



**STATE OF MISSISSIPPI
TATE REEVES
GOVERNOR
MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY**

May 21, 2020

Mr. Scotty Adams
Hancock County Board of Supervisors
854 Highway 90, Suite A
Bay St. Louis, Mississippi 39521

Dear Mr. Adams:

Re: Hancock County Board of
Supervisors, Beach
Renourishment
Hancock County
COE No. SAM201000115TMZ
WQC No. WQC2020009

Pursuant to Section 401 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U. S. C. 1251, 1341), the Office of Pollution Control (OPC) issues this Certification, after public notice and opportunity for public hearing, Hancock Board of Supervisors, an applicant for a Federal License or permit to conduct the following activity:

Hancock County Board of Supervisors, Beach Renourishment: To renourish eroded portions of the sand beach along Beach Boulevard in Hancock County by using conventional earth moving equipment to retrieve accumulated sands in near shore shallow waters. The project will occur annually and address sections of the beach that have eroded from daily waves, winds and currents, as well as storm events. The proposed project will be conducted during winter months during extremely low tides when the sand bars are exposed. Portions of the beach most affected by erosion will be renourished by retrieving sand accumulated near shore, dewatering the sands adjacent, existing beach, distributing the sands along eroded portions of the beach, and finally grading the sands to restore the beach to its originally permitting condition. The proposed project area extends for approximately nine (9) miles from Bay St. Louis (south of Highway 90) to Bayou Caddy. Sand beach is present, varying widths, from Bay St. Louis to Waveland. Continuing southwest from Waveland, the beach begins to taper toward the seawall and Beach Boulevard at Buccaneer State Park. Eventually, only the seawall is present in front of the park except for a small stretch of beach

where marsh/aquatic vegetation is present. Once past Buccaneer State Park, another area of beach with marsh/aquatic vegetation is present. This stretch of beach ends just prior to a large public pier in Clermont Harbor. At the pier, no beach or vegetation is present (only seawall). This condition continues until the newly constructed beach (2004) is reached. The beach continues south until it reaches Bayou Caddy. The amount of material to be removed will vary based on the amount of material available, depth of cut and amount of material needed for re-nourishment of the identified priority areas each year. Near shore sand retrieval will occur in borrow area of varying dimensions with respect to the needs of the priority areas identified, with maximum sections no larger than 2000 feet long by 500 feet wide, located a minimum of 250 feet from the existing seawall. The beach re-nourishment area will have a design width of approximately 200 feet, plus an intertidal zone of 50 feet. Sand will be removed in lifts of six (6) inches or less with the total excavation depth not to exceed one (1) foot. The annual proposed amount of retrieved sand is 100,000 cubic yards. No dredging will be utilized for the beach re-nourishment projects. In event of a damaging tropic storm or hurricane, the applicant proposes to retrieve up to 300,000 cubic yards of sand to restore the beaches. [SAM201000115TMZ,WQC2020009].

The Office of Pollution Control certifies that the above-described activity will be in compliance with the applicable provisions of Sections 301, 302, 303, 306, and 307 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act and Section 49-17-29 of the Mississippi Code of 1972, if the applicant complies with the following conditions:

1. The permittee shall protect the wrack line within the project area by limiting the work zone to 500 to 1,000 foot incremental sections during the months of August through March. Beach closure in areas where nourishment activities are occurring shall be utilized during times that water contact recreation is likely to occur.
2. Turbidity outside the limits of a 750-foot mixing zone shall not exceed the ambient turbidity by more than 50 Nephelometric Turbidity Units.
3. No sewage, oil, refuse, or other pollutants shall be discharged into the watercourse.

The Office of Pollution Control also certifies that there are no limitations under Section 302 nor standards under Sections 306 and 307 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act which are applicable to the applicant's above-described activity.

This certification is valid for the project as proposed. Any deviations without proper modifications and/or approvals may result in a violation of the 401 Water

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Quality Certification. If you have any questions, please contact Montie Hardaway Glenn at (601) 961-5596.

Sincerely,



Krystal Rudolph, P.E., BCEE
Chief, Environmental Permits Division

KR: mhg

cc: Rudolph Villarreal, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Mobile District
Willa Brantley, Department of Marine Resources
Paul Necaise, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Molly Martin, Environmental Protection Agency
Lisa Morrison, Compton Engineering, Inc.