



Jeb Bush
Governor

Department of Environmental Protection

Marjory Stoneman Douglas Building
3900 Commonwealth Boulevard
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-3000

Colleen M. Castille
Secretary

January 10, 2006

Mr. Charles Risinger, Mayor
City of Mexico Beach
Post Office Box 13425
Mexico Beach, Florida 32410

SUBJECT: Mexico Beach Inlet Management Plan Implementation

Dear Mayor Risinger:

The Bureau of Beaches and Coastal Systems (Bureau) has received your December 2005 letter regarding implementation of the Mexico Beach Inlet Management Plan (IMP). The letter included a request for the Bureau to cost-share in the purchase of a floating dredge rather than the mobile bypassing system included in the FY 2006/07 City's Local Government Funding Request.

The 1999 *Inlet Management Plan for the Mexico Beach Inlet* (IMP) prepared by Taylor Engineering recommended continued bypassing of sand from the canal and updrift (west) beach. The *Mexico Beach Inlet Preliminary Design Assessment for Sand Bypassing Alternatives* prepared by Preble-Rish, Inc. in February 2004 determined construction of a mobile sand bypassing system was the preferred alternative for channel maintenance and bypassing of sand from the canal and updrift fillet. Bypassing material from the fillet to the west of the canal is also contained in the Statewide Strategic Beach Management Plan.

The Bureau is concerned the floating dredge will be unable to access the updrift beach and will be suited only for dredging within the canal, thus reducing the amount of sand which can be bypassed. The Bureau is committed to cost-share aspects of the project which maximize the bypassing of sand past the canal from the updrift to the downdrift beaches. Therefore, we cannot participate in the purchase of the floating dredge, used primarily for navigation purposes, but will cost share the construction of the mobile sand bypassing system when the appropriate permits and bids for construction have been obtained by the City.

The Bureau has received the scope of work dated January 4, 2005 from Preble-Rish for final design of the east jetty improvements and sand-tightening of the west jetty. The scope of work is currently under review by Bureau staff. Sand tightening of the west jetty is a new aspect of the project which will require review by our coastal engineering and permitting sections. The Bureau currently has funds budgeted for engineering services related to the final design of the project. These funds will be provided to the City on a 50% cost-share basis.

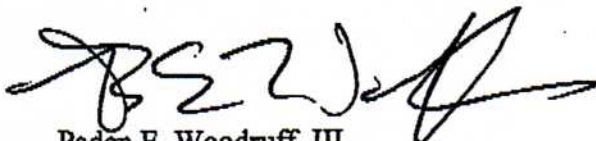
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We would be happy to meet with you to discuss these issues. Please contact Phil Ciaravella, project manger for your area if you have any questions regarding this information.

Sincerely,



Paden E. Woodruff, III
Environmental Administrator
Bureau of Beaches and Coastal Systems

cc: Mr. Chris Forehand, P.E. - Preble-Rish, Inc.
