



May 18, 2010

Mr. Cliff Ogburn, Town Manager  
Town of Nags Head  
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Nags Head NC 27959

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RE: Nags Head Beach Restoration Project (CSE 2203-01)  
**Project Update**

Dear Cliff:

This letter is to update the Board on recent progress in connection with the Nags Head nourishment project and to outline ongoing work.

#### **CSE Activities in March–April–May**

- Meetings and liaison with USACE, NCDCEM, and NCDENR
- Develop a benthic monitoring plan per NCDMF recommendations:
  - develop cost estimate to accomplish up to 12 monitoring events before and after nourishment;
  - review with Town officials before committing to the plan (prerequisite for the NC CAMA permit).
- Receive NCDCEM Major CAMA permit 29 April. CSE reviewed the permit and recommended acceptance of terms and special conditions. The critical decision by NCDCEM is to allow summer dredging via hopper dredge with significant (positive) cost implications for the project as well as additional (negative) cost implications due to environmental monitoring requirements.
- On the federal permitting side, CSE has finalized and submitted response letters to comments from USDOJ, NMFS, and USEPA.
- The CAMA permit, comment letters, and response letters have been incorporated into the federal EIS (FEIS) for the project along with supplementary geotechnical data per requirements and instructions from USACE (c/o Raleigh Bland). The FEIS will be submitted to USACE this week (week of 17 May) for final review by USACE legal staff (c/o Justin McCorcle). After the USACE reviews (time line controlled by the Corps), it will be distributed one final time with a public notice to federal agencies. This is a prerequisite for issuance of the federal permit.



- Specific items that are being added by CSE to the EIS include:
  - Revised Executive Summary adding the CAMA permit (new attachment) as a key decision document;
  - The benthic (biological) monitoring plan;
  - ~300 pages of supplementary geotechnical data on the borrow area sediments as requested by USEPA;
  - Correspondence (comments and responses) received since November 2009 in Appendix L along with a table of contents;
  - Specific language in the EIS text per requirements of USACE to reflect recent decisions regarding the EFH (Essential Fish Habitat) assessment report.
  
- The full EIS document has to be printed for the Corps with updated cover, footers, table of contents, and appendices.
  
- With respect to engineering and final design:
  - CSE is preparing detailed engineering analyses of projected erosion under the range of fill scenarios for various return-period storm conditions using the simulation model GENESIS and sediment budget data derived from surveys encompassing 1994 to 2010. The purpose of this work (under Task 3) is to optimize the nourishment configuration for improved longevity.
  
- With respect to field data collection:
  - CSE and CZR Incorporated will perform the first environmental monitoring event during the week of 24 May (or 7 June, weather dependent) so as to maintain a preproject sampling schedule as required under the CAMA permit. Assuming construction begins in April 2011, four prenourishment monitoring events must be accomplished within the next year (ie – baseline conditions in four seasons). The sample dates are tentatively set for May-June, August-September, November-December, and February-March. Only the May-June sample period is budgeted, and it is being accomplished within CSE’s existing agreement under the “allowance for environmental and cultural resource subconsultants.”

Sincerely,

Coastal Science & Engineering (CSE)

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Timothy W Kana". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending from the end.

Timothy W Kana PhD PG  
Project Director

cc: Doug Dusini PE  
Steven Traynum  
Trey Hair