

Walton County Coastal Storm Damage Reduction Project

Walton County, FL

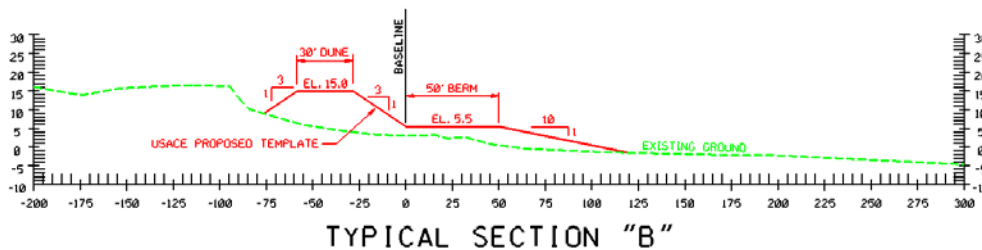
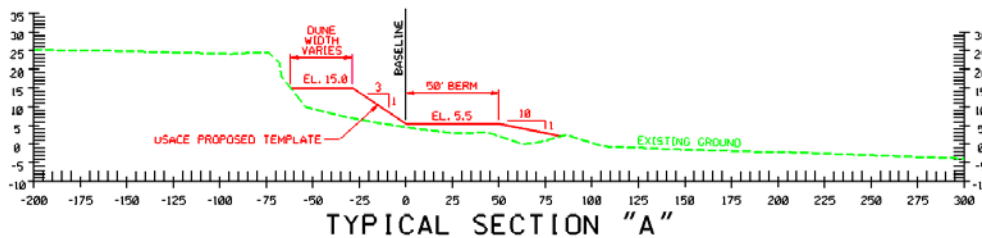
13 December 2012



ABSTRACT: Walton County is located along the Gulf Coast in the western panhandle of Florida, approximately 103 miles east of Pensacola and 98 miles west of Tallahassee. The beaches of Walton County encompass approximately 26 miles of shoreline, including approximately 11.9 miles of state-designated critically eroding areas and three State of Florida park areas covering approximately 6 miles of the shoreline. Since 1990, several coastal storms have eroded the coastline of Walton County, resulting in recession of the protective beach and dune system and damage to property and environmental

resources. The feasibility study assessed the need for hurricane and coastal storm damage reduction, as well as opportunities for environmental restoration and protection, along the Gulf Coast of Walton County, Florida. The non-Federal sponsor for the project is the Walton County Board of Commissioners.

The recommended plan proposes to reduce coastal storm damages by constructing berms and dunes along 18.8 miles of Walton County shoreline. The recommended plan consists of construction of a 50-foot wide berm that includes 25 feet of berm and an additional 25 feet of advanced nourishment. The plan also includes added dune width varying from 10 to 30 feet.



The recommended plan includes the initial fill and four renourishments, for a total of five nourishments, in 50 years at an average of 10-year intervals. Initial construction of the recommended plan will require the placement of 3,868,000 cy of material and a total of 7,157,000 cy for the four renourishments which average 1,789,000 cy of material each cycle. Other associated features of the project are dune

vegetation and replacement of dune walkover structures as required. Material for the berm and dune construction and renourishment will be dredged from a borrow site identified offshore of the project area. Since the recommended plan would not have any significant adverse effects, no mitigation measures (beyond management practices and avoidance) or compensation measures would be required. The recommended plan is the Locally Preferred Plan for coastal storm damage reduction, which includes shoreline areas totaling approximately 3.6 miles requested and funded 100% by the non-Federal sponsor in addition to the 15.2 miles included in the National Economic Development Plan.

Based on October 2012 price levels, the estimated total nourishment cost of the recommended plan is \$170,197,000, which includes the project first cost of initial construction of \$63,548,000 and a total of four periodic renourishments at a total cost of \$106,648,000. Applying cost-sharing in accordance with Section 103 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986, as amended, the Federal share of the first cost of initial construction would be about \$17,904,000 (28 percent) and the non-Federal share would be about \$45,644,000 (72 percent). Of that amount, the cost of lands, easements, rights-of-way, relocations, and dredged or excavated material disposal areas (LERRD) is estimated at \$762,000, all of which is eligible for LERRD credit. The Federal share of the total cost for the four periodic renourishments would be about \$24,529,000 (23 percent) and the non-Federal share would be about \$82,119,000 (77 percent). Walton County would be responsible for the operation, maintenance, repair, replacement, and rehabilitation (OMRR&R) of the project after construction, a cost currently estimated at about \$168,000 per year.

Based on the current 3.75 percent discount rate and a 50-year period of analysis, the total equivalent average annual costs of the project are estimated to be \$5,044,000, including monitoring and OMRR&R. The recommended plan would reduce average annual coastal storm damages by about 85 percent and would leave average annual damages estimated at \$637,000. The equivalent average annual benefits, which include recreation benefits, are estimated to be \$7,570,000 with net average annual benefits of \$2,526,000. The benefit to cost ratio is approximately 1.5 to 1.

Report Documentation: Pertinent documentation on the project, the results of the CWRB and subsequent Washington-Level Review Actions are linked below:

- [CWRB Agenda](#)
- [Project Summary](#)
- [CWRB Briefing Slides](#)
- [CWRB Lessons Learned](#)
- CWRB Meeting Record
- State & Agency Review Comments Letters
- Documentation of Review Findings
- [Signed Chief of Engineers Report](#)
- Advanced Copy to Congressional Committees
- ASA (CW) Memo to OMB
- OMB Response
- ASA (CW) Transmittal to Congress
- Signed Record of Decision
- Authorization

Additional Information: [South Atlantic Division](#)

[Mobile District - Walton County, FL Planning Report](#)