

DRAFT

VILLAGE OF KEY BISCAIYNE LETTERHEAD

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Jacksonville District
Attention: District Project Manager (CESAJ- PPMD)
701 San Marco Blvd.
Jacksonville, Florida 32207

RE: Mitigation of Shore Damage Attributable to Federal Navigation Work - Section 111 of the 1968 River and Harbor Act – Village of Key Biscayne, Florida Letter of Application

Dear Sir/Madame:

In accordance with the provisions of Section 111 of the River and Harbor Act of 1968, as amended, which authorizes the Federal government to initiate investigations and studies in the interest of mitigation of shore damage attributable to Federal Navigation work, the Village of Key Biscayne, Florida (Village) hereby makes formal application for a study of beach management along the shoreline of the Village.

The shoreline along Key Biscayne has been influenced by the coastal inlet at Government Cut that was constructed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) in 1904. The inlet acts as a barrier to littoral drift, thereby impacting downdrift beaches to the south including Fisher Island, Virginia Key and Key Biscayne. This influence is documented in several studies that have been completed since the 1960's. The following is a list of representative published studies, and selected pages are enclosed with this letter.

Attachment A – Beach Erosion Control Report on Cooperative Study of Virginia and Biscayne Keys, Florida (1962). Recommended beach nourishment for Key Biscayne along 1.9 miles of shoreline, and Government Cut is referenced as a barrier to littoral drift.

Attachment B – General and Detail Memorandum Virginia Key and Key Biscayne, Florida, Beach Erosion Control (1968). Document provides engineering recommendations for the first beach nourishment constructed by the Corps in 1969.

Attachment C -Section 103 Detailed Project Report and Environmental Impact Statement for Key Biscayne, Florida (1984). The document also references Government Cut as a littoral barrier, and the shoreline erosion is documented with substantial recession since 1919. This document was the basis for the 1987 beach nourishment project constructed by the Corps.

Attachment D – Coastal Engineering Report Dade County Regional Sediment Budget (1997). Report summarizes sand losses from Government Cut and presents maintenance dredging records from 1923-1990. The document includes a graphic with the sediment budget in Miami Dade County from 1980-1996.

Attachment E – Long Range Beach Nourishment Plan for Village of Key Biscayne (1997). Report presents basis of design for beach nourishment that was constructed in 2002, along with strategy for ongoing maintenance of the beach over a 50-year period.

Attachment F – Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) Strategic Beach Management Plan for the Southeast Atlantic Coast Region (2015) The inlet channel and jetties act as a barrier to littoral sand transport to the downdrift beaches south of the inlet by trapping sand in the channel or deflecting it offshore. Net southerly littoral drift arriving at Government Cut has been estimated to range from 24,000 cy per year to 49,000 cy per year.

Place all beach compatible sand on downdrift beaches

References 2.5 miles of critically eroded beaches in Key Biscayne

Reference strategy to minimize impacts from improvements to PortMiami

Attachment G – Summary of Beach Management Projects for Fisher Island, Virginia Key, and Key Biscayne (compiled for the Village in 2018).

The above-referenced documents will provide background for the requested investigation. The investigation will be conducted in one planning phase; the feasibility phase, which would initially be funded by the Corps of Engineers. However, should the total cost of this planning phase exceed \$100,000, the Village can provide 50% of the cost above the initial \$100,000. Should the project proceed to construction, the Village can provide the following local cooperation and participation.

1. Provide without cost to the United States all lands, easements, rights-of-way, and utility and facility alterations and relocations required for construction of the project.
2. Hold and save the Government free from damages due to the construction, operation, and maintenance of the project, except damages due to the fault or negligence of the Government or its contractors.
3. Operate, maintain and rehabilitate the project upon completion without cost to the Government, in accordance with regulations and directives prescribed by the Secretary of the Army.
4. Contribute a cost for implementing the mitigation measure in the same proportion as the cost for the project causing the shore damage.

If you need additional information, please contact: Colleen/Spencer/Jim

Sincerely,

John Gilbert
Village Manager

Enclosures

Cc: Mayor

Council?

Jim

Colleen

Spencer

Tim