

# 2012 Sand Key Nourishment Project

## Project Overview

- Project Type – Beach Fill (~1,250,000 cubic yards)
- Type of Dredge – Hydraulic Cutter Suction Dredge (24” cutterhead)
- Construction Cost - \$31,539,350
- Construction Administration – U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps)
- Construction Contractor – Norfolk Dredging Company
- Current Status – design complete; notice-to-proceed expected March 2012
- Proposed Completion – between August & October 2012

## Construction Activity

*Note: - Corps issued Notice-to-Proceed to Norfolk Dredging on March 20, 2012.*

- Preliminary offshore and staging area work done March 20 – May 3.*
- Corps notified FDEP construction activity to begin May 3.*
- After some preliminary beach pumping on May 15<sup>th</sup>, effective sand placement operations on northern Sand Key began May 16<sup>th</sup>.*
- Work ceased June 22<sup>nd</sup> to June 26<sup>th</sup> due to Tropical Storm Debby.*
- Sand placement on Indian Rocks Beach began August 2<sup>nd</sup>.*
- Work ceased August 19<sup>th</sup> to September 3<sup>rd</sup> primarily due to TS/Hurricane Isaac that passed well west of Pinellas County.*
- Due to weather and equipment repairs, pumping stopped from September 7 through 12 and September 18 through 22.*
- Sand placement on the north end of Indian Shores began October 4<sup>th</sup>.*
- Project completed November 20, 2012.*

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**November 20, 2012** – Project completed.

**October 29, 2012** – The project remains shut down near 186<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Norfolk Dredging does not expect to resume work until at least Saturday, November 3<sup>rd</sup> due to persistent windy conditions from the west predicted through the next several days.

**October 26, 2012** – The project still shut down near 186<sup>th</sup> Avenue in Indian Shores. Due to persistent high winds forecast through mid next week, the project is not expected to resume until October 31 or November 1 next week. As of October 24<sup>th</sup>, 1,459,920 cubic yards of sand has been pumped to the beaches of Sand Key.

**October 24, 2012** – By October 17<sup>th</sup>, 1,367,769 cubic yards of sand had been pumped to Sand Key beaches. As of October 24<sup>th</sup>, the active project is near 186<sup>th</sup> Avenue close to the southern end of Indian Shores. Work will stop and equipment will be demobilized this afternoon (October

24<sup>th</sup>) due to high winds predicted over the next few days. Based on the current weather forecast, Norfolk dredging expects to be pumping again and moving south by October 29<sup>th</sup>.

**October 8, 2012** – By October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1,178,165 cubic yards of sand had been pumped to Sand Key with the project at Whitehurst Avenue at the very southern border of Indian Rocks Beach. Due to weather and the need for some mechanical repairs, pumping stopped early October 1<sup>st</sup> and resumed about 3 p.m. October 4<sup>th</sup>. As of October 6<sup>th</sup> the project was moving south along the northern section of Indian Shores.

**September 24, 2012** – Due to weather and mechanical issues Norfolk Dredging was not pumping sand to the beach August 20 through September 2, September 7 through 12, and September 18 through 22. Pumping resumed late September 23<sup>rd</sup> at 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue along Indian Rocks Beach. By September 17<sup>th</sup> 1,072,665 cubic yards of sand have been pumped to Sand Key from 370 scows (barges) full of sand. The Corps estimates about 350,000 cubic yards of additional sand is needed to complete the project. On August 29<sup>th</sup>, 2012 the Corps requested a permit modification from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) to permit the Egmont East Borrow site for use if the existing Area L Borrow site capacity is not sufficient to finish the project. Area L is located about 12 miles west of Clearwater Pass. The Egmont East Borrow site is located just north of Egmont Key on the north side of the shipping channel. The permit modification is under evaluation by FDEP. The project schedule currently shows completion between mid to late November 2012.

**September 4, 2012** – Norfolk Dredging resumed pumping sand about 5 pm on Sept. 3 at 900 Gulf Blvd. along Indian Rocks Beach. Norfolk Dredging has also modified their beach fill route to continue moving south from 900 Gulf Blvd. to 614 Gulf Blvd., and instead of stopping and moving to 42-48 Gulf Blvd. and proceeding northward (the original plan), the new plan is to keep moving south from 900 Gulf Blvd. all the way to 19930 Gulf Blvd. along Indian Shores (the south end of Segment 4). The current schedule is posted on the Sand Key Webpage under “Schedule by Location.”

**August 22, 2012** – Due to recent thunderstorms and the threat of Tropical Storm Isaac, the project was shut down at about R78 (~900 Gulf Blvd) August 19<sup>th</sup> and is not expected to resume until at least August 29<sup>th</sup> or longer if Isaac impacts the area. The Unloader (pumping vessel normally located about 1 mile offshore) and all dredging equipment have been moved to Clearwater Pass. It is possible the dredge may temporally return to the borrow area within a couple of days to load scows (barges) with sand to serve as ballast for the storm. As of today, 971,316 cubic yards of sand have been pumped to Sand Key using 335 scow loads.

**August 13, 2012** – Sand placement at 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue on Indian Rocks Beach began August 2<sup>nd</sup>. The final grading was being completed on Belleair Beach August 3<sup>rd</sup>. A very narrow dry beach along Indian Rocks Beach resulted from Tropical Storm Debby in late June. Due to the narrow beach and public safety concerns, the contractor expects 3-4 consecutive beach access points on Indian Rocks Beach will be closed at any given time. The north portion of Indian Rocks Beach (15<sup>th</sup> Avenue to 26<sup>th</sup> Avenue) is expected to be done by about August 17<sup>th</sup> with the active project area moving northward about 300-400 feet per day. Once the beach is nourished at 26<sup>th</sup> Avenue, the pumping activity will move back to 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue and proceed south. About 1000 feet of Indian Rocks Beach will be closed off to the public around the active work area. As of August 8<sup>th</sup>, 814,000 cubic yards of sand had been pumped to the Sand Key beaches from 278 scows (barges) of material transported from the borrow area site.

**July 16, 2012** - The project is proceeding well and moving south rapidly along Belleair Beach from the Morgan Street Park shoreline area. Norfolk Dredging is expected to complete the Belleair Beach shoreline in about a week or so and then move on to Indian Rocks Beach with initial sand placement at about 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue. The project will then proceed north to the north end of Indian Rocks Beach during late July and early August. Please note that bad weather and equipment problems could alter the schedule. No word yet as to whether Federal Emergency funds will be available to replace sand lost along the Pinellas beaches from tropical storm Debby.

**June 29, 2012** – Norfolk Dredging ceased operations on June 22<sup>nd</sup> due to rough seas and the onset of rough sea conditions. On the morning of June 28<sup>th</sup> Norfolk Dredging began remobilizing for dredging and pumping to the beach and by that evening were placing sand near Dan's Island (1660 Gulf Blvd.) and moving southward. On June 29<sup>th</sup> the Corps' storm damage assessment team arrived at Sand Key to begin their evaluation of beach erosion in the wake of Tropical Storm Debby.

**June 1, 2012** – Due to rough weather and some equipment concerns on June 1, the dredge Charleston was moved from the borrow area to Clearwater Pass. The active project along the beach is located at about 1520 Gulf Blvd. (R-59). The dredge is expected to resume work at the borrow area by June 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> depending upon weather.

**May 18, 2012** – The initial pumping of sand to the beach at R-60.25 (1660 Gulf Blvd) began late afternoon on May 15. An electrical problem and a clogged pipe were encountered the first couple of days. Steady pumping should resume today and the active work area is expected to begin building the beach moving northward from 1660 Gulf Blvd. within the next couple of days.

**May 1, 2012** – The Corps notified FDEP as required per permit General Condition 10 that construction activity would officially commence on May 3, 2012.

**April 30, 2012** – The Corps has revised their estimate to May 12-14 for when the first sand placement will occur on northern Sand Key.

**April 13, 2012** – The Corps granted a 14-day extension to the project schedule. Norfolk Dredging Company's dredge is late completing work on the east coast of Florida. Consequently, the dredge will be arriving to the Sand Key area later than originally planned. The Corps released a revised schedule this week showing first sand placement on northern Sand Key to occur May 7, 2012.

**March 20, 2012** – The Notice-to-Proceed was issued by the Corps to Norfolk Dredging on March 20, 2012. Norfolk Dredging has 30 days to provide a revised project schedule. Work over the next few weeks will be at the Sand Key staging area adjacent to Clearwater Pass Channel, along the pipe corridors extending from the shoreline to about a mile or so offshore at five locations along the length of Sand Key, and at the borrow area located about 12 miles west of Sand Key Park. At this time, it is anticipated that the first sand placement will begin in late April or early May (subject to change) along the northern edge of the north tower of Dan's Island located at 1620 Gulf Blvd.

## **Preconstruction Status Reports**

**March 8, 2012** – A Public meeting was held at 6:30 p.m. at the Belleair Beach Community Center. A project overview and construction details including the proposed schedule was presented by County and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers staff. The notice-to-proceed was been delayed and is expected to be issued any day.

**February 24, 2012** – A preconstruction conference was held February 23, 2012 with the dredging contractor, the Army Corps of Engineers, Pinellas County, and regulatory agencies. Project updates from the meeting are summarized below.

- Contract period 220 days (March to October 2012)
- Main Staging Area – Sand Key Park along Clearwater Pass
- Preliminary project schedule (subject to change):
  - a. March-April 2012: Survey and Mobilization
  - b. Project Components (base bid & all options to be constructed)
    - i. Base Bid: Clearwater and Belleair Beach (1310 Gulf Blvd to 1900 Gulf Blvd)
    - ii. Option A: Indian Rocks Beach (2718 Gulf Blvd to 312 Gulf Blvd)
    - iii. Option B: Indian Shores Beach (312 Gulf Blvd to 17980 Gulf Blvd)
    - iv. Option C: Redington Shores & North Redington Beaches (17980 Gulf Blvd to 16850 Gulf Blvd)
  - c. Initial Sand Placement – to begin late April or early May on northern Sand Key (Base Bid Section)
  - d. Estimated Project Duration and Fill Volumes (cubic yards) by Beach Component:
    - i. Base Bid: 80-100 days (700,000 cy)
    - ii. Option A: 30-40 days (245,000 cy)
    - iii. Option B: 30-40 days (121,000 cy)
    - iv. Option C: 10-15 days (60,000 cy)

**February 16, 2012** – The project is on schedule and will officially begin March 1, 2012. **A public meeting will be held at 6:30 p.m., March 8, 2012 at the Belleair Beach Community Center located at 444 Causeway Blvd., Belleair Beach, FL 33786.** Construction related activity on the northern portions of Sand Key is expected during the first two weeks of March. Placement of new sand on the Sand Key beaches in Clearwater should begin later in March or early April.

**October 17, 2011** – The project notice-to-proceed (NTP) is expected to be issued March 1, 2012. The construction contractor will start work within 30 days of NTP.

**September 20, 2011** – The project Notice of Award to Norfolk Dredging Company occurred September 9, 2011 (Contract No. W912EP-11-C-0017) for a project cost of \$31,539,350. The Corps expects to receive a project schedule within the next week or two. At this time, the project start date and schedule are not known. The estimated project duration is not-to-exceed 220 days and could begin as soon as November 2011 or as late as April 2012.

**August 24, 2011** – The Bids for the project were opened August 12, 2011. The apparent low bidder is Norfolk Dredging which has a great deal of experience working Pinellas County beaches. The bid amount for the project in its entirety is \$31,539,350 and is within available funding. Consequently it is anticipated that the Base Bid and all Options will be constructed by August 2012 (see additional information in the July 11, 2011 summary below). Project award is expected no later than September 30, 2011. Until the project is awarded and the construction

contractor submits a project schedule, the project start date will not be known. The estimated project duration is 220 days and could begin as soon as early November 2011 or as late as April 2012.

**July 11, 2011** – The Bid Solicitation was advertised today. Project start slated for April 2012; however, the Corps is considering moving the potential start date to November 2011. Project duration is 181 days after Notice to Proceed.

The project bid items include:

- Base Bid: Clearwater and Belleair Belleair Beach (about 1310 Gulf Blvd to 1900 Gulf Blvd)
- Option A: Indian Rocks Beach (about 2718 Gulf Blvd to 312 Gulf Blvd)
- Option B: Indian Shores Beach (about 312 Gulf Blvd to 17980 Gulf Blvd)
- Option C: Redington Shores & North Redington Beaches (about 17980 Gulf Blvd to 16850 Gulf Blvd)

Assuming the project award amount does not exceed available funding, the entire project (Base Bid plus all options) is expected to be completed in 2012 and will nourish the same shoreline as was completed in the previous 2005-2006 Sand Key project.

The Bid Solicitation can be viewed at:

<https://www.fbo.gov/index?s=opportunity&mode=form&tab=core&id=4983de2cc1084c838fb4ae654a3ae37a&cview=0>

**July 6, 2011** – The State permit for the Sand Key nourishment project was issued today. The permit can be viewed at the following link:

[http://bcs.dep.state.fl.us/env-prmt/pinellas/issued/0238664\\_Sand\\_Key/001-JC%20and%20002-BV/Final%20Orders/](http://bcs.dep.state.fl.us/env-prmt/pinellas/issued/0238664_Sand_Key/001-JC%20and%20002-BV/Final%20Orders/)

**June 23, 2011** - The Corps expects the final State permit for the project to be issued in June 2011, award to a construction contractor on Sept. 30, 2011, **construction notice-to-proceed after October 2011, and project completion by August 2012.**

The project fill area as currently proposed will be essentially the same as in the previous 2005-2006 project:

- e. R56 (1310 Gulf Blvd in Clearwater) to R66 (1900 Gulf Blvd in Belleair Beach),
- f. Note: Belleair Shore does not participate in nourishment; their shoreline will not receive sand,
- g. R71A (2718 Gulf Blvd in Indian Rocks Beach) to R107 (16850 Gulf Blvd in N. Redington Beach).

Assuming the project cost estimates do not exceed the available funding, the work will not be phased and will be done as one project.

**May 2011** - the Corps announced they have enough Fiscal Year 2011 funding, combined with previous year carryover funds, to provide the needed federal cost share for the entire Sand Key nourishment project from Clearwater to North Redington Beach.

**April 14, 2011** - The permit was deemed complete on April 14, 2011 by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP). The issues on hardbottom monitoring and allowable silt content have been resolved. The permit is expected to be issued within 90 days (by mid July).

**March-April 2011** - The Corps' latest permit submittal to the State (FDEP) includes a phased approach. The shoreline reaches filled will depend upon available funding. A two-phased approach is anticipated as only about one-half the Federal funds needed for a complete project are available.

**July 2010 to April 2011** - Federal funds available inadequate to nourish the entire Sand Key project area.

**June 2010** - the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) requested \$13 million of emergency funds from their headquarters to expedite the Sand Key nourishment project. These emergency funds were not granted.

**Spring 2010** - the County requested an additional \$11.3 million in Federal Funds for FY 2011 to cover the 60% share of the anticipated total project cost of \$35 million. These funds were not received.

**2010** - \$10,657,000 of federal funds were appropriated for the next Sand Key nourishment project.