

**Federal Emergency Management Agency**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**Notice of Availability of the Draft Statewide Programmatic Environmental Assessment (DSPEA)  
Beach Restoration Projects  
FEMA-4393/4465/4568-DR-NC**

In accordance with the *National Environmental Policy Act* (NEPA) of 1969, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has prepared a Draft Programmatic Environmental Assessment (DSPEA) for the proposed beach restoration projects for Dare County and the Towns of North Topsail Beach, Nags Head, Kill Devil Hills, Duck, and Topsail Beach.

The DSPEA has been prepared in accordance with all requirements of NEPA, in which all federal actions must be reviewed and evaluated for feasible alternatives and for social, economic, historic, environmental, legal, and safety considerations. Under Executive Order (EO) 11988 (“Floodplain Management”) and EO 11990 (“Protection of Wetlands”), FEMA is required to consider alternatives, and to provide a public notice of any proposed actions in or affecting floodplains or wetlands. EO 12898 also requires FEMA to provide the opportunity for public participation in the planning process and to consider potential impacts to minority and low-income populations. The DSPEA summarizes the purpose and need, alternatives, affected environment, and potential environmental consequences of the proposed action. The DSPEA is available for review and comment and can be viewed on and/or downloaded from FEMA’s website at <https://www.fema.gov/emergency-managers/practitioners/environmental-historic/region/4>.

Funding for the proposed project will be conditional upon compliance with all applicable federal, tribal, state, and local laws, regulations, floodplain standards, permit requirements and conditions.

**Sub-Applicants:** Dare County, Town of North Topsail Beach, Town of Kill Devil Hills, Town of Nags Head, Town of Duck, Town of Topsail Beach

**Project Titles:** FEMA-DR-4393-NC PW 00726 PN 68036 – Beach Renourishment (Dare County)  
FEMA-DR-4393-NC PW 01615 PN 68326 – Restoration of Beaches (North Topsail Beach)  
FEMA-DR-4465-NC PW 00349 PN 118441 – Beach Renourishment (Dare County)  
FEMA-DR-4465-NC PW 00450 PN 119262 – Kill Devil Hills Beach/ Nourishment/ Fence  
FEMA-DR-4465-NC PW 00396 PN 119349 – Nags Head Beach Re-nourishment, fence and plants  
FEMA-DR-4465-NC PW 00437 PN 119715 – Public Beaches and Dune (Duck)  
FEMA-DR-4465-NC PW 00086 PN 120730 – Beach – Sand Replacement (Topsail Beach)  
FEMA-DR-4465-NC PW 00423 PN 135968 – North Topsail Beach Re-nourishment  
FEMA-DR-4568-NC PW XXXXX PN 158908 – Engineered Beach Sand Erosion (Topsail Beach)

**Location of Proposed Work:**

Applicant	Start GPS	End GPS
Dare County	35.2980, - 75.5125	35.2560, - 75.5204
Town of North Topsail Beach, Onslow County	34.4739, -77.4587	34.4458, -77.5103

Town of Kill Devil Hills, Dare County	36.1074, -75.7159	36.0549, -75.6827
Town of Nags Head, Dare County	35.9801, -75.6355	35.8468, -75.5636
Town of Duck, Dare County	36.2080, -75.7627	36.1863, -75.7527
Town of Topsail Beach, Pender County	34.3932, -77.5928	34.3485, -77.6484

**Special Flood Hazard Area Zone:** These projects are for the placement of compatible sand sourced from either commercial upland sources or by offshore dredging, along the Applicant's shoreline to restore their engineered beach to pre-disaster design and condition. All work is located in a VE zone, or 1% Annual Chance Flood Hazard with additional hazards due to storm-induced velocity wave action. Confirmation of location in a Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA) was determined by the respective County's Flood Insurance Rate Maps. The actions are functionally dependent on their location within the floodplain and proximity to water, as well as facilitates open space use. The proposed work conforms to all applicable State of North Carolina and local floodplain regulations. The proposed work will take place in wetlands per the United States Fish and Wildlife Service National Wetlands Inventory but will have little negative impact on wetland values.

**Proposed Work and Purpose:**

The Applicants are requesting funds to place compatible sand within their engineered beach templates to restore their beaches to pre-disaster design and condition which will protect improved property. Further purpose for these actions is to provide habitat to multiple threatened and endangered species and provide a quality beach which supports the tourism industry of coastal North Carolina.

**Project Alternatives:**

**Alternative #1** (no action alternative): If no action is taken to repair this facility, the beaches would not be restored to pre-disaster conditions which would adversely impact social and economic resources for the community by leaving improved property unprotected and the quality of the beach left diminished.

**Alternative #2** (restoration of beaches): Contracts will be utilized to place compatible sand sourced from either commercial upland sources or by offshore dredging, to be placed within Applicant's engineered beach template to restore the area to pre-disaster design and condition.

**Comment Period:**

Comments are solicited from the public; local, state or federal agencies, and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of the proposed project. The comment period will conclude 30 days after the initial publication of this Public Notice on February 19, 2021. If no substantive comments are received, the DSPEA and associated Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) will become final. Substantive comments received will be addressed as appropriate in the final documents. The comments should be made in writing and addressed to:

FEMA Region 4  
3005 Chamblee-Tucker Road  
Atlanta, Georgia, 30341

Alternatively, comments may be emailed to: [FEMA-R4EHP@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:FEMA-R4EHP@fema.dhs.gov). Please send comments with the subject line [DR-4393-NC RESTORATION SPEA COMMENT].