



**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
JACKSONVILLE DISTRICT CORPS OF ENGINEERS
P.O. BOX 4970
JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA 32232-0019**

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

**MANATEE COUNTY, FLORIDA
FEDERAL NAVIGATION PROJECT
MANATEE HARBOR**

**PRELIMINARY
FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**

I have reviewed the Environmental Assessment (EA) for the proposed action. This Finding incorporates by reference all discussions and conclusions contained in the EA enclosed hereto. Based on the information analyzed in the EA and pertinent data obtained from Federal and State agencies having jurisdiction by law and/or special expertise, and information obtained from the interested public, I conclude that the considered action would have no significant impact on the quality of the human environment and does not require an Environmental Impact Statement. Reasons for this conclusion are, in summary:

a. The proposed action provides for a side channel for expanding port operations. The channel will be an extension to the south of Berth 11. The selected channel length is 1,590 ft. long and 275 ft. wide at the bottom. The dredging depth is -40 ft. (m.l.w.). The existing 95-acre upland site will be used for disposal of material.

b. Measures to prevent or minimize impacts to manatees in accordance with the Terms and Conditions in the Biological Opinion from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will be implemented during construction. No adverse impact to endangered or threatened species is expected.

c. Measures to eliminate, reduce, or avoid potential adverse impacts to fish and wildlife resources will be implemented. All impacts associated with construction will either be insignificant or compensated for by project mitigation measures that will reduce impacts to less than significant levels.

d. A determination of no affect to historical properties has been made.

e. A Consolidated Environmental Resource Permit and Sovereign Submerged Lands Authorization (Permit/Authorization No.0129291-003-EI) has been issued as certification of compliance with water quality standards under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, 33 U.S.C. The permit also constitutes a finding of consistency with Florida's Coastal Zone Management Program.

f. Economic benefits would be accrued.

g. Measures to eliminate, reduce, or avoid potential impacts to environmental resources include the following: (1) a mitigation plan for unavoidable impacts to vegetated and unvegetated shallow bay bottoms and mangroves was approved and mitigation efforts are underway, (2) the standard manatee protection measures will be implemented and followed for all water based activities, (3) the Jacksonville District's Migratory Bird Protection Policy will be followed if any migratory birds are encountered.

Robert M. Carpenter
Colonel, U.S. Army
District Engineer

Date