c. **Recreation**. Recreational boat traffic would experience temporary delays due to construction traffic congestion. Minor temporary adverse effects upon recreational beach activities would occur during beach placement of the dredged material. However, recreational boat traffic in the Inlet would experience a long-term benefit from the increased navigable capacity of the channel. Recreational beach activities would also benefit from an increased beach area following dredging and subsequent beach placement.

4.4.4 Economics. There would be a short-term localized generation of revenues associated with the dredge operation. The dredging of the GIWW and the Inlet would result in a moderate long-term secondary benefit by encouraging commercial and recreational navigation. Beach disposal placement would result in a wider beach and would result in a moderate long-term secondary benefit by encouraging increased beach utilization which would result in increased commercial business revenues.

4.4.5 Cumulative Effects. The maintenance of the Inlet may result in a long-term benefit through the preservation of the tidal connection and the concomitant flushing of the adjacent estuaries and bays. The placement of dredge spoil in the nearshore area would supplement the beaches and aid in offsetting the continuing effects of erosion.

4.4.6 Unavoidable Effects. There may be short-term degradation of water quality due to turbidity during dredging and dredged material disposal operations. The potential exists for the "Incidental Take" of sea turtles and marine mammals during dredging operations. However, implementation of State and Federally mandated protective measures should minimize and mitigate for this potential.

4.4.7 Irreversible and Irretrievable Commitment of Resources. Mobilization of equipment, dredging, and on-going maintenance would require the expense of time and resources, such as labor, energy, and project materials, purchased with Federal financial contributions. There is the potential for "Incidental Take" of sea turtles or manatees during dredging and disposal operations. Once lost, these resources could not be recovered. The implementation of a biological observer program in order to avoid or minimize losses of protected species would require additional expenses of time, labor, and resources.

4.4.8 Relationship of Short-term Uses of Man's Environment and the Maintenance and Enhancement of Long-term Productivity. The Inlet provides a valuable link from the GIWW to the Gulf of Mexico and is an important factor in the local economy. Impacts resulting from the proposed dredging are expected to be minimal and short-term, while the beneficial

effects, such as maintaining good local water quality and contributing to the local economy, are expected to be significant and far-reaching.

5.00 LIST OF PREPARERS

This EA was prepared by:

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The following personnel reviewed this document for technical accuracy:

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7.00 COORDINATION WITH OTHERS

7.1 Introduction. This section provides information on how the development and planning of this proposed action was coordinated with concerned agencies and interested parties during the preliminary development of this document.

7.2 Document Preparation. In the course of this preliminary EA, L&A made information inquiries to the USFWS and the FGFWFC. Responses to these inquiries are included in Appendix II.

7.3 Public Coordination. A public notice (PN-GIW-200) was issued on 10 May 1995 for the proposed work. No comments were received in response to the public notice.

7.3.1 A public workshop was held on 1 May 1995 in Venice, Florida, to discuss the project with the local residents.

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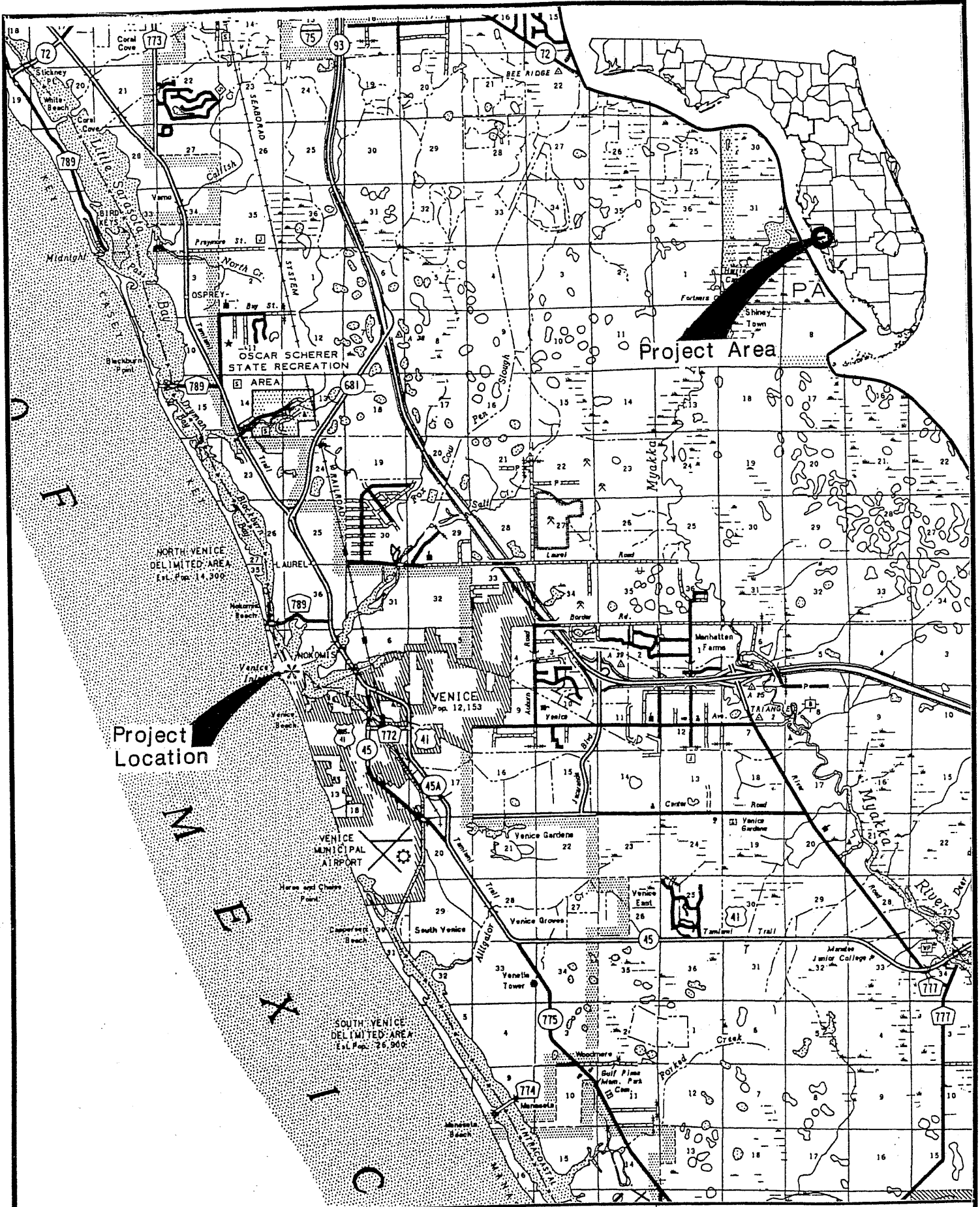
9.00 INDEX



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Maintenance Dredging of Venice Inlet

Sarasota County, Florida

Location Map

NORTH

1 inch = 2 miles

Figure : 1

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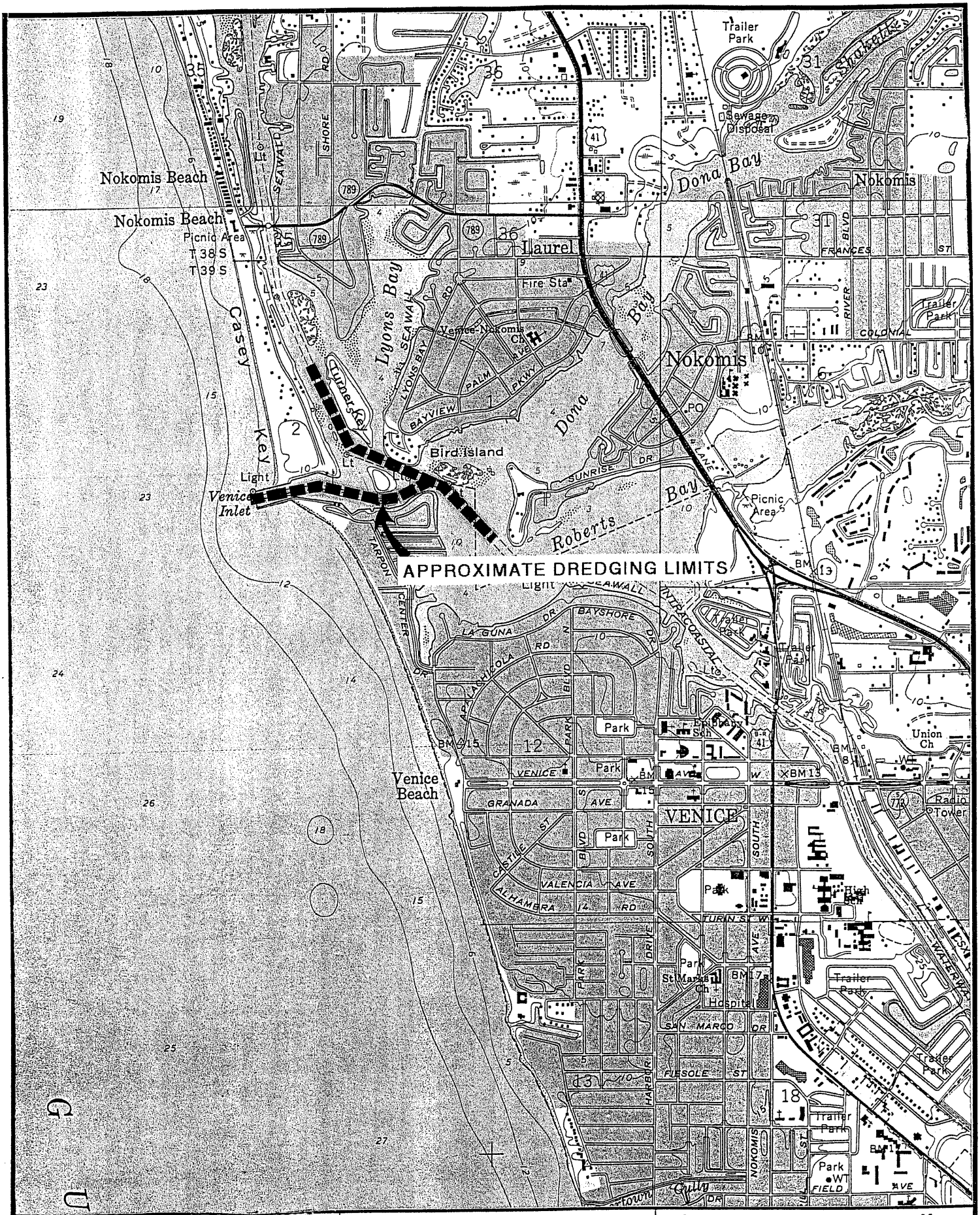

Lotspeich and Associates, Inc. ECOLOGICAL CONSULTANTS 422 W. Fairbanks Ave., Suite 201 (407) 740-8482 Winter Park, FL 32789-5079 FAX (407) 645-1305	**Maintenance Dredging of** **Venice Inlet** Sarasota County, Florida	**U.S.G.S. Topographic Survey Map** Laurel, FL Quad. cir 1973, p.r. 1987 Venice, FL Quad. cir 1973, p.r. 1987
DWG No. : 56011j19.DWG | Prepared by : CAS	Job No. : 94056011 | Date : 19 October 1996	NORTH | SCALE : 1 - 24000 | Figure : 2