanta, GA 30341-4130

FEMA

July 31, 2017

Chris Stahl
Clearinghouse Coordinator
Office of Intergovernmental Programs
Department of Environmental Protection
2600 Blair Stone Road MS 47
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-2400

**RE: FEMA Florida State Clearinghouse Project Review
FEMA Project PA-04-FL-4280-PW-00228; Alligator Drive, Franklin County, Florida**

Mr. Stahl:

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) for a Public Assistance project to replace the section of Alligator Drive damaged by Hurricane Hermine in early September 2016 in Franklin County, Florida. The EA is being prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969. The Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives of the EA is provided as Attachment 1.

Hurricane Hermine's tidal surge and large waves severely eroded and washed away approximately 1,000 linear feet of Alligator Drive between Tom Roberts Road and George Vause Road. The asphalt road surface, road base, road sub-base, riprap, and concrete barriers were washed away during the storm. Alligator Drive serves as the sole access and evacuation route for approximately 500 homes. Franklin County constructed a one-lane temporary access road in the same location as the previous road.

FEMA and Franklin County propose to repair the damaged portion of Alligator Drive with hazard mitigation protection to shelter against future storm damage. The rubble, which includes the remaining road material and previous rock revetment, would be removed from the area and the road would be rebuilt. The hazard mitigation would include installation of a sheet pile retaining wall, a 10-foot-wide shoulder seaward of the road, and a 6-foot-wide shoulder landward of the road. Limited in-water work would be conducted by equipment on land to install vertical sheet pile and replace existing rock revetment along the seaward face of the sheet pile. The work is not expected to extend seaward of the mean low water line. Franklin County will obtain a Section 404 permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and an Environmental Resource Permit and a Coastal Construction Control Line permit from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection.

FEMA has determined that the undertaking would result in a finding of no historic properties affected. In a letter to the Florida State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) dated July 7, 2017, FEMA specified the measures it required to protect human remains or intact archaeological deposits that are unexpectedly discovered during ground-disturbing activities within the Area of Potential Effect (Attachment 2). The Florida SHPO concurred with the finding of no historic properties being affected in a letter dated July 14, 2017 (Attachment 2).

July 31, 2017

Page 2

FEMA also consulted with the following Native American Tribes on the proposed undertaking via letters dated July 12, 2017: Alabama-Quassarte Tribal Town; Jena Band of Choctaw Indians; Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida; Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians; Muscogee (Creek) Nation; Poarch Band of Creek Indians; Seminole Tribe of Florida; and the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma. To date, no responses have been received from the Native American tribes consulted.

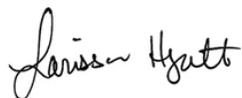
Based on the Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI) Map Server, there are no documented occurrences of any federally listed or state-listed threatened or endangered species in or within 1 mile of the project area; however, the federally threatened loggerhead sea turtle (*Caretta caretta*), the federally threatened green sea turtle (*Chelonia mydas*), and the federally threatened piping plover (*Charadrius melodus*) are likely to occur within or near the project area (FNAI, 2017). Most of the coastline within the 1,000-foot-long section is covered by rock revetment (boulder riprap) and pieces of broken road. Suitable sea turtle nesting habitat exists only along the easternmost portion of the 1,000-foot-long project area (approximately 0.20 acre) (Figure 1; Attachment 3). The easternmost portion of the road is not considered to be suitable nesting habitat for the piping plover because it is moderately sloped, narrow (width from road to sea), and small in overall size (0.20 acre). If construction occurs during sea turtle nesting season (May 1 through October 31), a qualified biologist would survey the suitable sea turtle nesting habitat within the project area every morning prior to initiation of construction activities. Overall, it is highly unlikely that sea turtle nesting would occur on the 0.20-acre suboptimal habitat in the construction area. FEMA has determined that the project **may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect**, the loggerhead sea turtle and green sea turtle and would have **no effect** on the piping plover. In a letter dated July 28, 2017, FEMA requested concurrence from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on these effect determinations.

FEMA requests that the Florida State Clearinghouse review the proposed project and provide comments within 45 days from the date on this letter.

Please send an e-mail to FEMA-R4EHP@dhs.gov with your response. You may also send a hard copy of your response to the address below. Should you need to discuss this project in greater detail, you may contact Larissa Hyatt, Environmental and Historic Preservation Advisor, at the above e-mail address or by phone at (770) 403-9739.

Thank you very much for your assistance with this request. We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Larissa Hyatt
Environmental and Historic Preservation Advisor
FEMA Region IV
3003 Chamblee Tucker Road – Hollins Building
Atlanta, GA 30341-4130

Enclosures:

Attachment 1 – Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives
Attachment 2 – Florida SHPO Coordination Letter and Response
Attachment 3 – Potential Sea Turtle Nesting Habitat

Attachment 1
Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives

Final Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives

Public Assistance Grant Project

Alligator Drive, Alligator Point, Franklin County, Florida

July 2017



FEMA

U. S. Department of Homeland Security

PA-04-FL-4280-PW-00228

Region IV – Atlanta, GA

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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

CFR	<i>Code of Federal Regulations</i>
EA	Environmental Assessment
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
PA	Public Assistance
Stafford Act	Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Between August 31 and September 9, 2016, Hurricane Hermine produced a 9-foot storm surge, heavy rainfall, and high winds in Franklin County, including the Alligator Drive portion of Alligator Point, Franklin County, Florida (Appendix A, Figure 1). The tidal surge and large waves severely eroded and washed away approximately 1,000 linear feet of Alligator Drive between Tom Roberts Road and George Vause Road (Appendix A, Figure 2). The asphalt road surface, road base, road sub-base, riprap, and concrete barriers were washed away during the storm. Alligator Drive serves as the sole access and evacuation route for approximately 500 homes. For this reason, Franklin County constructed a temporary road along the 1,000-foot stretch of damaged road.

Franklin County has applied for Public Assistance (PA) funds from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (Stafford Act), 42 United States Code 5121-5207, to replace the section of Alligator Drive damaged by Hurricane Hermine (4280-FL storm event) (PA-04-FL-4280-PW-00228). In accordance with the Stafford Act and regulations promulgated pursuant thereto and codified in Title 44 *Code of Federal Regulations* (CFR) Part 206 (44 CFR 206), FEMA is required to analyze the potential environmental impacts of the Proposed Action before making an informed decision about the project funding. FEMA has prepared this Environmental Assessment (EA) to analyze the potential environmental impacts of the Proposed Action. This EA was prepared in accordance with the implementing requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) (Public Law 91-190, as amended) and regulations adopted pursuant to Department of Homeland Security Directive 023-01, Rev. 01, and FEMA Directive 108-1.

2.0 PURPOSE AND NEED

The purpose of the Proposed Action is to afford Franklin County the means to provide access for residents directly impacted by Hurricane Hermine along Alligator Drive. A permanent solution that will better withstand impacts from future storms and is economically feasible for taxpayers is required. The temporary road for one-way traffic provides immediate access but is not considered a permanent solution.

The Proposed Action is consistent with Title IV of the Stafford Act, which directs PA disaster relief funds to be allocated to local, county, and state governments to repair or replace infrastructure damaged during a declared disaster.

3.0 ALTERNATIVES

Under NEPA, this EA is required to analyze the potential environmental impacts of the Proposed Action, No Action Alternative, and reasonable alternatives. Reasonable alternatives are those that meet the underlying purpose of, and need for, the Proposed Action; are feasible from both technical and economic standpoints; and meet reasonable screening criteria (selection standards) that are suitable to a particular action. Screening criteria may include requirements or constraints associated

with operational, technical, environmental, budgetary, and time factors. Alternatives that were determined to be not reasonable were eliminated from detailed analysis in this EA.

3.1 Alternative 1 – Repair Alligator Drive to Pre-disaster Conditions

Under Alternative 1, the damaged portion of Alligator Drive would be repaired in the same location to pre-disaster conditions (Appendix A, Figure 2). This alternative would include clearing remaining road material, rebuilding the road, and replacing the associated revetment. Construction would take approximately 8 months.

3.2 Alternative 2 – Repair Alligator Drive with Hazard Mitigation (Preferred Alternative)

Under Alternative 2, the damaged portion of Alligator Drive would be repaired in the same location with hazard mitigation protection to protect against future storm damage. This alternative would consist of clearing remaining road material, rebuilding the road, and implementing hazard mitigation including installation of a sheet-pile retaining wall and a 10-foot shoulder seaward of the road, and a 6-foot shoulder on the landward side of the road (Appendix A, Figure 2). Construction would take approximately 12 months.

3.3 Alternative 3 – No Action Alternative

Under Alternative 3, the Proposed Action would not be implemented. The existing gravel road would be retained, and no new road or bridge construction would occur.

3.4 Alternatives Eliminated from Detailed Analysis

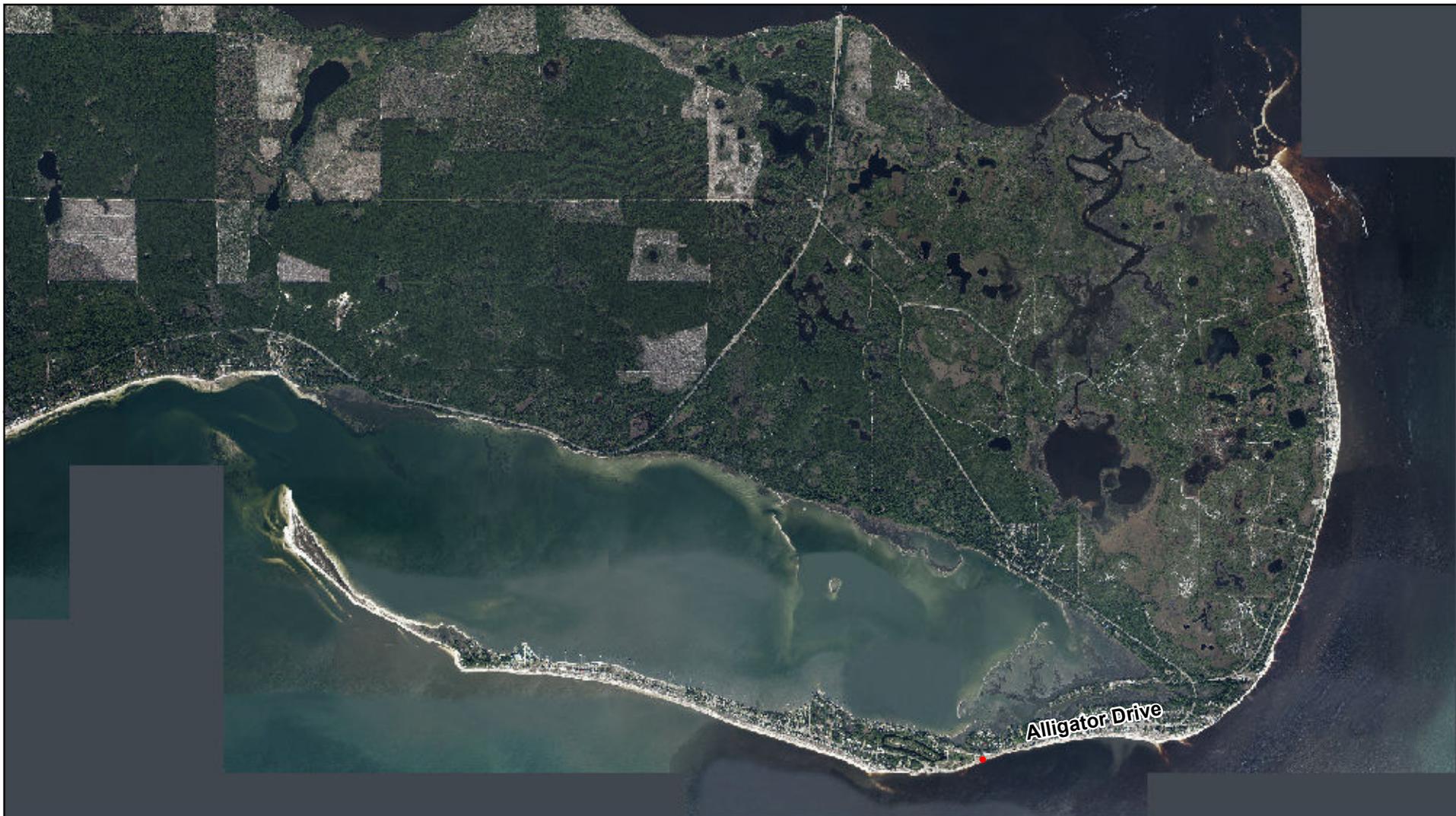
During initial project planning in 2016 and 2017, Franklin County considered other potential alternatives to provide access to the approximately 500 homes for which Alligator Drive serves as the sole access and evacuation route.

Consideration was given to repairing Alligator Drive by using a bridge. This alternative would include clearing remaining road material and building a bridge in the location of the damaged road. This alternative was eliminated because it is not included in the existing Project Worksheet (PW) 228. This alternative would cost more and take longer to design, permit, and construct, which would extend the time the property owners would have to use the one-way traffic lane. There is also not enough information on this alternative to sufficiently analyze its potential impacts. A conceptual layout of the bridge has not been developed. It is not known how to provide access from the bridge to the 10 lots along the damaged portion of Alligator Drive. It is also not known where the bridge would start or end.

Consideration was also given to rerouting the damaged portion of Alligator Drive. This alternative was eliminated because there is no undeveloped land available through which the road could be rerouted.

Appendix A

Figures



Quad Name: Lighthouse Point

ArcGIS Publish Date 2015

Legend

-  Approximate Roadway Layout (Preferred Alternative)

Data Source:

1. Franklin County, 2016
2. FDOT Imagery, 2016

Notes:

1. Service Layer Credits: Sources: Esri, HERE, DeLorme, USGS, Intermap, INCREMENT P, NRCan, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), Esri Korea, Esri (Thailand), MapmyIndia, NGCC, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community



FIGURE 1
Project Vicinity
FEMA 4280-FL Environmental Assessment



Legend

-  Approximate Roadway Layout (Preferred Alternative)

Data Source:
1. Franklin County, 2016

Notes:

1. Service Layer Credits: Sources: Esri, HERE, DeLorme, USGS, Intermap, INCREMENT P, NRCan, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), Esri Korea, Esri (Thailand), MapmyIndia, NGCC, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community
Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AeroGRID, IGN, and the GIS User Community



FIGURE 2
Project Area
FEMA 4280-FL Environmental Assessment

Attachment 2
Florida SHPO Coordination Letter and Response



FEMA

July 7, 2017

Mr. Jason Aldridge
Division of Historical Resources
500 South Bronough Street
RA Gray Building, Room 305
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0250

**RE: FEMA Section 106 Notification
FEMA Project DR 4280 FL PW 228; Franklin County, Florida**

Dear Mr. Aldridge:

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is notifying your office of a road repair project and the associated, proposed hazard mitigation project in Franklin County, Florida using Public Assistance (PA) funds. In compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), FEMA is identifying historic properties listed in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) and any properties not listed that would be considered eligible for listing that are located within the geographic area of potential effects (APE) of the proposed project and identifying the potential effects of its undertakings on these historic properties. FEMA is requesting to consult with your office on the existing and proposed scope of work and is requesting your concurrence with FEMA's determination of **no effect to historic properties**.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION (UNDERTAKING)

Franklin County proposes to restore a 1000 linear feet section of Alligator Drive, Alligator Point, by extending from 29.894849, -84.370146 to 29.895864, -84.36709, to pre-disaster condition and complete hazard mitigation at the site. Franklin County has previously installed a temporary gravel access road at this site and proposes to repair this section of road, which has been damaged from previous federal declared disaster declarations by replacing road base, replacing the road surface, replacing precast concrete barriers, and replacing riprap. In addition, Franklin County proposes to mitigate the 1000 feet of roadway by adding a six-foot concrete shoulder to the landward side of the road, a ten-foot concrete shoulder to the ocean side of the road, and a sheet pile retaining wall with an approximate depth of sixteen feet, capped by the ten-foot section of shoulder.

AREA OF POTENTIAL EFFECTS

As defined in 36 CFR §800.16(d), the area of potential effects (APE) is the geographic area or areas within which an undertaking may directly or indirectly cause changes in the character or use of historic properties if any such properties exist. Based on this definition and the nature and scope of the undertaking, FEMA has determined that the APE is limited to the areas within which all construction and ground disturbing activity would be confined and the viewshed of the proposed project. No potential exists for indirect effects outside of the viewshed of the proposed project.

IDENTIFICATION OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Literature Review Results

An SOI Qualified FEMA cultural resources specialist conducted a literature review through the Florida Master Site File in June 2017. The literature review focused on the APE and included a study area, covering a one-mile radius around the start and end point of the proposed project. The literature review indicated that five cultural resources investigations have been conducted within the study area for the proposed project. The cultural resources identified by the investigations in the project vicinity are listed in Table 1. Note that Survey number 22380 listed below is an archaeological and structural survey which covers a four-mile section of Alligator Drive including the entire length of the APE.

Table 1. Previously Conducted Cultural Resources Investigations in the Study Area

Report Number	Report Author; Date	Report Title
06361	Wisembaker, Michael and Brenda Swann (C.A.R.L. Archaeological Survey); 2001	<i>An Archaeological and Historical Survey of Bald Point State Park, Franklin County, Florida</i>
09924	Glowacki, Mary and Patrick Gensler (Division of Historical Resources [DHR]); 2004	<i>Bald Point State Park, Franklin County: Property Inspection Following Forest Fire and Prescribed Burn</i>
12293	Watts, Gordon P. and Raymond Tubby (Coastal Planning and Engineering, Inc.); 2005	<i>Archaeological Remote Sensing Survey Alligator Point Erosion Control Project, Franklin County, Florida</i>
22380	Chambless, Elizabeth J., Laurel L. Bartlett, Christopher Clement, and Marie Pokrant (SEARCH); 2015	<i>Cultural Resource Assessment Survey for the Proposed Multi-Use Path Along CR 370/Alligator Drive, Franklin County, Florida</i>
23350	Archaeological Consultants, Inc.; 2016	<i>Cultural Resources Assessment Survey, Gulf Shore Boulevard Relocation, Franklin County, Florida</i>

Based on the literature review and Survey 22380, no cultural resources are within the APE.

Seven archaeological sites were identified outside of the APE, within the larger study area. Archeological resources identified in the literature review and their NRHP status are listed in Table 2.

Table 2. Previously Recorded Archeological Resources in the Project Vicinity

Site Number	Description	Status	Recorded by
FR00004	Tucker burial mound site (prehistoric); located .95 miles northeast of APE.	Eligible for the NRHP	Penton, Daniel T.; 1971 Tesar, Louis D. and B. Calvin Jones; 1995
FR00005	Yent burial mound site (prehistoric); located 1 mile northeast of APE.	Eligible for the NRHP	Penton, Daniel T.; 1971 Tesar, Louis D. and B. Calvin Jones; 1995
FR00026	Lab site habitation (prehistoric); located .75 miles of APE.	Not evaluated for the NRHP	Jackson, C.L.; 1950 White, Ken; 1969
FR00036	Habitation (prehistoric); located 1 mile northeast of APE.	Not evaluated for the NRHP	Smith, Hale; 1950
FR00808	Mud Cove burial mound; located .07 miles north of APE.	Not evaluated for the NRHP	L.K. (DHR); 1988
FR00826	Prehistoric refuse scatter; located .85 miles northeast of APE.	Insufficient information to be individually eligible for the NRHP	Watson, Thomas C.; 1991 Glowacki, Mary (FBCA); 2004
FR01293	Alligator Point Kettle isolate; 19 th and 20 th century American; located .6 miles southwest of APE.	Not evaluated for the NRHP (insufficient information)	Montgomery, Earl (DHR); 2013

The literature review confirmed that no NRHP-eligible architectural resources are within the APE. Five architectural resources were identified outside of the APE, within the larger study area. The seven architectural resources within the APE, identified in the literature review, and their NRHP status are listed and highlighted in Table 3.

Table 3. Previously Recorded Architectural Resources in the Project APE

Site Number	Description	Status	Eligibility Determination
FR01319	1378 Alligator Drive (1963, resource group of four utility buildings); outside of APE	Ineligible for the NRHP	October, 2015
FR01320	1254 Alligator Drive (c. 1962, frame vernacular residence); outside of APE	Ineligible for the NRHP	October, 2015
FR01321	1260 Alligator Drive (c. 1965, masonry vernacular residence); outside of APE	Ineligible for the NRHP	October, 2015
FR01322	1266 Alligator Drive (c. 1958, masonry vernacular residence) ; outside of APE	Ineligible for the NRHP	October, 2015
FR01323	1270 Alligator Drive (c. 1962, frame vernacular residence)	Ineligible for the NRHP	October, 2015

Table 3. Previously Recorded Architectural Resources in the Project APE

Site Number	Description	Status	Eligibility Determination
FR01324	1274 Alligator Drive (c. 1959, masonry vernacular residence)	Ineligible for the NRHP	October, 2015
FR01325	1278 Alligator Drive (c. 1948, masonry vernacular residence)	Ineligible for the NRHP	October, 2015
FR01326	1286 Alligator Drive (c. 1962, masonry vernacular residence)	Ineligible for the NRHP	October, 2015
FR01327	1290 Alligator Drive (c. 1962, masonry vernacular residence)	Ineligible for the NRHP	October, 2015
FR01328	1290 Alligator Drive, Building 2 (c. 1960, frame vernacular residence)	Ineligible for the NRHP	October, 2015
FR01329	1292 Alligator Drive (c. 1948, frame vernacular residence)	Ineligible for the NRHP	October, 2015
FR01334	1336 Alligator Drive (c. 1940, frame vernacular residence); outside of APE	Ineligible for the NRHP	October, 2015

DETERMINATION OF EFFECT

No archaeological sites or marine resources were identified within the APE. Seven architectural resources were identified within the APE; however, none were found to be NRHP-eligible as of October, 2015. Therefore, based on the results of our historic property identification efforts, there is a finding of No Effect to Historic Properties for this undertaking in accordance with 36 CFR 800.5(b).

Project work will take place largely in previously disturbed soils and rights of way. This section of roadway has been repetitively damaged in the past and has been subject to numerous repairs. In addition, severe beach erosion within the area proposed for hazard mitigation footprint makes it unlikely unidentified cultural resources will be uncovered in the proposed project area.

For your review, four enclosures are included with this letter: (1) an aerial map showing the APE; (2) a topographical map of the project area; (3) photographs; (4) conceptual drawing; (5) map of field surveys in project area; (6) map of archeological sites and structures in project area.

SPECIAL CONDITIONS

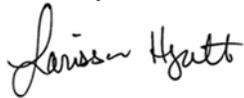
To ensure that FEMA-funded activities will not adversely affect archaeological resources, FEMA is placing the following conditions on the project for the treatment of fortuitous finds or unexpected discoveries during ground disturbing activities within the project area:

- If human remains or intact archaeological deposits are uncovered, work in the vicinity of the discovery will stop immediately and all reasonable measures to avoid or minimize harm to the finds will be taken. The applicant will ensure that archaeological discoveries are secured in place, that access to the sensitive area is restricted, and that all reasonable measures are taken to avoid further disturbance of the discoveries. The applicant's contractor will provide immediate notice of such discoveries to the applicant. The applicant shall contact the *Florida Division of Historical Resources* and FEMA within 24 hours of the discovery. Work in the vicinity of the discovery may not resume until FEMA has completed consultation with SHPO, Tribes, and other consulting parties as necessary. In the event that unmarked human remains are encountered during permitted activities, all work shall stop immediately and the proper authorities notified in accordance with Florida Statutes, Section 872.05.
- Construction vehicles and equipment shall be stored on site during the project or at existing access points within the applicant's right of way.
- Any changes to the approved scope of work will require submission to, and evaluation and approval by, the State and FEMA, prior to initiation of any work, for compliance with Section 106.

FEMA requests your concurrence with this finding of **no effect to historic properties**. Please send an e-mail to FEMA-R4EHP@dhs.gov with your response within 15 days so we may add it to our Section 106 consultation files for the undertaking. You may also send a hard copy of your response to the address below. Should you need to discuss this project in greater detail, you may contact Larissa Hyatt, EHP Advisor, at the above email or by phone at (770) 403-9739.

Thank you very much for your assistance with this request. We look forward to your response.

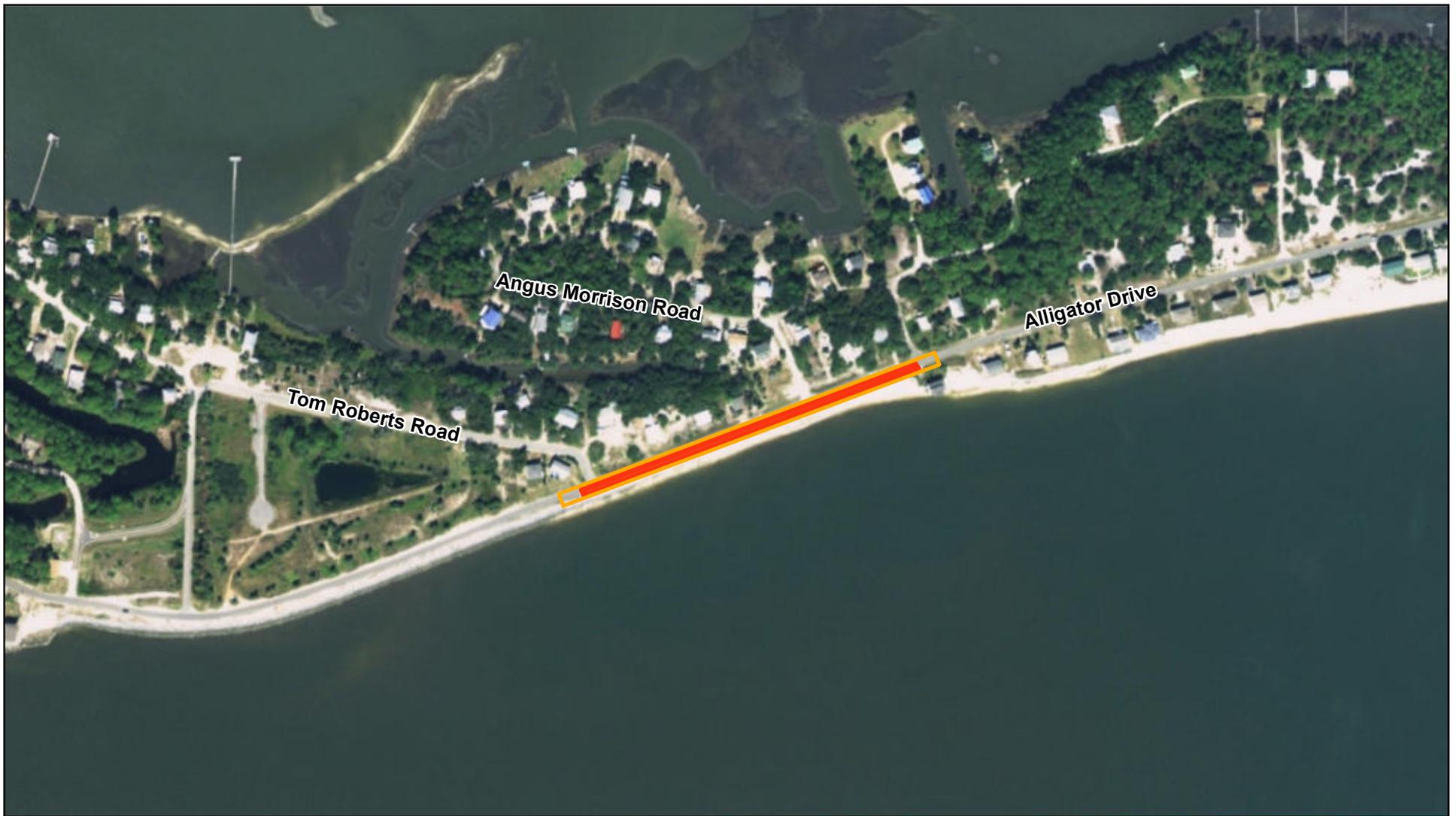
Sincerely,



Larissa Hyatt
Environmental & Historic Preservation Advisor

Enclosures:

- Project Location Map
- Topographic Location Map
- Photographs
- Conceptual Drawing
- Map of Field Surveys
- Map of Archeological Sites and Structures



Legend

-  Approximate Roadway Layout (Preferred Alternative)
-  Area of Potential Effects (APE)

Data Source:
1. Franklin County, 2016

Notes:

1. Service Layer Credits: Sources: Esri, HERE, DeLorme, USGS, Intermap, INCREMENT P, NRCan, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), Esri Korea, Esri (Thailand), MapmyIndia, NGCC, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community
Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AeroGRID, IGN, and the GIS User Community



FIGURE 2
Area of Potential Effects
FEMA 4280-FL EA



Quad Name: Lighthouse Point

ArcGIS Publish Date 2017

Legend

- Approximate Roadway Layout (Preferred Alternative)

Data Source:

1. Franklin County, 2016
2. USGS Topographic Base Map, 2017

Notes:

1. Service Layer Credits: Sources: Esri, HERE, DeLorme, Intermap, increment P Corp., GEBCO, USGS, FAO, NPS, NRCAN, GeoBase, IGN, Kadaster NL, Ordnance Survey, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), swisstopo, MapmyIndia, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community
 Sources: Esri, HERE, DeLorme, USGS, Intermap, INCREMENT P, NRCan, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), Esri Korea, Esri (Thailand), MapmyIndia, NGCC, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community
 Copyright © 2013 National Geographic Society, i-cubed



FIGURE 1
Approximate Project Area Location
 FEMA 4280-FL EA



Figure 1. Ground level photograph showing project site.

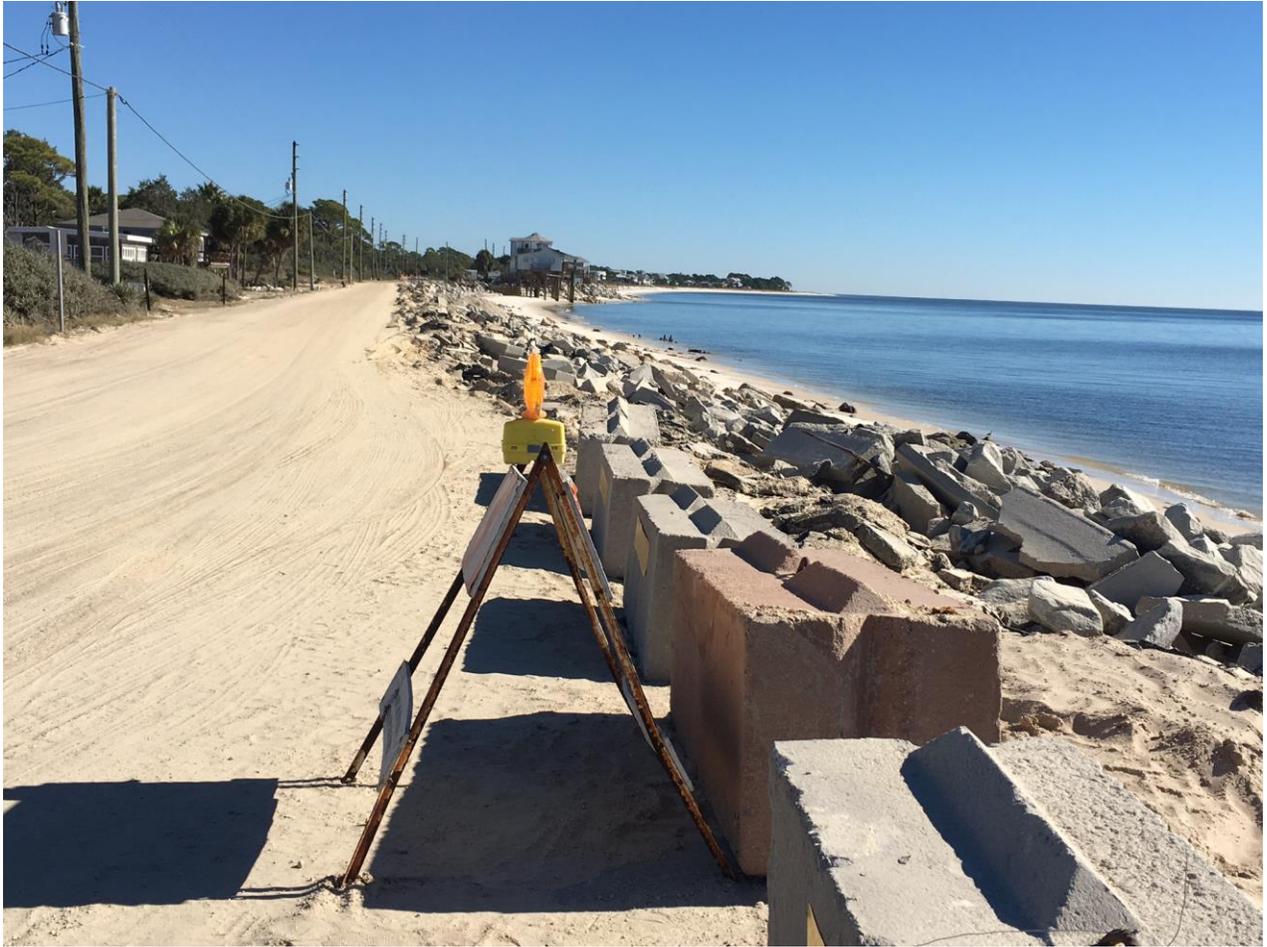
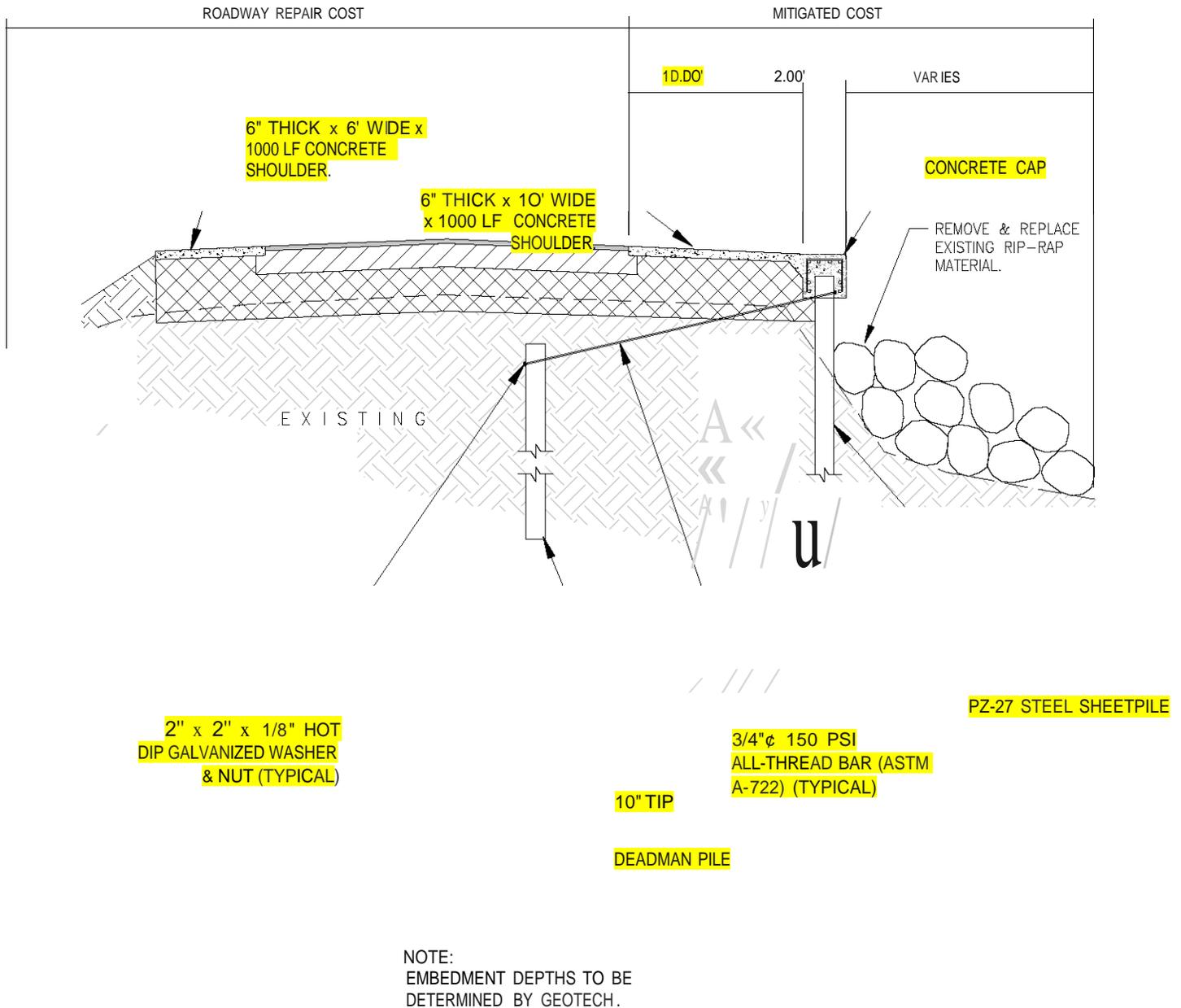


Figure 2. Ground level photograph showing project site and current barrier.



Figure 3. Ground level photograph showing project start area.

HMP PROPOSAL:
FRANKLIN COUNTY – ALLIGATOR ROAD – 4280 FL – PW REF FCCDT10



HMP:

1. Sheet piling PZ-27 Steel sheet pile furnished and installed to include dead-man anchoring And 2 FT X approximately 2 FT X 1000 LF of Concrete Cap over sheet pile. (Per bid tab provided Estimated cost \$1497.00 per LF installed cost)
2. Concrete shoulder ocean side 10 FT X .5 FT X 1000 LF (Per bid tab provided Estimated cost \$125.00 per SY installed cost)
3. Concrete shoulder Land side 6 FT X .5 FT X 1000 LF (Per bid tab provided Estimated cost \$125.00 per SY installed cost)
4. The Rip Rap Material is being addressed as part of the pre-disaster design, function and capacity.

CONCEPTUAL TYPICAL

SCALE: N.T.S.



Figure 1. Alligator Point field surveys

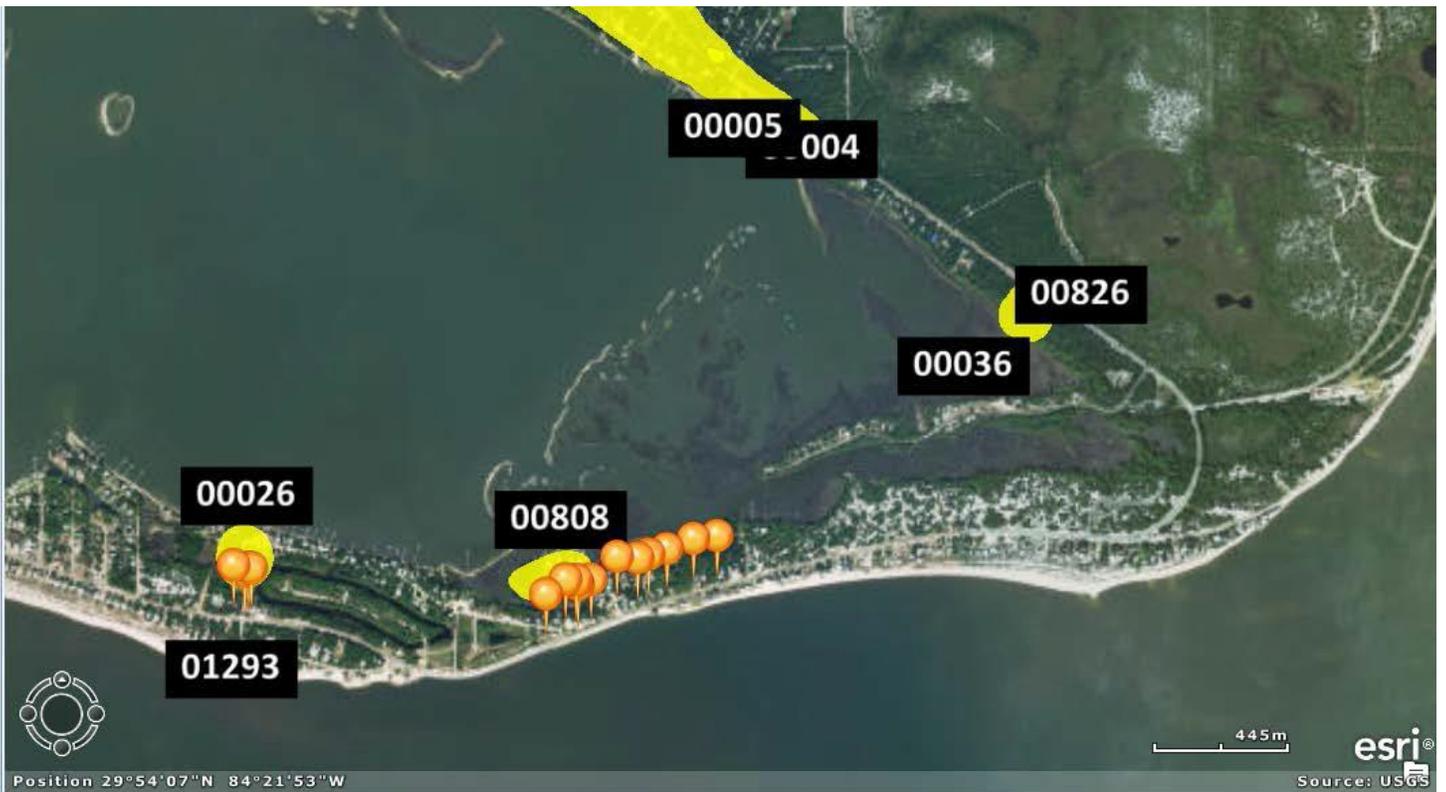


Figure 2. Alligator Point archeological sites and structures



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT *of* STATE

RICK SCOTT
Governor

KEN DETZNER
Secretary of State

Larissa Hyatt
Historic Preservation and Environmental Advisor
FEMA Region IV
3003 Chamblee Tucker Road
Atlanta, GA 30341

July 14, 2017

RE: DHR Project File No.: 2017-3411, Received by DHR: July 7, 2017.
Project: *FEMA. FEMA-DR-4280-FL PW 00228. Alligator Drive Restoration and Mitigation.*
County: Franklin

Ms. Hyatt:

The Florida State Historic Preservation Officer reviewed the referenced project for possible effects on historic properties listed, or eligible for listing, on the *National Register of Historic Places*. The review was conducted in accordance with Section 106 of the *National Historic Preservation Act of 1966*, as amended, and its implementing regulations in *36 CFR Part 800: Protection of Historic Properties*.

The proposed project is to restore 1000 linear feet of Alligator Drive, in Alligator Point, to pre-disaster (Hurricane Hermine) conditions. Hazard mitigation will also be completed at the site.

Based on the information provided, it is the opinion of this office that the proposed projects will have no effect on historic properties. However, the project should include the following special condition regarding unexpected discoveries:

- If prehistoric or historic artifacts, such as pottery or ceramics, projectile points, dugout canoes, metal implements, historic building materials, or any other physical remains that could be associated with Native American, early European, or American settlement are encountered at any time within the project site area, the permitted project shall cease all activities involving subsurface disturbance in the vicinity of the discovery. The applicant shall contact the Florida Department of State, Division of Historical Resources, Compliance Review Section at (850)-245-6333. Project activities shall not resume without verbal and/or written authorization. In the event that unmarked human remains are encountered during permitted activities, all work shall stop immediately and the proper authorities notified in accordance with Section 872.05, Florida Statutes.

Ms. Hyatt
DHR No.:2017-3411
July 14, 2017
Page 2

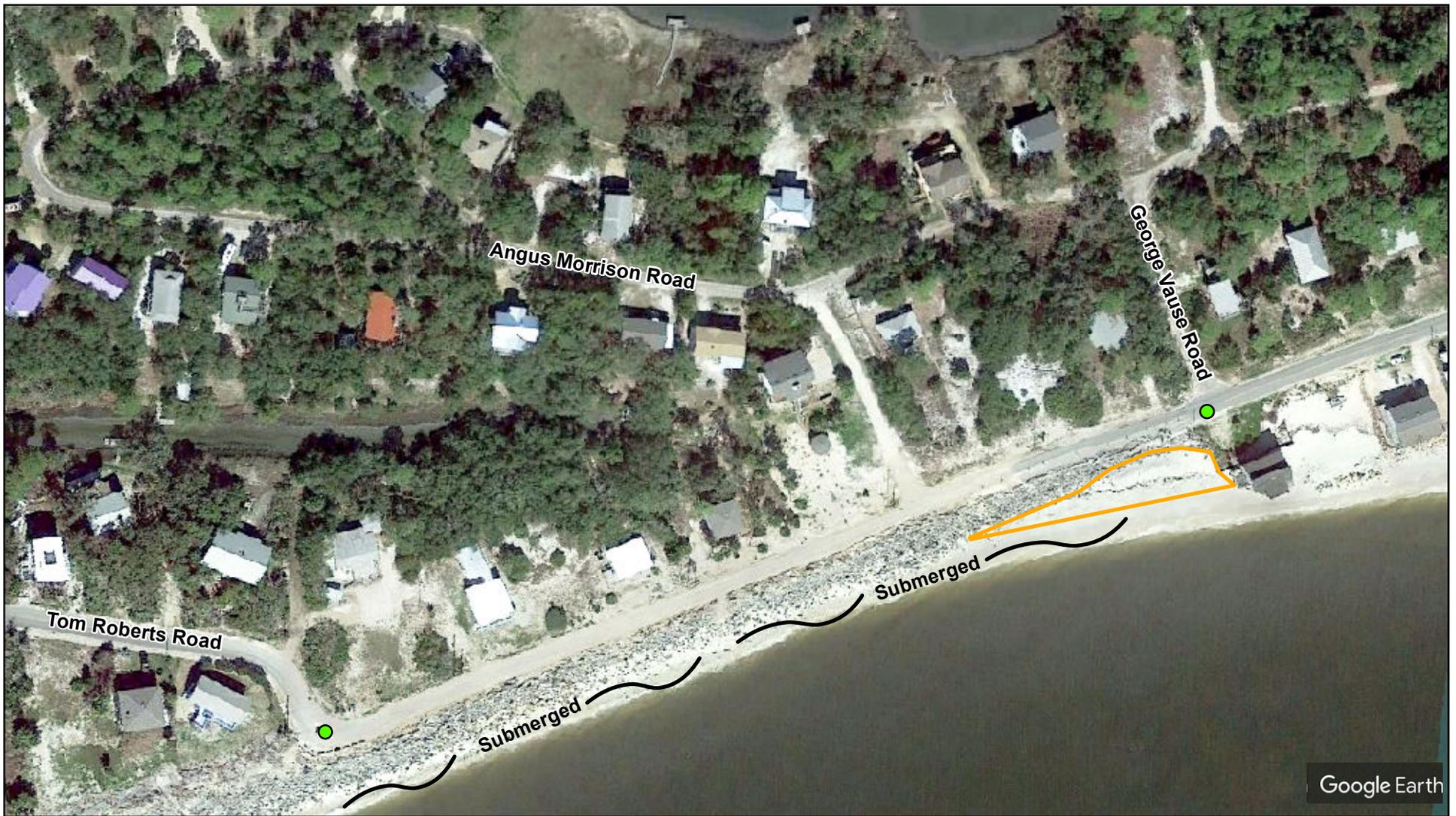
If you have any questions, please contact Alyssa Costas, Historic Sites Specialist, by email at Alyssa.Costas@dos.myflorida.com, or by telephone at 850.245.6333 or 800.847.7278.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jason Aldridge" with the word "For" written below it.

Timothy A. Parsons, Ph.D., RPA
Director, Division of Historical Resources
and State Historic Preservation Officer

Attachment 3
Potential Sea Turtle Nesting Habitat



Google Earth

Legend

- Project End Points
- Suitable Sea Turtle Nesting Habitat

Notes:
1. Google Earth Imagery, February 2017



FIGURE 1
Project Location Map
FEMA 4280-FL EA



U.S. Department of Homeland Security
FEMA Region IV
3003 Chamblee Tucker Road
Atlanta, GA 30341-4130

FEMA

July 31, 2017

Mr. Andrew Kizlauskas, Chief
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Panama City Permits Section
1002 West 23rd Street, Suite 350
Panama City, FL 32403-3648

**RE: FEMA Scoping Notification - Project PA-04-FL-4280-PW-00228; Alligator Drive,
Franklin County, Florida**

Mr. Kizlauskas:

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) for a Public Assistance project to replace the section of Alligator Drive damaged by Hurricane Hermine in early September 2016 in Franklin County, Florida. The EA is being prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969. FEMA is requesting comments within 30 days from receipt of this letter. In addition, FEMA is providing information to facilitate the permitting process, which will be initiated in the next few months by Franklin County. Figures are included in Attachments 1 and 2.

Hurricane Hermine's tidal surge and large waves severely eroded and washed away approximately 1,000 linear feet of Alligator Drive between Tom Roberts Road and George Vause Road. The asphalt road surface, road base, road sub-base, riprap, and concrete barriers were washed away during the storm. Alligator Drive serves as the sole access and evacuation route for approximately 500 homes. Franklin County constructed a one-lane temporary access road in the same location as the previous road.

FEMA and Franklin County propose to repair the damaged portion of Alligator Drive with hazard mitigation protection to shelter against future storm damage. The rubble, which includes the remaining road material and previous rock revetment, would be removed from the area and the road would be rebuilt. The hazard mitigation would include installation of a sheet pile retaining wall, a 10-foot-wide shoulder seaward of the road, and a 6-foot-wide shoulder landward of the road. Limited in-water work would be conducted by equipment on land to install vertical sheet pile and replace existing rock revetment along the seaward face of the sheet pile. The work is not expected to extend seaward of the mean low water line. Franklin County will obtain a Section 404 permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and an Environmental Resource Permit and a Coastal Construction Control Line permit from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection.

FEMA has determined that the undertaking would result in a finding of no historic properties affected. In a letter to the Florida State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) dated July 7, 2017, FEMA specified the measures it required to protect human remains or intact archaeological deposits that are unexpectedly discovered during ground-disturbing activities within the Area of Potential Effect (Attachment 1). The Florida SHPO concurred with the finding of no historic properties being affected in a letter dated July 14, 2017 (Attachment 1).

July 31, 2017

Page 2

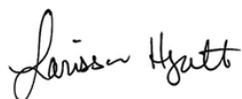
FEMA also consulted with the following Native American tribes on the proposed undertaking via letters dated July 12, 2017: Alabama-Quassarte Tribal Town, Jena Band of Choctaw Indians, Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida, Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Poarch Band of Creek Indians, Seminole Tribe of Florida, and the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma. To date, no responses have been received from the Native American Tribes consulted.

Based on the Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI) Map Server, there are no documented occurrences of any federally listed or state-listed threatened or endangered species in or within 1 mile of the project area; however, the federally threatened loggerhead sea turtle (*Caretta caretta*), the federally threatened green sea turtle (*Chelonia mydas*), and the federally threatened piping plover (*Charadrius melodus*) are likely to occur within or near the project area (FNAI, 2017). Most of the coastline within the 1,000-foot-long section is covered by rock revetment (boulder riprap) and pieces of broken road. Suitable sea turtle nesting habitat exists only along the easternmost portion of the 1,000-foot-long project area (approximately 0.20 acre) (Attachment 2; Figure 1). The easternmost portion of the road is not considered to be suitable nesting habitat for the piping plover because it is moderately sloped, narrow (width from road to sea), and small in overall size (0.20 acre). If construction occurs during sea turtle nesting season (May 1 through October 31), a qualified biologist would survey the suitable sea turtle nesting habitat within the project area every morning prior to initiation of construction activities. Overall, it is highly unlikely that sea turtle nesting would occur on the 0.20-acre suboptimal habitat in the construction area. FEMA has determined that the project **may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect**, the loggerhead sea turtle and green sea turtle and would have **no effect** on the piping plover. In a letter dated July 28, 2017, FEMA requested concurrence from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on these effect determinations (Attachment 2).

Please send an e-mail to FEMA-R4EHP@dhs.gov with your response. You may also send a hard copy of your response to the address below. Should you need to discuss this project in greater detail, you may contact Larissa Hyatt, Environmental and Historic Preservation Advisor, at the above e-mail address or by phone at (770) 403-9739.

Thank you very much for your assistance with this request. We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Larissa Hyatt
Environmental and Historic Preservation Advisor
FEMA Region IV
3003 Chamblee Tucker Road – Hollins Building
Atlanta, GA 30341-4130

Enclosures:

Attachment 1 – Florida SHPO Coordination Letter and Response
Attachment 2 – U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Coordination Letter

Copy: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Office – Jacksonville District

Attachment 1
Florida SHPO Coordination Letter and Response



FEMA

July 7, 2017

Mr. Jason Aldridge
Division of Historical Resources
500 South Bronough Street
RA Gray Building, Room 305
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0250

**RE: FEMA Section 106 Notification
FEMA Project DR 4280 FL PW 228; Franklin County, Florida**

Dear Mr. Aldridge:

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is notifying your office of a road repair project and the associated, proposed hazard mitigation project in Franklin County, Florida using Public Assistance (PA) funds. In compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), FEMA is identifying historic properties listed in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) and any properties not listed that would be considered eligible for listing that are located within the geographic area of potential effects (APE) of the proposed project and identifying the potential effects of its undertakings on these historic properties. FEMA is requesting to consult with your office on the existing and proposed scope of work and is requesting your concurrence with FEMA's determination of **no effect to historic properties**.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION (UNDERTAKING)

Franklin County proposes to restore a 1000 linear feet section of Alligator Drive, Alligator Point, by extending from 29.894849, -84.370146 to 29.895864, -84.36709, to pre-disaster condition and complete hazard mitigation at the site. Franklin County has previously installed a temporary gravel access road at this site and proposes to repair this section of road, which has been damaged from previous federal declared disaster declarations by replacing road base, replacing the road surface, replacing precast concrete barriers, and replacing riprap. In addition, Franklin County proposes to mitigate the 1000 feet of roadway by adding a six-foot concrete shoulder to the landward side of the road, a ten-foot concrete shoulder to the ocean side of the road, and a sheet pile retaining wall with an approximate depth of sixteen feet, capped by the ten-foot section of shoulder.

AREA OF POTENTIAL EFFECTS

As defined in 36 CFR §800.16(d), the area of potential effects (APE) is the geographic area or areas within which an undertaking may directly or indirectly cause changes in the character or use of historic properties if any such properties exist. Based on this definition and the nature and scope of the undertaking, FEMA has determined that the APE is limited to the areas within which all construction and ground disturbing activity would be confined and the viewshed of the proposed project. No potential exists for indirect effects outside of the viewshed of the proposed project.

IDENTIFICATION OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Literature Review Results

An SOI Qualified FEMA cultural resources specialist conducted a literature review through the Florida Master Site File in June 2017. The literature review focused on the APE and included a study area, covering a one-mile radius around the start and end point of the proposed project. The literature review indicated that five cultural resources investigations have been conducted within the study area for the proposed project. The cultural resources identified by the investigations in the project vicinity are listed in Table 1. Note that Survey number 22380 listed below is an archaeological and structural survey which covers a four-mile section of Alligator Drive including the entire length of the APE.

Table 1. Previously Conducted Cultural Resources Investigations in the Study Area

Report Number	Report Author; Date	Report Title
06361	Wisembaker, Michael and Brenda Swann (C.A.R.L. Archaeological Survey); 2001	<i>An Archaeological and Historical Survey of Bald Point State Park, Franklin County, Florida</i>
09924	Glowacki, Mary and Patrick Gensler (Division of Historical Resources [DHR]); 2004	<i>Bald Point State Park, Franklin County: Property Inspection Following Forest Fire and Prescribed Burn</i>
12293	Watts, Gordon P. and Raymond Tubby (Coastal Planning and Engineering, Inc.); 2005	<i>Archaeological Remote Sensing Survey Alligator Point Erosion Control Project, Franklin County, Florida</i>
22380	Chambless, Elizabeth J., Laurel L. Bartlett, Christopher Clement, and Marie Pokrant (SEARCH); 2015	<i>Cultural Resource Assessment Survey for the Proposed Multi-Use Path Along CR 370/Alligator Drive, Franklin County, Florida</i>
23350	Archaeological Consultants, Inc.; 2016	<i>Cultural Resources Assessment Survey, Gulf Shore Boulevard Relocation, Franklin County, Florida</i>

Based on the literature review and Survey 22380, no cultural resources are within the APE.

Seven archaeological sites were identified outside of the APE, within the larger study area. Archeological resources identified in the literature review and their NRHP status are listed in Table 2.

Table 2. Previously Recorded Archeological Resources in the Project Vicinity

Site Number	Description	Status	Recorded by
FR00004	Tucker burial mound site (prehistoric); located .95 miles northeast of APE.	Eligible for the NRHP	Penton, Daniel T.; 1971 Tesar, Louis D. and B. Calvin Jones; 1995
FR00005	Yent burial mound site (prehistoric); located 1 mile northeast of APE.	Eligible for the NRHP	Penton, Daniel T.; 1971 Tesar, Louis D. and B. Calvin Jones; 1995
FR00026	Lab site habitation (prehistoric); located .75 miles of APE.	Not evaluated for the NRHP	Jackson, C.L.; 1950 White, Ken; 1969
FR00036	Habitation (prehistoric); located 1 mile northeast of APE.	Not evaluated for the NRHP	Smith, Hale; 1950
FR00808	Mud Cove burial mound; located .07 miles north of APE.	Not evaluated for the NRHP	L.K. (DHR); 1988
FR00826	Prehistoric refuse scatter; located .85 miles northeast of APE.	Insufficient information to be individually eligible for the NRHP	Watson, Thomas C.; 1991 Glowacki, Mary (FBCA); 2004
FR01293	Alligator Point Kettle isolate; 19 th and 20 th century American; located .6 miles southwest of APE.	Not evaluated for the NRHP (insufficient information)	Montgomery, Earl (DHR); 2013

The literature review confirmed that no NRHP-eligible architectural resources are within the APE. Five architectural resources were identified outside of the APE, within the larger study area. The seven architectural resources within the APE, identified in the literature review, and their NRHP status are listed and highlighted in Table 3.

Table 3. Previously Recorded Architectural Resources in the Project APE

Site Number	Description	Status	Eligibility Determination
FR01319	1378 Alligator Drive (1963, resource group of four utility buildings); outside of APE	Ineligible for the NRHP	October, 2015
FR01320	1254 Alligator Drive (c. 1962, frame vernacular residence); outside of APE	Ineligible for the NRHP	October, 2015
FR01321	1260 Alligator Drive (c. 1965, masonry vernacular residence); outside of APE	Ineligible for the NRHP	October, 2015
FR01322	1266 Alligator Drive (c. 1958, masonry vernacular residence) ; outside of APE	Ineligible for the NRHP	October, 2015
FR01323	1270 Alligator Drive (c. 1962, frame vernacular residence)	Ineligible for the NRHP	October, 2015

Table 3. Previously Recorded Architectural Resources in the Project APE

Site Number	Description	Status	Eligibility Determination
FR01324	1274 Alligator Drive (c. 1959, masonry vernacular residence)	Ineligible for the NRHP	October, 2015
FR01325	1278 Alligator Drive (c. 1948, masonry vernacular residence)	Ineligible for the NRHP	October, 2015
FR01326	1286 Alligator Drive (c. 1962, masonry vernacular residence)	Ineligible for the NRHP	October, 2015
FR01327	1290 Alligator Drive (c. 1962, masonry vernacular residence)	Ineligible for the NRHP	October, 2015
FR01328	1290 Alligator Drive, Building 2 (c. 1960, frame vernacular residence)	Ineligible for the NRHP	October, 2015
FR01329	1292 Alligator Drive (c. 1948, frame vernacular residence)	Ineligible for the NRHP	October, 2015
FR01334	1336 Alligator Drive (c. 1940, frame vernacular residence); outside of APE	Ineligible for the NRHP	October, 2015

DETERMINATION OF EFFECT

No archaeological sites or marine resources were identified within the APE. Seven architectural resources were identified within the APE; however, none were found to be NRHP-eligible as of October, 2015. Therefore, based on the results of our historic property identification efforts, there is a finding of No Effect to Historic Properties for this undertaking in accordance with 36 CFR 800.5(b).

Project work will take place largely in previously disturbed soils and rights of way. This section of roadway has been repetitively damaged in the past and has been subject to numerous repairs. In addition, severe beach erosion within the area proposed for hazard mitigation footprint makes it unlikely unidentified cultural resources will be uncovered in the proposed project area.

For your review, four enclosures are included with this letter: (1) an aerial map showing the APE; (2) a topographical map of the project area; (3) photographs; (4) conceptual drawing; (5) map of field surveys in project area; (6) map of archeological sites and structures in project area.

SPECIAL CONDITIONS

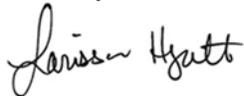
To ensure that FEMA-funded activities will not adversely affect archaeological resources, FEMA is placing the following conditions on the project for the treatment of fortuitous finds or unexpected discoveries during ground disturbing activities within the project area:

- If human remains or intact archaeological deposits are uncovered, work in the vicinity of the discovery will stop immediately and all reasonable measures to avoid or minimize harm to the finds will be taken. The applicant will ensure that archaeological discoveries are secured in place, that access to the sensitive area is restricted, and that all reasonable measures are taken to avoid further disturbance of the discoveries. The applicant's contractor will provide immediate notice of such discoveries to the applicant. The applicant shall contact the *Florida Division of Historical Resources* and FEMA within 24 hours of the discovery. Work in the vicinity of the discovery may not resume until FEMA has completed consultation with SHPO, Tribes, and other consulting parties as necessary. In the event that unmarked human remains are encountered during permitted activities, all work shall stop immediately and the proper authorities notified in accordance with Florida Statutes, Section 872.05.
- Construction vehicles and equipment shall be stored on site during the project or at existing access points within the applicant's right of way.
- Any changes to the approved scope of work will require submission to, and evaluation and approval by, the State and FEMA, prior to initiation of any work, for compliance with Section 106.

FEMA requests your concurrence with this finding of **no effect to historic properties**. Please send an e-mail to FEMA-R4EHP@dhs.gov with your response within 15 days so we may add it to our Section 106 consultation files for the undertaking. You may also send a hard copy of your response to the address below. Should you need to discuss this project in greater detail, you may contact Larissa Hyatt, EHP Advisor, at the above email or by phone at (770) 403-9739.

Thank you very much for your assistance with this request. We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Larissa Hyatt
Environmental & Historic Preservation Advisor

Enclosures:

- Project Location Map
- Topographic Location Map
- Photographs
- Conceptual Drawing
- Map of Field Surveys
- Map of Archeological Sites and Structures



Legend

-  Approximate Roadway Layout (Preferred Alternative)
-  Area of Potential Effects (APE)

Data Source:
1. Franklin County, 2016

Notes:
1. Service Layer Credits: Sources: Esri, HERE, DeLorme, USGS, Intermap, INCREMENT P, NRCan, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), Esri Korea, Esri (Thailand), MapmyIndia, NGCC, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community
Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AeroGRID, IGN, and the GIS User Community

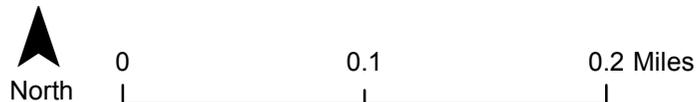


FIGURE 2
Area of Potential Effects
FEMA 4280-FL EA



Quad Name: Lighthouse Point

ArcGIS Publish Date 2017

Legend

- Approximate Roadway
- Layout (Preferred Alternative)

Data Source:

1. Franklin County, 2016
2. USGS Topographic Base Map, 2017

Notes:

1. Service Layer Credits: Sources: Esri, HERE, DeLorme, Intermap, increment P Corp., GEBCO, USGS, FAO, NPS, NRCAN, GeoBase, IGN, Kadaster NL, Ordnance Survey, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), swisstopo, MapmyIndia, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community
 Sources: Esri, HERE, DeLorme, USGS, Intermap, INCREMENT P, NRCan, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), Esri Korea, Esri (Thailand), MapmyIndia, NGCC, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community
 Copyright © 2013 National Geographic Society, i-cubed



FIGURE 1
Approximate Project Area Location
 FEMA 4280-FL EA



Figure 1. Ground level photograph showing project site.

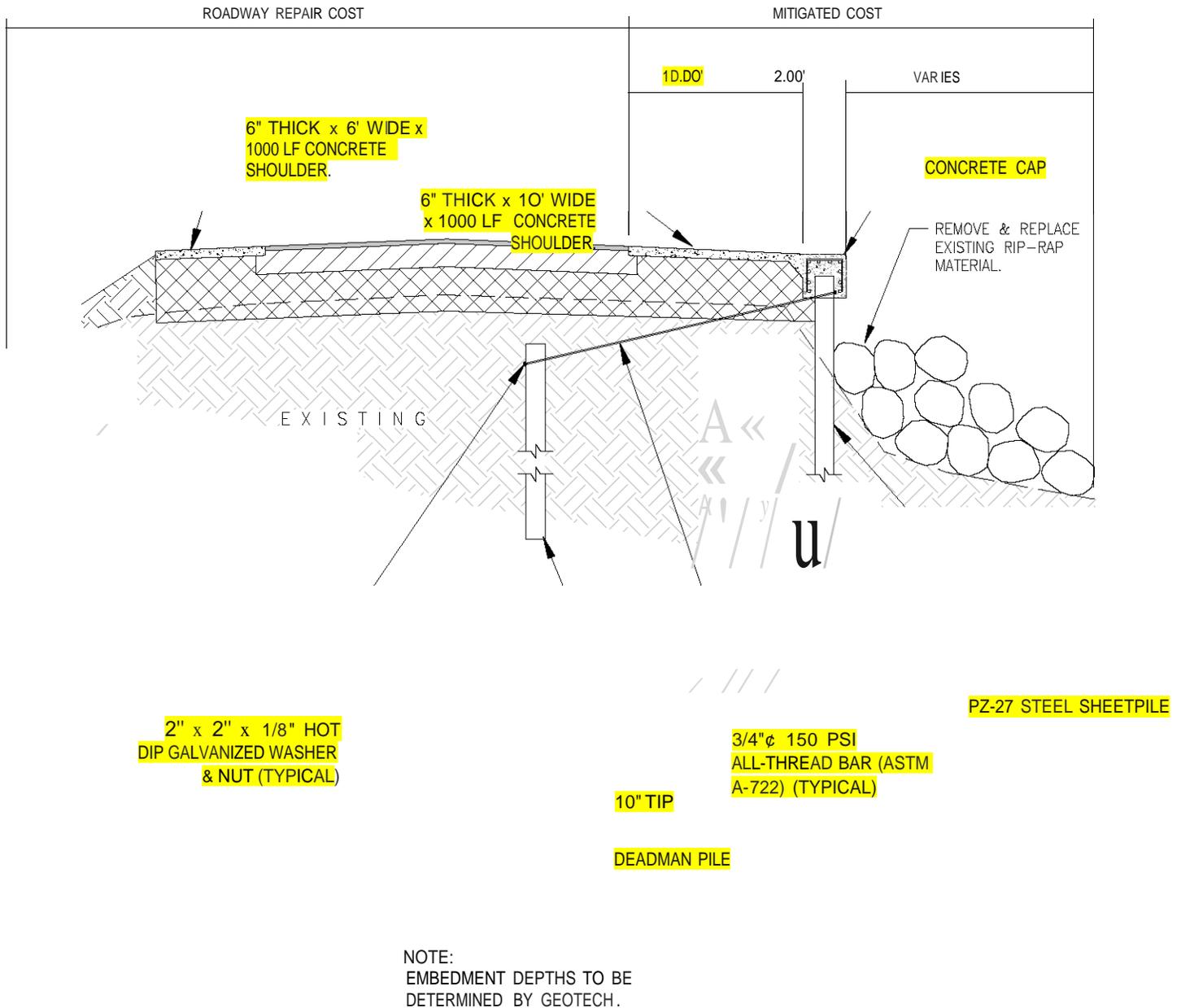


Figure 2. Ground level photograph showing project site and current barrier.



Figure 3. Ground level photograph showing project start area.

HMP PROPOSAL:
FRANKLIN COUNTY – ALLIGATOR ROAD – 4280 FL – PW REF FCCDT10



HMP:

1. Sheet piling PZ-27 Steel sheet pile furnished and installed to include dead-man anchoring And 2 FT X approximately 2 FT X 1000 LF of Concrete Cap over sheet pile. (Per bid tab provided Estimated cost \$1497.00 per LF installed cost)
2. Concrete shoulder ocean side 10 FT X .5 FT X 1000 LF (Per bid tab provided Estimated cost \$125.00 per SY installed cost)
3. Concrete shoulder Land side 6 FT X .5 FT X 1000 LF (Per bid tab provided Estimated cost \$125.00 per SY installed cost)
4. The Rip Rap Material is being addressed as part of the pre-disaster design, function and capacity.

CONCEPTUAL TYPICAL

SCALE: N.T.S.



Figure 1. Alligator Point field surveys

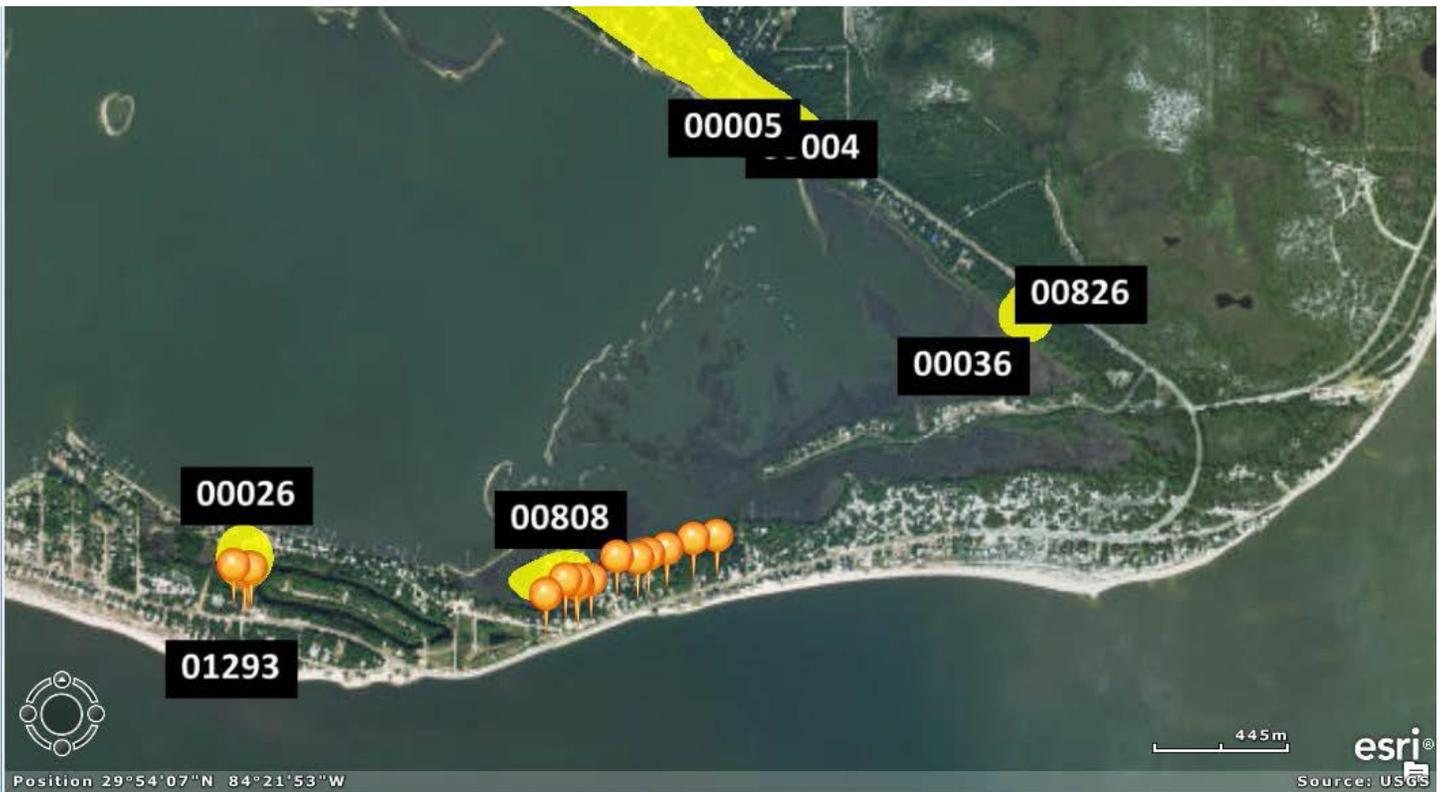


Figure 2. Alligator Point archeological sites and structures



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT *of* STATE

RICK SCOTT
Governor

KEN DETZNER
Secretary of State

Larissa Hyatt
Historic Preservation and Environmental Advisor
FEMA Region IV
3003 Chamblee Tucker Road
Atlanta, GA 30341

July 14, 2017

RE: DHR Project File No.: 2017-3411, Received by DHR: July 7, 2017.
Project: *FEMA. FEMA-DR-4280-FL PW 00228. Alligator Drive Restoration and Mitigation.*
County: Franklin

Ms. Hyatt:

The Florida State Historic Preservation Officer reviewed the referenced project for possible effects on historic properties listed, or eligible for listing, on the *National Register of Historic Places*. The review was conducted in accordance with Section 106 of the *National Historic Preservation Act of 1966*, as amended, and its implementing regulations in *36 CFR Part 800: Protection of Historic Properties*.

The proposed project is to restore 1000 linear feet of Alligator Drive, in Alligator Point, to pre-disaster (Hurricane Hermine) conditions. Hazard mitigation will also be completed at the site.

Based on the information provided, it is the opinion of this office that the proposed projects will have no effect on historic properties. However, the project should include the following special condition regarding unexpected discoveries:

- If prehistoric or historic artifacts, such as pottery or ceramics, projectile points, dugout canoes, metal implements, historic building materials, or any other physical remains that could be associated with Native American, early European, or American settlement are encountered at any time within the project site area, the permitted project shall cease all activities involving subsurface disturbance in the vicinity of the discovery. The applicant shall contact the Florida Department of State, Division of Historical Resources, Compliance Review Section at (850)-245-6333. Project activities shall not resume without verbal and/or written authorization. In the event that unmarked human remains are encountered during permitted activities, all work shall stop immediately and the proper authorities notified in accordance with Section 872.05, Florida Statutes.

Division of Historical Resources
R.A. Gray Building • 500 South Bronough Street • Tallahassee, Florida 32399
850.245.6300 • 850.245.6436 (Fax) FLHeritage.com



Ms. Hyatt
DHR No.:2017-3411
July 14, 2017
Page 2

If you have any questions, please contact Alyssa Costas, Historic Sites Specialist, by email at Alyssa.Costas@dos.myflorida.com, or by telephone at 850.245.6333 or 800.847.7278.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jason Aldridge" with the word "For" written below it.

Timothy A. Parsons, Ph.D., RPA
Director, Division of Historical Resources
and State Historic Preservation Officer

Attachment 2
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Coordination Letter



U.S. Department of Homeland Security
FEMA Region IV
3003 Chamblee Tucker Road
Atlanta, GA 30341-4130

FEMA

July 28, 2017

Dr. Catherine Phillips
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Panama City Field Office, Ecological Services
1601 Balboa Avenue
Panama City, FL 32405

**RE: FEMA Section 7 Coordination
FEMA Project PA-04-FL-4280-PW-00228; Alligator Drive, Franklin County, Florida**

Dr. Phillips:

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) for a Public Assistance project to replace the section of Alligator Drive damaged by Hurricane Hermine in early September 2016 in Franklin County, Florida (Figure 1; Attachment 1). The EA is being prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and will document compliance with Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act. FEMA has determined that the project **may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect**, the loggerhead sea turtle and green sea turtle and would have **no effect** on the piping plover. FEMA requests concurrence with these determinations within 30 days from the date on this letter.

Hurricane Hermine's tidal surge and large waves severely eroded and washed away approximately 1,000 linear feet of Alligator Drive between Tom Roberts Road and George Vause Road. The asphalt road surface, road base, road sub-base, riprap, and concrete barriers were washed away during the storm. Alligator Drive serves as the sole access and evacuation route for approximately 500 homes. Franklin County constructed a one-lane temporary access road in the same location as the previous road.

FEMA and Franklin County propose to repair the damaged portion of Alligator Drive with hazard mitigation protection to shelter against future storm damage. The rubble, which includes the remaining road material and previous rock revetment, would be removed from the area and the road would be rebuilt. The hazard mitigation would include installation of a sheet pile retaining wall, a 10-foot-wide shoulder seaward of the road, and a 6-foot-wide shoulder landward of the road (Figure 2; Attachment 1). There would be limited work in the water to replace existing rubble or facilitate installation of the sheet piles. All construction equipment would be operated on land; no equipment or vessels would be operated in the water.

Potential occurrence of threatened and endangered species in and near the project area was evaluated using the Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI) Biodiversity Matrix Map Server. Based on the FNAI Map Server, there are no documented occurrences of any federally listed or state-listed threatened or endangered species in or within 1 mile of the project area (FNAI, 2017). Based on the FNAI Map Server, the federally threatened loggerhead sea turtle (*Caretta caretta*), the federally threatened green sea turtle (*Chelonia mydas*), and the federally threatened piping plover (*Charadrius melodus*) are likely to occur within or near the project area.

July 28, 2017

Page 2

Most of the coastline within the 1,000-foot-long section is covered by rock revetment (boulder riprap) and pieces of broken road. Photographs of this area are included in Attachment 2. Suitable sea turtle nesting habitat exists only along the easternmost portion of the 1,000-foot-long project area; sea turtle nesting habitat is absent throughout most of the project area due to the presence of extensive amounts of rubble. The extent of suitable sea turtle nesting habitat in the project area is approximately 0.20 acre and is shown on Figure 1 (Attachment 1). The easternmost portion of the road is not considered to be suitable nesting habitat for the piping plover because it is moderately sloped, narrow (width from road to sea), and small in overall size (0.20 acre).

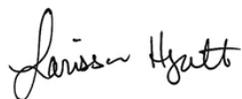
The proposed project would result in a loss of only 0.20 acre of suboptimal sea turtle nesting habitat. No impacts to sea turtles or marine mammals are expected to occur during construction activities. Limited in-water work would be conducted by equipment on land to install vertical sheet pile and replace existing rock revetment along the seaward face of the sheet pile. The work is not expected to extend seaward of the mean low water line. The attached standard sea turtle and manatee conditions (protection measures) for in-water work would be implemented during construction (Attachment 3).

If construction occurs during sea turtle nesting season (May 1 through October 31), a qualified biologist would survey the suitable sea turtle nesting habitat within the project area every morning prior to initiation of construction activities. If sea turtles or sea turtle nests are sighted by the biologist within the construction area, no work would occur and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and National Marine Fisheries Service would be immediately consulted. Overall, it is highly unlikely that sea turtle nesting would occur on the 0.20-acre suboptimal habitat in the construction area.

Please send an e-mail to FEMA-R4EHP@dhs.gov with your response. You may also send a hard copy of your response to the address below. Should you need to discuss this project in greater detail, you may contact Larissa Hyatt, Environmental and Historic Preservation Advisor, at the above e-mail address or by phone at (770) 403-9739.

Thank you very much for your assistance with this request. We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

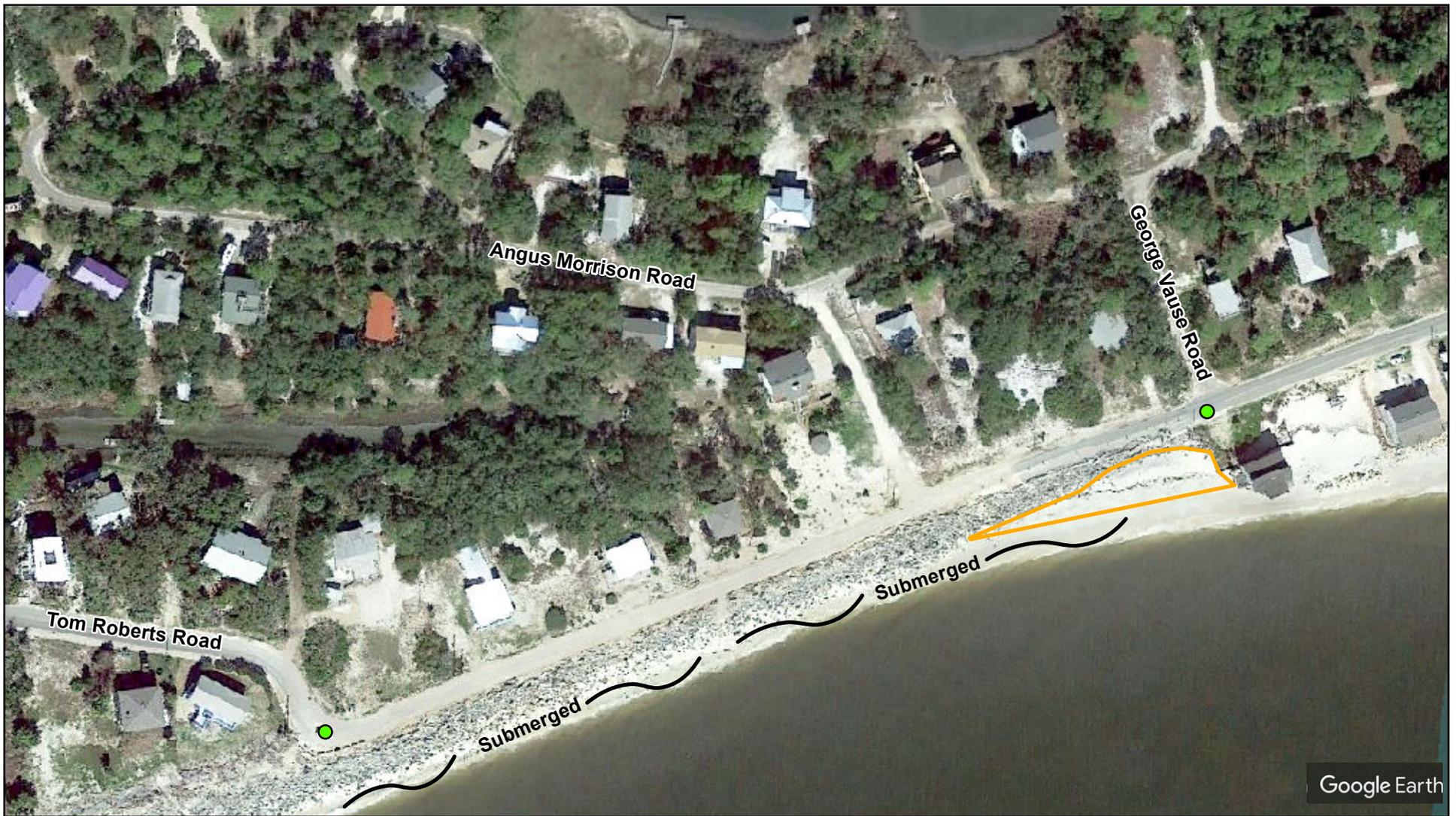


Larissa Hyatt
Environmental and Historic Preservation Advisor
FEMA Region IV
3003 Chamblee Tucker Road – Hollins Building
Atlanta, GA 30341-4130

Enclosures:

Attachment 1 – Figures
Attachment 2 – Photographs
Attachment 3 – Conditions for In-Water Work

Attachment 1
Figures



Google Earth

Legend

- Project End Points
- Suitable Sea Turtle Nesting Habitat

Notes:
1. Google Earth Imagery, February 2017

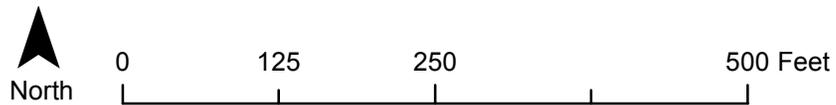
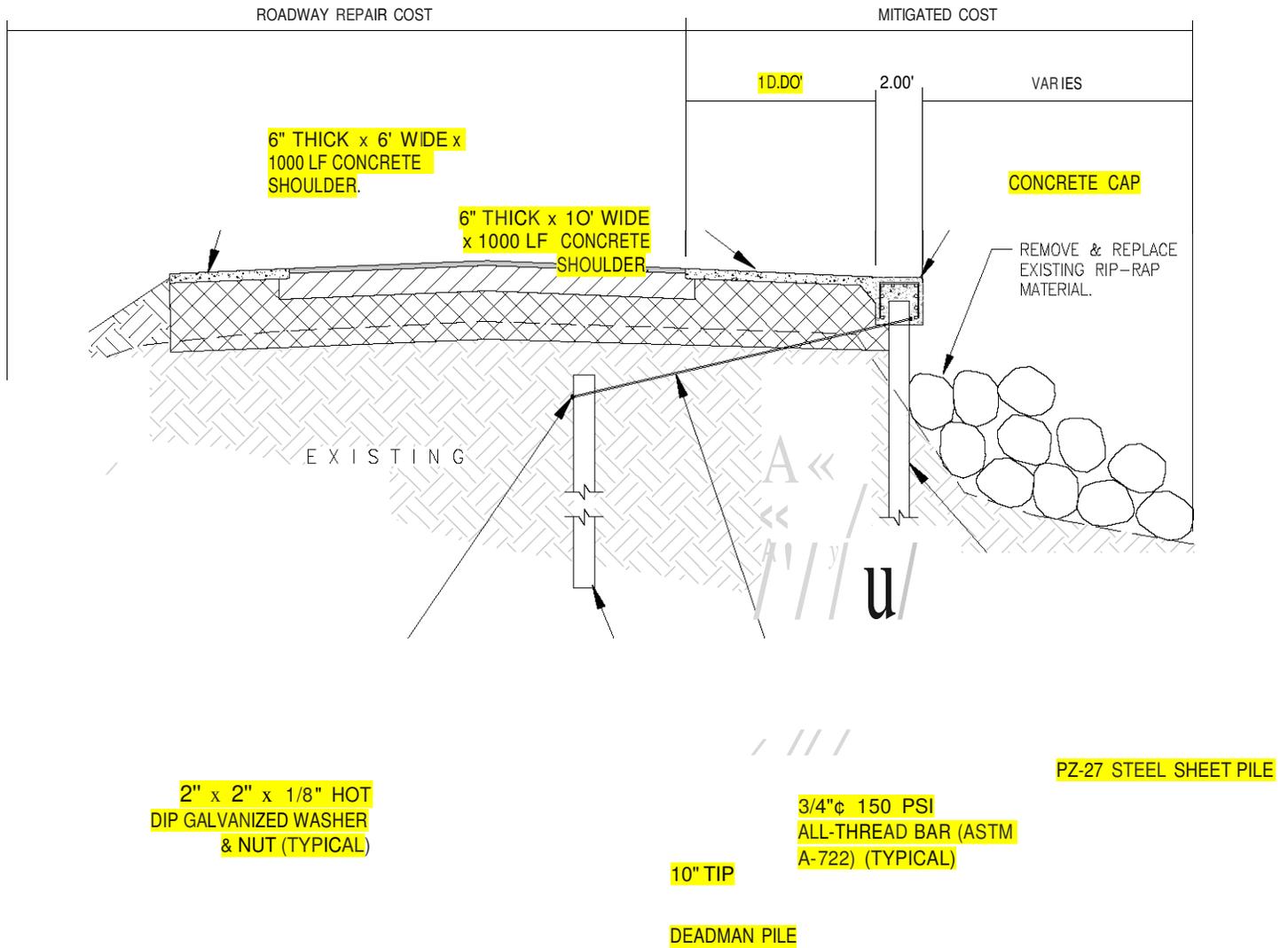


FIGURE 1
Project Location Map
FEMA 4280-FL EA

HMP PROPOSAL:
FRANKLIN COUNTY – ALLIGATOR ROAD – 4280 FL – PW REF FCCDT10



NOTE:
EMBEDMENT DEPTHS TO BE
DETERMINED BY GEOTECH.

HMP:

1. Sheet piling PZ-27 Steel sheet pile furnished and installed to include dead-man anchoring and 2 ft x approximately 2 ft x 1000 LF of Concrete Cap over sheet pile. (Per bid tab provided Estimated cost \$1497.00 per LF installed cost).
2. Concrete shoulder ocean side 10 ft x .5 ft x 1000 LF (Per bid tab provided estimated cost \$125.00 per SY installed cost.)
3. Concrete shoulder land side 6 ft x .5 ft x 1000 LF (Per bid tab provided estimated cost \$125.00 per SY installed cost.)
4. The riprap material is being addressed as part of the pre-disaster design, function, and capacity.

Figure 2

CONCEPTUAL TYPICAL

SCALE: N.T.S.

Attachment 2
Photographs



Western Portion of the Project Area – Facing East



Eastern Portion of the Project Area – Facing East



Potential Sea Turtle Nesting Habitat in the Eastern Portion of the Project Area – Facing West

Attachment 3
Conditions for In-Water Work



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
Southeast Regional Office
263 13th Avenue South
St. Petersburg, FL 33701

SEA TURTLE AND SMALLTOOTH SAWFISH CONSTRUCTION CONDITIONS

The permittee shall comply with the following protected species construction conditions:

- a. The permittee shall instruct all personnel associated with the project of the potential presence of these species and the need to avoid collisions with sea turtles and smalltooth sawfish. All construction personnel are responsible for observing water-related activities for the presence of these species.
- b. The permittee shall advise all construction personnel that there are civil and criminal penalties for harming, harassing, or killing sea turtles or smalltooth sawfish, which are protected under the Endangered Species Act of 1973.
- c. Siltation barriers shall be made of material in which a sea turtle or smalltooth sawfish cannot become entangled, be properly secured, and be regularly monitored to avoid protected species entrapment. Barriers may not block sea turtle or smalltooth sawfish entry to or exit from designated critical habitat without prior agreement from the National Marine Fisheries Service's Protected Resources Division, St. Petersburg, Florida.
- d. All vessels associated with the construction project shall operate at "no wake/idle" speeds at all times while in the construction area and while in water depths where the draft of the vessel provides less than a four-foot clearance from the bottom. All vessels will preferentially follow deep-water routes (e.g., marked channels) whenever possible.
- e. If a sea turtle or smalltooth sawfish is seen within 100 yards of the active daily construction/dredging operation or vessel movement, all appropriate precautions shall be implemented to ensure its protection. These precautions shall include cessation of operation of any moving equipment closer than 50 feet of a sea turtle or smalltooth sawfish. Operation of any mechanical construction equipment shall cease immediately if a sea turtle or smalltooth sawfish is seen within a 50-ft radius of the equipment. Activities may not resume until the protected species has departed the project area of its own volition.
- f. Any collision with and/or injury to a sea turtle or smalltooth sawfish shall be reported immediately to the National Marine Fisheries Service's Protected Resources Division (727-824-5312) and the local authorized sea turtle stranding/rescue organization.
- g. Any special construction conditions, required of your specific project, outside these general conditions, if applicable, will be addressed in the primary consultation.

Revised: March 23, 2006



STANDARD MANATEE CONDITIONS FOR IN-WATER WORK

2011

The permittee shall comply with the following conditions intended to protect manatees from direct project effects:

- a. All personnel associated with the project shall be instructed about the presence of manatees and manatee speed zones, and the need to avoid collisions with and injury to manatees. The permittee shall advise all construction personnel that there are civil and criminal penalties for harming, harassing, or killing manatees which are protected under the Marine Mammal Protection Act, the Endangered Species Act, and the Florida Manatee Sanctuary Act.
- b. All vessels associated with the construction project shall operate at "Idle Speed/No Wake" at all times while in the immediate area and while in water where the draft of the vessel provides less than a four-foot clearance from the bottom. All vessels will follow routes of deep water whenever possible.
- c. Siltation or turbidity barriers shall be made of material in which manatees cannot become entangled, shall be properly secured, and shall be regularly monitored to avoid manatee entanglement or entrapment. Barriers must not impede manatee movement.
- d. All on-site project personnel are responsible for observing water-related activities for the presence of manatee(s). All in-water operations, including vessels, must be shutdown if a manatee(s) comes within 50 feet of the operation. Activities will not resume until the manatee(s) has moved beyond the 50-foot radius of the project operation, or until 30 minutes elapses if the manatee(s) has not reappeared within 50 feet of the operation. Animals must not be herded away or harassed into leaving.
- e. Any collision with or injury to a manatee shall be reported immediately to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) Hotline at 1-888-404-3922. Collision and/or injury should also be reported to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Jacksonville (1-904-731-3336) for north Florida or Vero Beach (1-772-562-3909) for south Florida, and to FWC at ImperiledSpecies@myFWC.com
- f. Temporary signs concerning manatees shall be posted prior to and during all in-water project activities. All signs are to be removed by the permittee upon completion of the project. Temporary signs that have already been approved for this use by the FWC must be used. One sign which reads *Caution: Boaters* must be posted. A second sign measuring at least 8 ½" by 11" explaining the requirements for "Idle Speed/No Wake" and the shut down of in-water operations must be posted in a location prominently visible to all personnel engaged in water-related activities. These signs can be viewed at MyFWC.com/manatee. Questions concerning these signs can be sent to the email address listed above.



U.S. Department of Homeland Security
FEMA Region IV
3003 Chamblee Tucker Road
Atlanta, GA 30341-4130

FEMA

August 10, 2017

RE: FEMA Scoping Notification –FEMA Project DR 4280 FL PW 228; Franklin County, Florida

Dear Interested Party:

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) for a Public Assistance project to repair and mitigate approximately 1,000 linear feet of Alligator Drive in Franklin County, Florida, that was destroyed during a 9-foot storm surge from Hurricane Hermine in 2016 (Figures 1 and 2). The EA is being prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 and will document compliance with other relevant environmental regulations, including Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. FEMA is coordinating with local, state, and federal agencies and has identified interested parties as part of the NEPA scoping process.

During preparation of the EA, detailed investigations will be undertaken to identify potential social, economic, and environmental impacts related to the proposed action. These impacts will be documented in the EA, which will be made available for a 30-day public review period. As part of the NEPA early scoping process, key issues are being identified to be addressed in the EA. The EA will evaluate alternatives, including repairing Alligator Drive to pre-disaster conditions, repairing Alligator Drive with hazard mitigation protection to protect against future storm damage (Figure 1 and 2), and the No Action Alternative.

FEMA requests that you provide any comments that should be considered during preparation of the EA for the proposed project. Please send an e-mail to FEMA-R4EHP@dhs.gov with your response within 30 days of receipt of this letter so we may sufficiently address key project issues and maintain the project schedule. You may also send me a hard copy of your response at the address below. Should you need to discuss this project in greater detail, you may contact Larissa Hyatt, Environmental and Historic Preservation Advisor, at the above e-mail address or by phone at (770) 403-9739.

Thank you for your assistance with this request. We look forward to your response.

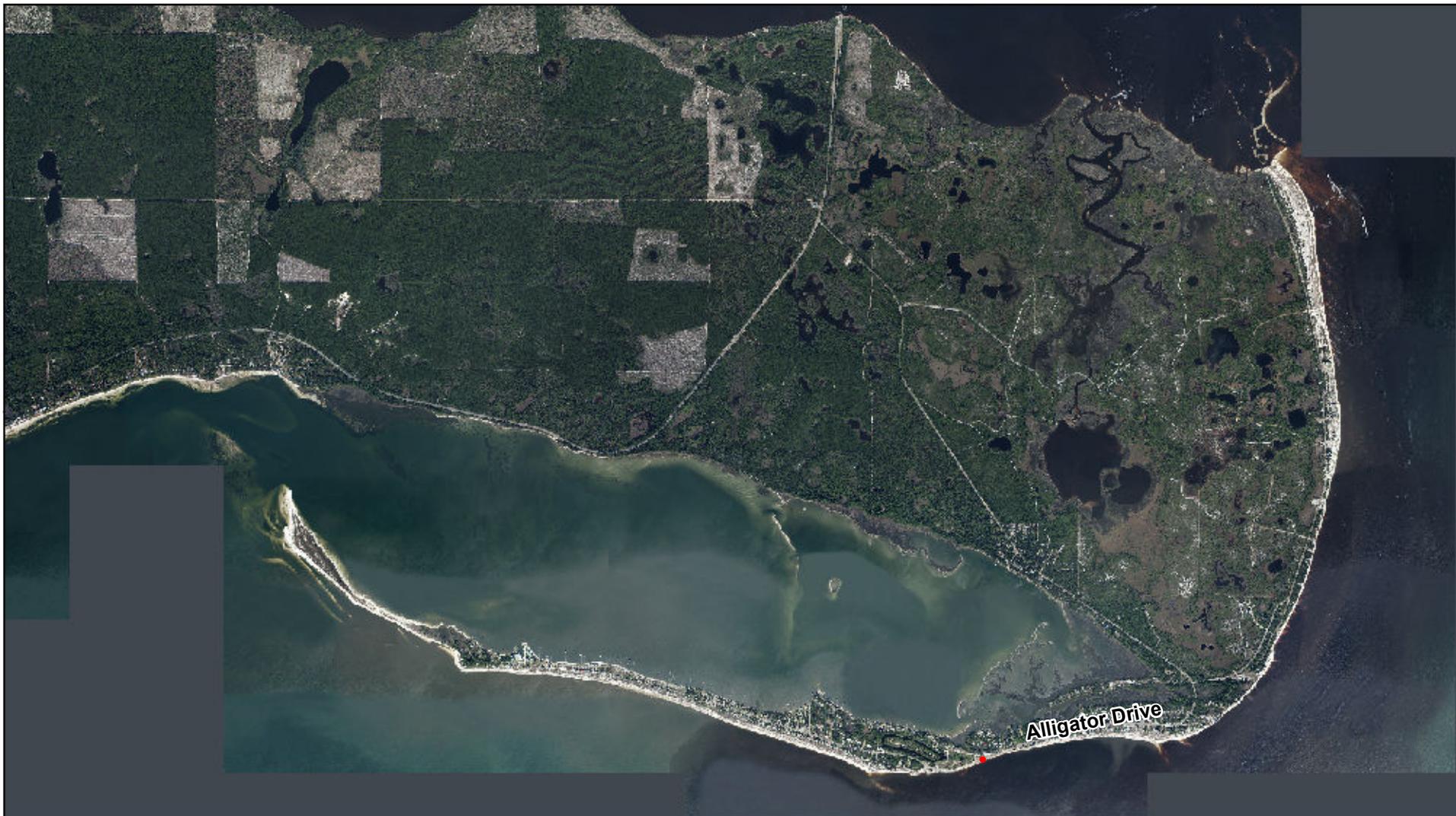
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Larissa Hyatt".

Larissa Hyatt
Environmental and Historic Preservation Advisor
FEMA Region IV
3003 Chamblee Tucker Road – Hollins Building
Atlanta, GA 30341-4130

Enclosure:
Attachment 1 – Figures

Attachment 1
Figures



Quad Name: Lighthouse Point

ArcGIS Publish Date 2015

Legend

-  Approximate Roadway Layout (Preferred Alternative)

Data Source:

1. Franklin County, 2016
2. FDOT Imagery, 2016

Notes:

1. Service Layer Credits: Sources: Esri, HERE, DeLorme, USGS, Intermap, INCREMENT P, NRCan, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), Esri Korea, Esri (Thailand), MapmyIndia, NGCC, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community



FIGURE 1
Project Vicinity
FEMA 4280-FL Environmental Assessment



Legend

-  Approximate Roadway Layout (Preferred Alternative)

Data Source:

- 1. Franklin County, 2016

Notes:

1. Service Layer Credits: Sources: Esri, HERE, DeLorme, USGS, Intermap, INCREMENT P, NRCan, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), Esri Korea, Esri (Thailand), MapmyIndia, NGCC, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community
 Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AeroGRID, IGN, and the GIS User Community

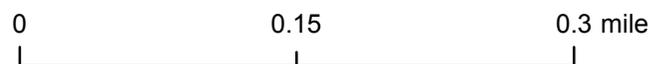


FIGURE 2
Project Area
FEMA 4280-FL Environmental Assessment

Responses



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT *of* STATE

RICK SCOTT
Governor

KEN DETZNER
Secretary of State

Larissa Hyatt
Historic Preservation and Environmental Advisor
FEMA Region IV
3003 Chamblee Tucker Road
Atlanta, GA 30341

July 14, 2017

RE: DHR Project File No.: 2017-3411, Received by DHR: July 7, 2017.
Project: *FEMA. FEMA-DR-4280-FL PW 00228. Alligator Drive Restoration and Mitigation.*
County: Franklin

Ms. Hyatt:

The Florida State Historic Preservation Officer reviewed the referenced project for possible effects on historic properties listed, or eligible for listing, on the *National Register of Historic Places*. The review was conducted in accordance with Section 106 of the *National Historic Preservation Act of 1966*, as amended, and its implementing regulations in *36 CFR Part 800: Protection of Historic Properties*.

The proposed project is to restore 1000 linear feet of Alligator Drive, in Alligator Point, to pre-disaster (Hurricane Hermine) conditions. Hazard mitigation will also be completed at the site.

Based on the information provided, it is the opinion of this office that the proposed projects will have no effect on historic properties. However, the project should include the following special condition regarding unexpected discoveries:

- If prehistoric or historic artifacts, such as pottery or ceramics, projectile points, dugout canoes, metal implements, historic building materials, or any other physical remains that could be associated with Native American, early European, or American settlement are encountered at any time within the project site area, the permitted project shall cease all activities involving subsurface disturbance in the vicinity of the discovery. The applicant shall contact the Florida Department of State, Division of Historical Resources, Compliance Review Section at (850)-245-6333. Project activities shall not resume without verbal and/or written authorization. In the event that unmarked human remains are encountered during permitted activities, all work shall stop immediately and the proper authorities notified in accordance with Section 872.05, Florida Statutes.

Division of Historical Resources
R.A. Gray Building • 500 South Bronough Street • Tallahassee, Florida 32399
850.245.6300 • 850.245.6436 (Fax) FLHeritage.com



Ms. Hyatt
DHR No.:2017-3411
July 14, 2017
Page 2

If you have any questions, please contact Alyssa Costas, Historic Sites Specialist, by email at Alyssa.Costas@dos.myflorida.com, or by telephone at 850.245.6333 or 800.847.7278.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jason Aldridge" with the word "For" written below it.

Timothy A. Parsons, Ph.D., RPA
Director, Division of Historical Resources
and State Historic Preservation Officer

Ainta Mapp
11914 Bass Rd
Live Oak, FL
32062

Dear Mr. Gene Thurston,

I am purchasing a home
on Chip Morrison Rd in Franklin Co.
on Alligator Point.

I was so happy to hear that
Fema will help us get to our
homes and keep real estate values
from falling due to restricted
access.

My road is closed at one
end but not the other way.
Anything that can be done
to make driving on the road
easier would be greatly appreciated.

Thank you for looking out for
us. We will be good residents
and will take good care of
the island and we have saved
our whole life to retire on this
island.

Thanks

Ainta Mapp
386-590-3075

Naccarato, Andrea/ATL

From: FEMA-R4EHP <FEMA-R4EHP@fema.dhs.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, August 02, 2017 9:49 AM
To: Naccarato, Andrea/ATL
Cc: Thurston, Eric
Subject: FW: Fema project DR 4280 FL PW 228; Franklin County, Florida [EXTERNAL]

Hi Andrea –

FYI, we received the email below from a resident on Alligator Point. Can you please make sure they're added to the list of residents?

Thanks!

Larissa Hyatt
Environmental and Historic Preservation Advisor (EHAD)
FEMA-DR-4280-FL and FEMA-DR-4283-FL
770-403-9739
Larissa.Hyatt@fema.dhs.gov

From: Camilla Godfrey [mailto:camillagodfrey@hotmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, August 02, 2017 9:30 AM
To: FEMA-R4EHP <FEMA-R4EHP@fema.dhs.gov>
Subject: Fema project DR 4280 FL PW 228; Franklin County, Florida

Please add us to your Interested Party mailing list for this project. For some reason, we did not receive your letter of July 6, 2017 which was sent to residents affected by the Alligator Road destruction by Hurricane Hermine. All our neighbors received this information and one was kind enough to share a copy with us. We are located on the west end of Alligator Point, west of the road damage. We have owned this property since 1992 and have been full time residents since 2002. We are vitally interested in this project since this road is the only way to access our home. We live at 1583 Alligator Drive, Alligator Point, FL 32346. Please confirm that we have been added to the list for any future correspondence or let us know why we were not included. Thank you for your prompt attention to this request. Regards, Bill and Camilla Godfrey, 1583 Alligator Drive, Alligator Point, FL 32346

Naccarato, Andrea/ATL

From: Hyatt, Larissa <larissa.hyatt@fema.dhs.gov>
Sent: Friday, August 04, 2017 10:35 AM
To: Naccarato, Andrea/ATL
Subject: FW: Miccosukee Tribe Response to consultation [EXTERNAL]

Andrea –

FYI – we’ve received concurrence today on our Tribal consultation from the Miccosukee Tribe for PW 228. Now just seven more tribes to go ☺

Thanks!

Larissa Hyatt
Environmental and Historic Preservation Advisor (EHAD)
FEMA-DR-4280-FL and FEMA-DR-4283-FL
770-403-9739
Larissa.Hyatt@fema.dhs.gov

From: Hyatt, Larissa
Sent: Friday, August 04, 2017 10:32 AM
To: Thurston, Eric <Eric.Thurston@fema.dhs.gov>; Klein, Chelsea <Chelsea.Klein@fema.dhs.gov>; Bechtold, Ashley <ashley.bechtold@fema.dhs.gov>
Subject: Miccosukee Tribe Response to consultation

Hi everyone,

I received a message from Fred Dayhoff with the Miccosukee Tribe on a couple of consultations we’ve sent to him – I think he called me as the first one was regarding 4280 PW 228 for Alligator Point. For the following projects, he stated that the Miccosukee Tribe has no issues as long as the SHPO has concurred with our consultation. Of course, to cease work and notify them if any artifacts or resources are found:

- 4280 PW 228 for Alligator Point
- Chipola College Public Service Building with drainage work (no disaster or project number given)
- DR-4177 HMGP project 12 Phase II for Calhoun County, Troy McCrone (sp?) Rd.

Hope that helps!

Thanks!

Larissa Hyatt
Environmental and Historic Preservation Advisor (EHAD)
FEMA-DR-4280-FL and FEMA-DR-4283-FL
770-403-9739
Larissa.Hyatt@fema.dhs.gov



U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service
 1601 Balboa Avenue
 Panama City, Florida 32405
 (850) 769-0552 Fax (850) 763-2177

FWS Log No. 04EF3000-2017-J-0194

U.S. Department of Homeland Security
 FEMA Region IV
 3003 Chamblee Tucker Road
 Atlanta, GA 30341-4130



FEMA

The proposed action is not likely to adversely affect resources protected by the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.). This finding fulfills the requirements of the Act.

Cathy J. Phillips 17 Aug 17
 Dr. Catherine T. Phillips, Project Leader Date



July 28, 2017

Dr. Catherine Phillips
 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
 Panama City Field Office, Ecological Services
 1601 Balboa Avenue
 Panama City, FL 32405

**RE: FEMA Section 7 Coordination
 FEMA Project PA-04-FL-4280-PW-00228; Alligator Drive, Franklin County, Florida**

Dr. Phillips:

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) for a Public Assistance project to replace the section of Alligator Drive damaged by Hurricane Hermine in early September 2016 in Franklin County, Florida (Figure 1; Attachment 1). The EA is being prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and will document compliance with Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act. FEMA has determined that the project **may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect**, the loggerhead sea turtle and green sea turtle and would have **no effect** on the piping plover. FEMA requests concurrence with these determinations within 30 days from the date on this letter.

Hurricane Hermine's tidal surge and large waves severely eroded and washed away approximately 1,000 linear feet of Alligator Drive between Tom Roberts Road and George Vause Road. The asphalt road surface, road base, road sub-base, riprap, and concrete barriers were washed away during the storm. Alligator Drive serves as the sole access and evacuation route for approximately 500 homes. Franklin County constructed a one-lane temporary access road in the same location as the previous road.

FEMA and Franklin County propose to repair the damaged portion of Alligator Drive with hazard mitigation protection to shelter against future storm damage. The rubble, which includes the remaining road material and previous rock revetment, would be removed from the area and the road would be rebuilt. The hazard mitigation would include installation of a sheet pile retaining wall, a 10-foot-wide shoulder seaward of the road, and a 6-foot-wide shoulder landward of the road (Figure 2; Attachment 1). There would be limited work in the water to replace existing rubble or facilitate installation of the sheet piles. All construction equipment would be operated on land; no equipment or vessels would be operated in the water.

Potential occurrence of threatened and endangered species in and near the project area was evaluated using the Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI) Biodiversity Matrix Map Server. Based on the FNAI Map Server, there are no documented occurrences of any federally listed or state-listed threatened or endangered species in or within 1 mile of the project area (FNAI, 2017). Based on the FNAI Map Server, the federally threatened loggerhead sea turtle (*Caretta caretta*), the federally threatened green sea turtle (*Chelonia mydas*), and the federally threatened piping plover (*Charadrius melodus*) are likely to occur within or near the project area.

July 28, 2017

Page 2

Most of the coastline within the 1,000-foot-long section is covered by rock revetment (boulder riprap) and pieces of broken road. Photographs of this area are included in Attachment 2. Suitable sea turtle nesting habitat exists only along the easternmost portion of the 1,000-foot-long project area; sea turtle nesting habitat is absent throughout most of the project area due to the presence of extensive amounts of rubble. The extent of suitable sea turtle nesting habitat in the project area is approximately 0.20 acre and is shown on Figure 1 (Attachment 1). The easternmost portion of the road is not considered to be suitable nesting habitat for the piping plover because it is moderately sloped, narrow (width from road to sea), and small in overall size (0.20 acre).

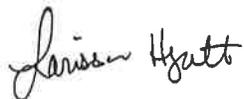
The proposed project would result in a loss of only 0.20 acre of suboptimal sea turtle nesting habitat. No impacts to sea turtles or marine mammals are expected to occur during construction activities. Limited in-water work would be conducted by equipment on land to install vertical sheet pile and replace existing rock revetment along the seaward face of the sheet pile. The work is not expected to extend seaward of the mean low water line. The attached standard sea turtle and manatee conditions (protection measures) for in-water work would be implemented during construction (Attachment 3).

If construction occurs during sea turtle nesting season (May 1 through October 31), a qualified biologist would survey the suitable sea turtle nesting habitat within the project area every morning prior to initiation of construction activities. If sea turtles or sea turtle nests are sighted by the biologist within the construction area, no work would occur and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and National Marine Fisheries Service would be immediately consulted. Overall, it is highly unlikely that sea turtle nesting would occur on the 0.20-acre suboptimal habitat in the construction area.

Please send an e-mail to FEMA-R4EHP@dhs.gov with your response. You may also send a hard copy of your response to the address below. Should you need to discuss this project in greater detail, you may contact Larissa Hyatt, Environmental and Historic Preservation Advisor, at the above e-mail address or by phone at (770) 403-9739.

Thank you very much for your assistance with this request. We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Larissa Hyatt
Environmental and Historic Preservation Advisor
FEMA Region IV
3003 Chamblee Tucker Road – Hollins Building
Atlanta, GA 30341-4130

Enclosures:

- Attachment 1 – Figures
- Attachment 2 – Photographs
- Attachment 3 – Conditions for In-Water Work

Footprint of project is
the same pre- and post-
construction. No additional
beach habitat to be
impacted. Low use by
sea turtle nesting, shorebirds.
PK is LY concurs w/ NLAA.
Shorebirds
Seaturths
8/16/17

Haught, Laura/WDC

From: Stahl, Chris <Chris.Stahl@dep.state.fl.us>
Sent: Wednesday, October 11, 2017 11:41 AM
To: Haught, Laura/WDC
Subject: FW: State_Clearance_Letter_For_FL201708028106C_Scoping for Environmental Assessment for the Replacement of Alligator Point Drive, FEMA Project PA-04-FL-4280-PW-00228, Franklin County, [EXTERNAL]
Attachments: Replacement of Alligator Point Drive Scoping EA_33664_083017.pdf

From: Stahl, Chris
Sent: Wednesday, September 13, 2017 3:22 PM
To: 'FEMA-R4EHP@dhs.gov' <FEMA-R4EHP@dhs.gov>
Subject: State_Clearance_Letter_For_FL201708028106C_Scoping for Environmental Assessment for the Replacement of Alligator Point Drive, FEMA Project PA-04-FL-4280-PW-00228, Franklin County,

September 13, 2017

Larissa Hyatt
Federal Emergency Management Administration
3003 Chamblee Tucker Road, Hollins Building
Atlanta, Georgia 303414130

RE: Federal Emergency Management Agency - Scoping for Environmental Assessment for the Replacement of Alligator Point Drive, FEMA Project PA-04-FL-4280-PW-00228, Franklin County, Florida.
SAI # FL201708028106C

Dear Larissa:

Florida State Clearinghouse staff has reviewed the proposal under the following authorities: Presidential Executive Order 12372; § 403.061(42), Florida Statutes; the Coastal Zone Management Act, 16 U.S.C. §§ 1451-1464, as amended; and the National Environmental Policy Act, 42 U.S.C. §§ 4321-4347, as amended.

The proposed project may require an Environmental Resource Permit from the Northwest Florida Water Management District and /or the Florida Department of Environmental Protection. Please contact their permitting staff, <mailto:public.information@nfwfwater.com> or Tanya.McHale@dep.state.fl.us respectively, for additional information.

The Department of State has reviewed the proposed project is unlikely to affect historic properties. However, unexpected finds may occur during ground disturbing activities, and we request that the permit, if issued, should include the following special condition regarding inadvertent discoveries: If prehistoric or historic artifacts, such as pottery or ceramics, projectile points, dugout canoes, metal implements, historic building materials, or any other physical remains that could be associated with Native American, early European, or American settlement are encountered at any time within the project site area, the permitted project shall cease all activities involving subsurface disturbance in the vicinity of the discovery. The applicant shall contact the Florida Department of State, Division of Historical Resources, Compliance Review Section at (850)-245-6333. Project activities shall not resume without verbal and/or written

authorization. In the event that unmarked human remains are encountered during permitted activities, all work shall stop immediately and the proper authorities notified in accordance with Section 872.05, Florida Statutes. If you have any questions, please contact Mercedes Harrold, Historic Sites Specialist, by email at Mercedes.Harrold@dos.myflorida.com , or by telephone at 850.245.6333 or 800.847.7278.

Based on the information submitted and minimal project impacts, the state has no objections to allocation of federal funds for the subject project and, therefore, the funding award is consistent with the Florida Coastal Management Program (FCMP). The state's final concurrence of the project's consistency with the FCMP will be determined during any environmental permitting processes, in accordance with Section 373.428, Florida Statutes, if applicable.

Thank you for the opportunity to review the proposed plan. If you have any questions or need further assistance, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Chris Stahl

Chris Stahl, Coordinator
Florida State Clearinghouse
Florida Department of Environmental Protection
2600 Blair Stone Road, M.S. 47
Tallahassee, FL 32399-2400
ph. (850) 717-9076
State.Clearinghouse@dep.state.fl.us





August 30, 2017

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

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MyFWC.com

Chris Stahl, Coordinator
Florida State Clearinghouse
Florida Department of Environmental Protection
2600 Blair Stone Road, M.S. 47
Tallahassee, FL 32399-2400
Chris.Stahl@dep.state.fl.us

RE: SAI #FL201708028106C, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) - Scoping for Environmental Assessment for the Replacement of Alligator Point Drive, FEMA Project PA-04-FL-4280-PW-00228, Franklin County, Florida

Dear Mr. Stahl:

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) staff has reviewed the subject FEMA Scoping Notice for the above-referenced project, and provides the following comments and recommendations for your consideration in accordance with Chapter 379, Florida Statutes, and pursuant to the federal National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the federal Coastal Zone Management Act, and the State of Florida Coastal Management Program.

Project Description

FEMA is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) for public assistance funding to Franklin County to replace a section of Alligator Point Drive damaged by Hurricane Hermine. The preferred alternative is that Alligator Point Drive would be repaired in the same location and protected with hazard mitigation. Proposed hazard mitigation consists of the installation of sheet-pile retaining wall and a 10-foot shoulder seaward of the road and a 6-foot shoulder on the landside of the road. The existing roadway rip-rap would be removed and then replaced after the retaining wall has been constructed. Construction is expected to take place over 12 months.

Potentially Affected Resources

The information supplied by FEMA indicates that the loggerhead sea turtle (*Caretta caretta*, Federally Threatened [FT]), green sea turtle (*Chelonia mydas*, FT) and piping plover (*Charadrius melodus*, FT) may occur within one mile of the project. FEMA has determined that the habitat near the construction zone is not suitable for piping plover. They have also determined that the small sub-optimal habitat for nesting turtles (0.20 acres) "may affect but is not likely to affect" the sea turtles. FEMA is requesting concurrence from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on these determinations.

The applicant has also indicated that if construction occurs during sea turtle nesting season (May 1 through October 31), a qualified biologist would survey the suitable sea turtle nesting habitat within the project area every morning prior to the initiation of construction.

Comments and Recommendations

FWC staff recognizes the need for this hazard mitigation project to protect the Alligator Drive hurricane evacuation route. We recommend the County consider the following information during construction design and permitting of the coastal armoring project. Typically, FWC staff recommends the use of vertical seawalls adjacent to sea turtle nesting habitat instead of the use of rock revetments, which are often located closer to the water line and may reduce sandy beach habitat available for sea turtle nesting. Replacement of the storm damaged rock revetment within its previous construction limits is not expected to reduce nesting habitat. If the final project extends further seaward than the existing roadway and rock revetment, FWC staff recommends that the coastal armoring be located as far landward as possible. This would help to reduce potential impacts on any remaining available sea turtle nesting habitat located primarily on the eastern end of the project. We recognize that FEMA is coordinating with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on the seaward siting of the proposed wall and rock revetment relative to the available sea turtle nesting habitat. FWC staff recommends that work on sandy beach shorelines occur outside of the main portion of sea turtle nesting season (May 1 through October 31), and we recognize that if work is to occur during the nesting season, the County intends to have a qualified biologist survey the area prior to construction each day. FWC staff is available to provide additional technical assistance during the permitting process to assist with developing sea turtle conservation measures into the final project design.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide information on this project. If you need any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact Jane Chabre either by phone at (850) 410-5367 or at FWCConservationPlanningServices@MyFWC.com. If you have specific technical questions regarding the content of this letter, please contact Theodore Hoehn at (850) 488-8792 or by email at ted.hoehn@MyFWC.com.

Sincerely,



Jennifer D. Goff, Director
Office of Conservation Planning Services

jdg/th
ENV 1-3-2
Replacement of Alligator Point Drive Scoping EA_33664_083017

cc: Tony McNeal, P.E., DEP CCCL Program Administrator,
tony.mcneal@dep.state.fl.us

Appendix C
Floodplain Management Checklist

EXECUTIVE ORDER 11988/11990 8-Step Review Decision Making Process

FLOODPLAIN AND WETLANDS MANAGEMENT CHECKLIST (44 CFR Part 9)

TITLE: Provide safety and access to community services for residents directly impacted by Hurricane Hermine along Alligator Drive.

An Environmental Assessment (EA) was prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) to evaluate the potential environmental impacts of the Proposed Action and its alternatives and to make this information available to the public as part of the federal decision-making process. Details of the alternatives are in the EA.

PROPOSED ACTION: Repair damage to Alligator Drive incurred during Hurricane Hermine in Franklin County, Florida. Two alternatives for replacement were considered. Alternative 1 consists of repairing Alligator Drive to pre-disaster conditions. Alternative 2 (Preferred Alternative) consists of repairing Alligator Drive with hazard mitigation protection. Alternative 3 is the No Action Alternative.

APPLICABILITY: Actions which have the potential to affect floodplains or their occupants, or which are subject to potential harm by location in floodplains.

YES **NO** The Proposed Action could potentially adversely affect the floodplain.
Remarks: **Alternatives 1 and 2 would include road construction in the 100-year floodplain in a high-risk coastal area.**

YES **NO** The Proposed Action could potentially be adversely affected by the floodplains
Remarks: **The County would look for mitigation measures to reduce future flooding risk and damage to the road (Alternative 2).**

IF ANSWER IS NO, REVIEW IS COMPLETED; OTHERWISE, CONTINUE WITH REVIEW.

Mark the review steps required per applicability: 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

CRITICAL ACTION:

- YES** Review against 500-year floodplain
 - NO** Review against 100-year floodplain
-

STEP NO. 1 Determine whether the Proposed Action is located in the 100-year floodplain (500-year floodplain for critical actions) or may be affected by the floodplain.

Flood Hazard data available (check the box that applies)

- YES** **NO** The project is located in a 100-year floodplain as mapped by **Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) Panel No: 315, Dated: February 5, 2014.**
- YES** **NO** The project is located in a 500-year floodplain as mapped by FIRM Panel No. , Dated .
- YES** **NO** The project is located in a floodplain as mapped by a FEMA draft/preliminary study. Name Dated .
- YES** **NO** The project is located in a floodplain as mapped by the local community. Name Dated .
- YES** **NO** The project is located in a floodplain as mapped by another Agency (State, Corps, USGS, NRCS, and etc.) Agency, Name Dated .

Flood Hazard data not available

- YES** **NO** The Proposed Action is subject to flooding based on evaluation from soil surveys, aerial photos, site visits and other available data. Evaluation material used in determination:
- YES** **NO** FEMA assumes the Proposed Action is subject to flooding based on previous flooding of the facility/structure.

Wetlands

- YES** **NO** There are wetlands located in the project area.

IF ANY OF THE ANSWERS ARE YES, CONTINUE WITH THE FOLLOWING STEPS; OTHERWISE, REVIEW IS COMPLETE.

STEP NO. 2 Notify the public at the earliest possible time of the intent to carry out an action in a floodplain or wetlands and involve the affected and interested public in the decision-making process.

- Notice was provided as part of a disaster cumulative notice.

Date of Public Notice:

- Project-specific Notice was provided by:
Type of Public Notice:
- Newspaper (name:)
- Post Site (location:)
- Broadcast (station:)
- Direct Mailing (area: Scoping letters mailed to local residents on July 6, 2017, and agencies on August 14, 2017)
- Public Meetings (dates:)
- Other:

STEP NO. 3 Identify and evaluate practicable alternatives to locating the Proposed Action in a floodplain (including alternative sites, actions and the "no action" option). If a practicable alternative exists outside the floodplain, FEMA must locate the action at the alternative site.

Alternative Options

- YES** **NO** Is there a practicable alternative site location outside of the 100-year floodplain?
Alternatives to repairing the road are not available because the road is within the 100-year floodplain
- YES** **NO** For Critical Actions, is there a practicable alternative site location outside of the 500-year floodplain?
Site location:
- YES** **NO** Is there a practicable alternative action outside of the 100-year floodplain that will not affect the floodplain or wetland?
- YES** **NO** Is the NO Action alternative the most practicable alternative?
The No Action Alternative does not meet the purpose and need of providing permanent access to the houses.

IF ANY ANSWER IS YES, THEN FEMA SHALL TAKE THAT ACTION AND THE REVIEW IS CONCLUDED.

STEP NO. 4 Identify the potential direct and indirect impacts associated with the occupancy or modification of floodplains and the potential direct and indirect support of floodplain development that could result from the Proposed Action. 44 CFR Part 9.10

- YES** **NO** Is the Proposed Action based on incomplete information?
- YES** **NO** Is the Proposed Action in compliance with the NFIP?
- YES** **NO** Does the Proposed Action increase the risk of flood loss?
- YES** **NO** Will the Proposed Action result in an increased base discharge or increase the flood hazard potential to other properties or structures?
- YES** **NO** Does the Proposed Action minimize the impact of floods on human health, safety and welfare?
- YES** **NO** Will the Proposed Action induce future growth and development, which will potentially adversely affect the floodplain?
- YES** **NO** Does the Proposed Action involve dredging and/or filling of a floodplain?
- YES** **NO** Will the Proposed Action result in the discharge of pollutants into the floodplain?
- YES** **NO** Does the Proposed Action avoid long- and short-term adverse impacts associated with the occupancy and modification of floodplains?
- YES** **NO** Will the Proposed Action result in any indirect impacts that will affect the natural values and functions of floodplains?
- YES** **NO** Will the Proposed Action forego an opportunity to restore the natural and beneficial values served by floodplains?

- YES NO Does the Proposed Action restore and/or preserve the natural and beneficial values served by floodplains?
- YES NO Will the Proposed Action result in an increase to the useful life of a structure or facility?

STEP NO. 5

Minimize the potential adverse impacts and support to or within floodplains to be identified under Step 4, restore and preserve the natural and beneficial values served by floodplains.

- YES NO Were flood hazard reduction techniques (see technical bulletins) applied to the Proposed Action to minimize the flood impacts?
If No, Identify Flood Hazard Reduction Techniques required as a condition of the grant.
- YES NO Were avoidance and minimization measures applied to the Proposed Action to minimize the short- and-long term impacts on the 100-Year floodplain?
The applicant will include stormwater management during the final design of the road and will limit the amount of impervious area to only what is needed to support the permanent road. In addition, the applicant will coordinate with the Franklin County Floodplain Administrator. Erosion control measures will be implemented.
If no, identify measures required as a condition of the grant.
- YES NO Were measures implemented to restore and preserve the natural and beneficial values of the floodplain?
If no, identify measures required as a condition of the grant:

STEP NO. 6

Reevaluate the Proposed Action to determine first, if it is still practicable in light of its exposure to flood hazards and wetland impacts, the extent to which it will aggravate the hazards to others, and its potential to disrupt floodplain values and second, if alternatives preliminarily rejected at Step 3 are practicable in light of the information gained in Steps 4 and 5. FEMA shall not act in a floodplain unless it is the only practicable location.

- YES NO The action is still practicable at a floodplain site in light of the exposure to flood risk and ensuing disruption of natural values.
- YES NO The floodplain site is the only practicable alternative.
- YES NO There is no potential for limiting the action to increase the practicability of previously rejected non-floodplain sites and alternative actions.
- YES NO Minimization of harm to or within the floodplain can be achieved using all practicable means.
- YES NO The action in a floodplain clearly outweighs the requirement of EO 11988/11990.
-

STEP NO. 7 Prepare and provide the public with a finding and public explanation of any final decision that the floodplain is the only practicable alternative.

- Final Notice was provided as part of the floodplain notice. See EO 11988 checklist.
- Notice will be provided as part of a disaster cumulative notice.
- Project-specific Notice was provided by:
Type of Public Notice:
 - Newspaper, (name: *Apalachicola Times and Tallahassee Democrat*)
 - Post Site, (location: Public Notice signs posted at each end of the temporary section of Alligator Drive, near the temporary traffic lights.)
 - Broadcast, (station:)
 - Direct Mailing, (area:)
 - Public Meeting, (dates:)
 - Other:

Date of Public Notice: November 9, 2017

After providing the final notice, FEMA shall, without good cause shown, wait at least 30 days before carrying out the Proposed Action.

STEP NO. 8 Review the implementation and post-implementation phases of the Proposed Action to ensure that the requirements stated in Section 9.11 are fully implemented. Oversight responsibility shall be integrated into existing processes.

- YES** **NO** Was Grant conditioned on review of implementation and post-implementation phases to ensure compliance of EO 11988-11990? Coordination with the Franklin County Floodplain Administrator will be completed.

Appendix D
Sea Turtle and Manatee Protection Measures



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
Southeast Regional Office
263 13th Avenue South
St. Petersburg, FL 33701

SEA TURTLE AND SMALLTOOTH SAWFISH CONSTRUCTION CONDITIONS

The permittee shall comply with the following protected species construction conditions:

- a. The permittee shall instruct all personnel associated with the project of the potential presence of these species and the need to avoid collisions with sea turtles and smalltooth sawfish. All construction personnel are responsible for observing water-related activities for the presence of these species.
- b. The permittee shall advise all construction personnel that there are civil and criminal penalties for harming, harassing, or killing sea turtles or smalltooth sawfish, which are protected under the Endangered Species Act of 1973.
- c. Siltation barriers shall be made of material in which a sea turtle or smalltooth sawfish cannot become entangled, be properly secured, and be regularly monitored to avoid protected species entrapment. Barriers may not block sea turtle or smalltooth sawfish entry to or exit from designated critical habitat without prior agreement from the National Marine Fisheries Service's Protected Resources Division, St. Petersburg, Florida.
- d. All vessels associated with the construction project shall operate at "no wake/idle" speeds at all times while in the construction area and while in water depths where the draft of the vessel provides less than a four-foot clearance from the bottom. All vessels will preferentially follow deep-water routes (e.g., marked channels) whenever possible.
- e. If a sea turtle or smalltooth sawfish is seen within 100 yards of the active daily construction/dredging operation or vessel movement, all appropriate precautions shall be implemented to ensure its protection. These precautions shall include cessation of operation of any moving equipment closer than 50 feet of a sea turtle or smalltooth sawfish. Operation of any mechanical construction equipment shall cease immediately if a sea turtle or smalltooth sawfish is seen within a 50-ft radius of the equipment. Activities may not resume until the protected species has departed the project area of its own volition.
- f. Any collision with and/or injury to a sea turtle or smalltooth sawfish shall be reported immediately to the National Marine Fisheries Service's Protected Resources Division (727-824-5312) and the local authorized sea turtle stranding/rescue organization.
- g. Any special construction conditions, required of your specific project, outside these general conditions, if applicable, will be addressed in the primary consultation.

Revised: March 23, 2006



STANDARD MANATEE CONDITIONS FOR IN-WATER WORK

2011

The permittee shall comply with the following conditions intended to protect manatees from direct project effects:

- a. All personnel associated with the project shall be instructed about the presence of manatees and manatee speed zones, and the need to avoid collisions with and injury to manatees. The permittee shall advise all construction personnel that there are civil and criminal penalties for harming, harassing, or killing manatees which are protected under the Marine Mammal Protection Act, the Endangered Species Act, and the Florida Manatee Sanctuary Act.
- b. All vessels associated with the construction project shall operate at "Idle Speed/No Wake" at all times while in the immediate area and while in water where the draft of the vessel provides less than a four-foot clearance from the bottom. All vessels will follow routes of deep water whenever possible.
- c. Siltation or turbidity barriers shall be made of material in which manatees cannot become entangled, shall be properly secured, and shall be regularly monitored to avoid manatee entanglement or entrapment. Barriers must not impede manatee movement.
- d. All on-site project personnel are responsible for observing water-related activities for the presence of manatee(s). All in-water operations, including vessels, must be shutdown if a manatee(s) comes within 50 feet of the operation. Activities will not resume until the manatee(s) has moved beyond the 50-foot radius of the project operation, or until 30 minutes elapses if the manatee(s) has not reappeared within 50 feet of the operation. Animals must not be herded away or harassed into leaving.
- e. Any collision with or injury to a manatee shall be reported immediately to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) Hotline at 1-888-404-3922. Collision and/or injury should also be reported to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Jacksonville (1-904-731-3336) for north Florida or Vero Beach (1-772-562-3909) for south Florida, and to FWC at ImperiledSpecies@myFWC.com
- f. Temporary signs concerning manatees shall be posted prior to and during all in-water project activities. All signs are to be removed by the permittee upon completion of the project. Temporary signs that have already been approved for this use by the FWC must be used. One sign which reads *Caution: Boaters* must be posted. A second sign measuring at least 8 ½" by 11" explaining the requirements for "Idle Speed/No Wake" and the shut down of in-water operations must be posted in a location prominently visible to all personnel engaged in water-related activities. These signs can be viewed at MyFWC.com/manatee. Questions concerning these signs can be sent to the email address listed above.

Appendix E
Public Notice

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice of Availability of the Draft Environmental Assessment and Draft Finding of No Significant Impact for the Proposed Repairs of Alligator Drive Franklin County, Florida (PA-04-FL-4280-PW-00228)

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) hereby notifies interested parties of the proposed repair of Alligator Drive in Franklin County, Florida. FEMA is considering providing funds to Franklin County for eligible costs to provide permanent access to the homes affected by Hurricane Hermine. In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act, FEMA has prepared a draft Environmental Assessment (EA) and draft Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the Proposed Action. The draft EA describes the Proposed Action and alternatives considered, analyzes the potential environmental impacts of alternatives, and identifies the environmental protection measures that would be implemented and required permits that would be obtained. Two alternatives were considered in the EA: Alternative 1: repair Alligator Drive to pre-disaster conditions and Alternative 2: repair Alligator Drive with hazard mitigation protection (Preferred Alternative). FEMA has determined that the Preferred Alternative would not have a significant impact on the natural or human environment either by itself or considering cumulative impacts. FEMA requests comments from the public so that issues and concerns of local residents are considered and addressed before implementing the Proposed Action. Hard copies of the draft EA and draft FONSI are available for review at the following locations:

Franklin County Public Library
Carrabelle Branch
311 St. James Avenue
Carrabelle, FL 32322
(850) 697-2366

Franklin County Planning and Building Department
34 Forbes Street, Suite 1
Apalachicola, FL 32320
(850) 653-9783

The draft EA and draft FONSI are also available on the FEMA and Franklin County websites:

FEMA website: <https://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/149513>

County website: <http://www.franklincountyflorida.com/category/county-news/>

You may provide your comments on the documents by mailing or emailing them to the following address:

Dr. Stephanie Madson, Regional Environmental Officer
DHS/Federal Emergency Management Agency, Region 4
3003 Chamblee-Tucker Road, Hollins Building
Atlanta, GA 30341
Email: FEMA-R4ehp@fema.dhs.gov

Comments must be received by December 8, 2017. If no substantive comments are received following agency and public review, the draft EA will be considered the final EA and no additional information or modifications will be incorporated. We look forward to your input.

Appendix F
Grant Conditions

Public Assistance Grant Project
PA-04-FL-4280-PW-00228
Grant Conditions

The following mitigation, environmental protection measures, and required permits will be incorporated into the grant issued to Franklin County.

Compensatory mitigation is likely to be required only for Alternative 2, which includes construction of a revetment.

The environmental protection measures that would be implemented and the required permits that would be obtained for the Proposed Action alternatives are summarized below; details are included in the Environmental Assessment. If the measure would apply only to Alternatives 1 or 2, the respective alternative is specified in the measure.

- Generated fugitive dust would be controlled using standard construction best management practices, including watering of exposed surfaces and enclosing/covering stockpiled material.
- All construction and demolition activities would be conducted during daylight hours.
- Appropriate best management practices and engineering controls would be implemented during construction to prevent and minimize soil erosion and sedimentation, per the Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan that would be prepared and implemented.
- Under Alternative 2, a federal Section 404/Section 10 permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers would be obtained.
- An Environmental Resource Permit from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection would be obtained.
- A Coastal Construction Control Line Permit from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection would be obtained.
- A National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System stormwater construction permit from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection would be obtained, and an associated Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan would be prepared and implemented (Alternative 2 and possibly Alternative 1).
- Coordination with the Franklin County Floodplain Administrator, Amy Kelly, must occur.
- Under Alternative 2, if construction during sea turtle nesting season (May 1 through October 30), cannot be avoided, a qualified biologist would survey the suitable sea turtle nesting habitat within the project area every morning prior to initiation of construction activities. If sea turtles or sea turtle nests are sighted by the biologist in the construction area, no work would occur and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service would be immediately consulted.

- Under Alternative 2, standard sea turtle and manatee conditions (protection measures) for in-water work would be implemented during construction.
- Under Alternative 1, if construction during sea turtle nesting season cannot be avoided, the following protection measures would be implemented:
 - Equipment staging areas would not be located on the beach.
 - Construction activity, including vehicle operation, equipment use, and foot traffic, would not occur on the beach.
 - To prevent potential disorientation of sea turtle hatchlings, the portion of the project area in the vicinity of the beach would not be artificially illuminated during nighttime. If artificial lighting must be used to secure construction and staging areas at nighttime, only lighting approved by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission for the protection of sea turtles would be used.
- Specified measures to protect human remains or intact archaeological deposits that are unexpectedly discovered during ground-disturbing activities would be implemented. The following statement would be included in the Engineering Plans: Applicant will monitor ground disturbance and, if any potential cultural resources are discovered, will immediately cease construction in that area and notify the state and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The State Division of Historic Resources contact number is (850) 245-6333. The FEMA Environmental Planning and Historic Preservation compliance point of contact is Eric Thurston at (404) 536-4114.
- Handling, storage, and disposal of hazardous materials and wastes during construction activities, including measures to prevent releases, would be conducted in accordance with all applicable environmental compliance regulations.
- Under Alternatives 1 or 2, non-hazardous solid waste generated would be disposed of at an offsite landfill or recycled/reused as appropriate.
- Utilities in the area would be located before construction and the County would coordinate construction activities with utility companies. If planned outages are necessary, utility customers would be given advance notice.
- To minimize occupational health and safety risks, workers would wear and use appropriate personal protective equipment and follow applicable Occupational Safety and Health Administration standards and procedures.
- A health and safety plan would be developed and implemented.
- Work areas would be clearly marked with appropriate signage and secured against unauthorized entry. Standard construction traffic control measures would be used to protect workers, residents, and the travelling public.