



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
WILMINGTON DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
69 DARLINGTON AVENUE
WILMINGTON, NORTH CAROLINA 28403-1343

September 16, 2025

Environmental Resources Section

Mr. Cameron Luck
North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality
Division of Coastal Management
400 Commerce Avenue
Morehead City, North Carolina 28557

Dear Mr. Luck:

The United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) is seeking Federal Consistency concurrence for proposed changes to dredging operations, specifically the construction of a temporary groundwater well for the purposes of cooling an upland located, in-line booster pump, along the pipeline route, for the construction of the Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 Carolina and Kure Beach & Vicinity Coastal Storm Risk Management (CSRM) project. The work associated with the CSRM project would include dredging, transporting, and placement of sand, planting and shaping of the beach fill template, and performing all pre- and post-construction surveys. The estimated beach fill quantity for Carolina Beach is 950,000 cubic yards, while the estimated beach fill quantity for Kure Beach is 756,000 cubic yards. The borrow area for Carolina and Kure Beaches is an offshore site located at Borrow Area B. All beach work would take place within the environmental timeframe from November 16 through April 30. Dredging with hopper dredges, if utilized, would be limited to an environmental timeline of November 16 through March 31.

During sand placement activities, an upland located, in-line booster pump would be used to move dredged material down beach to more southerly placement areas. This in-line booster pump would utilize water from the proposed temporary groundwater well installed by the contractor to cool the pump to reduce the likelihood of a booster failure. The proposed temporary water well would be constructed behind the dune line at the public access location for Freeman Park, behind the public restrooms (Figure 1). The proposed temporary well would be drilled to a depth of 60-feet below existing grade (Figure 2). The well would be 8 inches in diameter and stand approximately 18 inches above grade. Once the project is complete, the temporary well would be removed from the point of entry on the beach. The contractor has requested to install a well since adequate water pressure could not be provided at a local fire hydrant as a cooling source for the booster pumps. Ocean water could not be used as a cooling source also due to a lack of water pressure.

The USACE is committed to balancing safe reliable and environmental stewardship. The CSRM project would continue to enhance coastal storm protection, as well as consider resources and their protection recognized by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Marine Fisheries Service, and the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission. The CSRM project was previously authorized by the North Carolina Division of Coastal Management in a Federal Consistency concurrence dated August 13, 2019, with a subsequent amendment dated August 16, 2019. The USACE would follow all conditions of these concurrences during the CSRM project. The contractor has applied for, and received, a groundwater well permit (Permit No. WS0801087) from the North Carolina Division of Water Resources, dated August 22, 2025.

In accordance with Section 307(c)(1) of the Federal Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972, as amended, USACE has determined that the proposed project is consistent, to the maximum extent practicable, with North Carolina's Coastal Management Program. This determination is based on the review of the proposed project against the enforceable policies of the State's coastal management program, which are principally found in Chapter 7 of Title 15A of North Carolina's Administrative Code. We request that the NCDCM concur with this consistency determination and provide a response no later than 60 days from the date of this letter.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Should you have any questions or require additional information, please contact Mr. Mark M. Tamblyn, Environmental Resources Section, at (910) 251-4464 or by email at mark.m.tamblyn@usace.army.mil.

Sincerely,

Bret L. Walters, Chief
Planning and Environmental Branch