

Figure To Accompany Scoping Letter
Ybor Turning Basin Study

FLORIDA STATE CLEARINGHOUSE
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS
2555 SHUMARD OAK BOULEVARD
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA 32399-2100



Department of the Army
Mr. Bill Fonferek
Jacksonville District Corps of Engineers
Post Office Box 4970
Jacksonville, FL 32232-0019

32232-0019



Department of the Army - Scoping Letter for the Preparation
of a Limited Re-evaluation Report for the Construction of the
Previously Authorized Tampa Harbor - Ybor Channel Turning
Basin and the Tampa Harbor - Port Sutton Terminal Channel -
Hillsborough County, Florida.

SAI# FL9805110198C

The above-described project was received by the Clearinghouse on 5/11/98,
and has been forwarded to the appropriate reviewing agencies. The clearance letter and
agency comments will be forwarded to you no later than 6/25/98,
unless you are otherwise notified. Please refer to the above State Application Identifier
(SAI) number in all written correspondence with the Clearinghouse regarding this project.
If you have any questions, please contact the Clearinghouse at (904) 922-5438.



STATE OF FLORIDA
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

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JEB BUSH
Governor

STEVEN M. SEIBERT
Secretary

March 12, 1999

Chief, Planning Division
Department of the Army
Jacksonville District Corps of Engineers
Post Office Box 4970
Jacksonville, Florida 32232-0019

RE: Department of the Army - Scoping Document for the
Preparation of a Limited Re-evaluation Report for the
Construction of a Previously Authorized Tampa Harbor -
Ybor Channel Turning Basin - Pinellas County, Florida
SAI: FL9812310800C

Dear Chief:

The Florida State Clearinghouse, pursuant to Presidential Executive Order 12372, Gubernatorial Executive Order 95-359, the Coastal Zone Management Act, 16 U.S.C. §§ 1451-1464, as amended, and the National Environmental Policy Act, 42 U.S.C. §§ 4321, 4331-4335, 4341-4347, as amended, has coordinated a review of the above-referenced project.

The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) notes that its June 24, 1998, concerns (attached) regarding the previous notice (SAI #98-0198C) are still pertinent. The DEP also offers comments pertaining to this specific proposal. Please refer to the enclosed DEP comments.

The Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD) notes that its concerns regarding spoil disposal have been adequately addressed in the January 27, 1999, letter (enclosed) from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Please refer to the enclosed SWFWMD comments.

2555 SHUMARD OAK BOULEVARD • TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA 32399-2100
Phone: (850) 488-8466/Suncom 278-8466 FAX: (850) 921-0781/Suncom 291-0781
Internet address: <http://www.state.fl.us/comaff/>

Chief, Planning Division
March 12, 1999
Page Two

Based on the information contained in the application and the enclosed comments provided by our reviewing agencies, the state has determined that, at this stage, the above-referenced project is consistent with the Florida Coastal Management Program (FCMP). All subsequent environmental documents prepared for this project must be reviewed to determine the project's continued consistency with the FCMP. The state's continued concurrence with the project will be based, in part, on the adequate resolution of issues identified during this and subsequent reviews.

In addition, comments received from the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council (TBRPC) noting that the above-referenced project was determined to be consistent with the TBRPC's Strategic Regional Policy Plan, and comments received from Hillsborough County regarding the proposed reuse of dredged material in Garrison Channel are enclosed for your review and consideration.

Thank you for the opportunity to review the scoping document. If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Ms. Cherie Trainor, Clearinghouse Coordinator, at (850) 922-5438.

Sincerely,



Ralph Cantral, Executive Director
Florida Coastal Management Program

RC/cc

Enclosures

cc: Abdul Hatim, Department of Environmental Protection
Trisha Neasman, Southwest Florida Water Management District
Suzanne Cooper, Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council
Shawn College, Hillsborough County



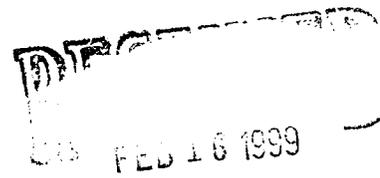
Department of Environmental Protection

Jeb Bush
Governor

February 12, 1999

David B. Struhs
Secretary

Cherie Trainor
State Clearinghouse
Department of Community Affairs
2555 Shumard Oak Blvd.
Tallahassee, FL 32399-2100



State of Florida Clearinghouse

RE: CEO/Reissuance of Scoping Notice for the Dredging of Ybor Channel Turning Basin - Additional Information
SAI: FL9812310800C

Dear Ms. Trainor:

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) has completed its review of the above referenced scoping notice. This scoping notice is supplementary to a previously reviewed notice (SAI#98-0198C). This notice is regarding the additional proposal to place dredged material in the Garrison Channel to raise the bottom elevation to an approximate 10 foot depth in the center of the channel. The raised channel bottom will improve water quality and create fishing habitat. Our concerns about the previous notice are still pertinent outlined in Jim Wood's letter dated June 24, 1998 (see attached). However, we offer the following comments for this specific proposal:

1. This project proposes to improve water quality in Garrison Channel by decreasing the depth. It is important to first know what existing water quality is, particularly diurnal, near bottom dissolve oxygen levels in Garrison Channel and in surrounding channels. It is also important that some information be provided regarding flow (circulation) patterns in the area, as well as sedimentation patterns.
2. It will be necessary to review the physical/chemical characteristics of the spoil material in relation to the existing sediment in Garrison Channel.
3. The Corps needs to insure that water quality violation won't be a problem and that the dredged material, once deposited in the Garrison Channel, will be stabilized.

The Department appreciates the opportunity to review this project. If I may be of further assistance, please feel free to call me at 487-2231.

Sincerely,

Abdul Hatim
Environmental Specialist

/ah

cc: Dianne McCommons, Southwest District
Mary Duncan, Marine Resources, Protected Species Management
Lauren Milligan, Beaches and Coastal Systems

"Protect, Conserve and Manage Florida's Environment and Natural Resources"



Department of Environmental Protection

Lawton Chiles
Governor

Marjory Stoneman Douglas Building
3900 Commonwealth Boulevard
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-3000

Virginia B. Wetherell
Secretary

June 24, 1998

Cherie Trainor
State Clearinghouse
Department of Community Affairs
2555 Shumard Oak Boulevard
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-2100

RE: COE/Scoping Notice, Construction of Previously Authorized Tampa Harbor -
Ybor Channel Turning Basin - Port Sutton Terminal Channel

SAI: FL9805110198C

Dear Ms. Trainor:

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) has completed its review of the above-referenced scoping notice. We offer the following comments at this time:

- Information on the upland/in-water facilities proposed, such as warehouses and new berths, will be necessary to evaluate potential secondary and cumulative impacts.
- Sediment grain size analyses and elutriate tests of the dredged material are required by the Department to provide reasonable assurance that water quality violations will not result during dredging.
- Geologic investigations to determine the presence of limerock in the proposed expansion areas are required. The possible need for blasting to remove limerock should also be addressed.
- Estimates of the dredged material volume and whether the disposal sites have capacity are required. Beneficial use alternatives to disposal of the material should be identified.
- While specific manatee comments will be available during the permit coordination process, the following issues should be considered while addressing the potential for adverse impacts to manatees:

- potential loss of submerged aquatic vegetation (i.e., seagrass);

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FL9805110198C

June 24, 1998

Page 2

- protective measures during dredging (at a minimum, the standard manatee construction conditions, possibly manatee observers);
- protective measures during demolition, such as blasting (at a minimum, the standard blasting conditions);
- time-window for construction/blasting, if the project is located near an important manatee aggregation or foraging area -- for this project, it is anticipated that only Port Sutton dredging would require a construction window.

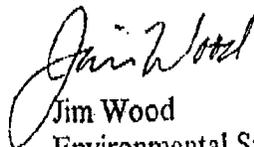
The Department's future determination of the consistency of these projects with the Florida Coastal Management Program will be based upon whether the above issues are adequately addressed.

Permitting

Construction of these projects will require state water quality certification via issuance of an Environmental Resource Permit by FDEP's Bureau of Beaches and Coastal Systems. Because the submerged lands in Hillsborough County are not state-owned (managed by the Tampa Port Authority), a sovereign submerged lands easement/consent of use would not be required. The disposal sites proposed have been approved by the Department in previous wetland resource permits.

The Department appreciates the opportunity to review this project. For information regarding specific permitting and manatee issues, please contact Lauren Milligan of the Bureau of Beaches and Coastal Systems (850-487-4471) and Mary Duncan of the Bureau of Protected Species Management (850-922-4330), respectively. If I may be of further assistance, please contact me at 850-487-2231.

Sincerely,



Jim Wood
Environmental Specialist
Office of Intergovernmental Programs

/jw
cc:

Mac Craig, Southwest District
Mary Duncan, Marine Resources, Protected Species Management
Lauren Milligan, Beaches and Coastal Systems
Fritz Wettstein, Marine Resources



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Southwest Florida Water Management District

2379 Broad Street • Brooksville, Florida 34609-6899 • 1-800-423-1476 (Florida Only)
or (352) 796-7211 • SUNCOM 628-4150 • T.D.D. Number Only (Florida Only): 1-800-231-6103
Internet address: <http://www.dep.state.fl.us/swfwmd>

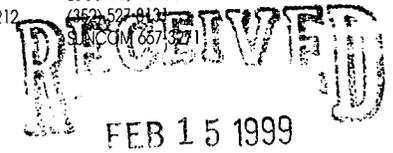
7601 Highway 301 North
Tampa, Florida 33637-6759
1-800-836-0797 or (813) 985-7481
SUNCOM 578-2070

170 Century Boulevard
Bartow, Florida 33830-7700
1-800-492-7862 or (941) 534-1448
SUNCOM 572-6200

115 Corporation Way
Venice, Florida 34292-3524
1-800-320-3503 or (941) 486-1212
SUNCOM 526-6900

3600 West Sovereign Path, Suite 226
Lecanto, Florida 34461-8070
(352) 527-8131
SUNCOM 667-1371

February 11, 1999



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Ms. Keri Akers
Florida State Clearinghouse
Department of Community Affairs
2555 Shumard Oak Boulevard
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-2100

State of Florida Clearinghouse

Subject: Department of the Army- Scoping Document for the Preparation of a Limited Reevaluation Report for the Construction of a Previously Authorized Tampa Harbor- Ybor Channel Turning Basin- Florida
SAI#: FL9812310800C

Dear Ms. Akers:

Thanks for the opportunity to participate in the review of the referenced project. District staff have evaluated the project and concluded that our concerns regarding spoil disposal have been adequately addressed in the January 27, 1999 letter from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE). A copy of this letter is attached for your information.

The District appreciates the opportunity to participate in the review of this application. Please be advised that our review does not constitute permit approval under Chapter 373, Florida Statutes, or any rules promulgated thereunder, nor does it stand in lieu of normal permitting procedures in accordance with Florida Statutes and District rules.

If you have any questions or if I can be of further assistance, please contact me in the District's Planning Department.

Sincerely,

Trisha Neasman, AICP
Government Planning Coordinator

TN
Attachment

cc: Colonel Joe Miller, ACOE
David Dale, NOAA

Brandt Henningsen, SWFWMD

Excellence
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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE

Southeast Regional Office
9721 Executive Center Drive North
St. Petersburg, Florida 33702

January 27, 1999



Colonel Joe R. Miller, District Engineer
Jacksonville District Corps of Engineers
ATTN: Chief, Planning Division
P.O. Box 4970
Jacksonville, Florida 32232-0019

Dear Colonel Miller:

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) has reviewed your staff's letter, dated December 29, 1998, requesting comments to assist in the preparation of a Limited Re-evaluation Report for the construction of the Ybor Channel Turning Basin in Tampa Bay, Hillsborough County, Florida. Authorized in 1970, a 200-foot southwest expansion of the existing basin is proposed to improve navigational safety within this portion of the Port of Tampa.

The NMFS by letter dated June 3, 1998, advised you of mangrove and oyster reef habitats occurring in and near the project area. In that letter, we also recommended that sediments in the project footprint be assessed for toxic contamination to determine suitable disposal options, including beneficial use options, for the dredged material. We also provided comments to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, on November 24, 1998, and concurred with their recommendations and findings as outlined in the draft Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act Report to be submitted to the Corps of Engineers (COE) for this project. In summary, these recommendations were to avoid impacts to natural resources where possible, salvage existing oyster beds, create additional oyster beds, determine the toxicity of the dredged material and seek appropriate beneficial use disposal sites.

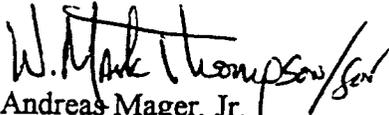
The COE is now exploring the feasibility of restoring bay bottom in the de-authorized Garrison Channel which is currently approximately 25-feet-deep. Information presented to the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council's Agency on Bay Management indicates that this option would accommodate approximately half of the dredged material. Other options include previously authorized dredged material disposal sites (e.g. disposal islands 2-D & 3-D, Hookers Point, and the ocean disposal site) as well as other alternatives, identified as beneficial uses, including restoration in the Palm River and creation of intertidal habitat near the disposal islands or south of the seaplane basin on Davis Island. Several of the options identified would simply result in the conversion of existing habitats to intertidal marsh habitats under the auspices of providing a beneficial use of the dredged material. When converting existing natural habitats to different habitat types, the trade-offs to the affected resources must be fully and carefully considered. Restoration of previously altered habitats should be given highest priority when developing beneficial use alternatives.



With regard to the proposed Garrison Channel disposal option, the NMFS recommends that the affects of this action on the circulation patterns in the adjacent channels be investigated. Raising the bottom elevation of this channel may provide improvements to water quality and fishery habitat in this highly impacted segment of Tampa Bay. However, due to its proximity to the mouth of the Hillsborough River we are concerned that significant alterations to the Garrison Channel may reduce flushing of the Ybor Channel and Turning Basin and thereby exasperate poor water quality conditions in this segment of Tampa Bay. We are also concerned that toxic levels of contaminants may be associated with the surface layers of the sediments in the proposed expansion area due to the proximity of various industrial activities in this area of the Port over an extended period of time. However, we suspect that subsurface sediments will be relatively free of contaminants as these sediments have not been previously disrupted by anthropogenic activities. Therefore, these sediments could offer a generally rare opportunity to provide a large quantity of clean dredged material for a beneficial use project such as the restoration of the Palm River. Ocean disposal or placement of these sediments in disposal islands 2-D and 3-D should be considered only after viable beneficial use alternatives have been exhausted.

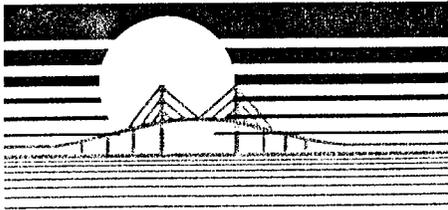
We appreciate the opportunity to provide you with our comments. If we can be of further assistance, please advise. Related comments, questions or correspondence should be directed to Mr. David N. Dale in St. Petersburg, Florida. He may be contacted at 727/570-5311 or at the letterhead address above.

Sincerely,


W. Mark Thompson/Sent
Andreas Mager, Jr.
Assistant Regional Administrator
Habitat Conservation Division

cc:
EPA-Atlanta
FWS-Jacksonville
FWS-St. Petersburg
FDEP-Tallahassee
FGFWFC-Tallahassee
SWFWMD-Tampa (SWIM)
TBRPC-St. Petersburg
F/SER4
F/SER43-St Pete





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February 8, 1999

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Ms. Cherie Trainor
Florida State Clearinghouse
Florida Department of Community Affairs
2555 Shumard Oak Boulevard
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-2100

State of Florida Clearinghouse

Subject: IC&R #020-99, Ybor Channel Turning Basin Report, FSC
#FL9812310800, City of Tampa

Dear Ms. Trainor:

The above-referenced project was considered during the Council's February 8, 1999 meeting and determined to be consistent with the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council's *Strategic Regional Policy Plan*.

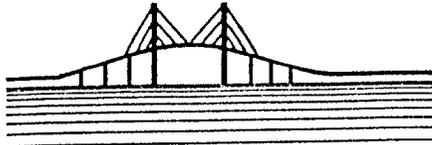
Please contact me if further information regarding this item is desired.

Sincerely,

John M. Meyer, Principal Planner
Intergovernmental Coordination & Review

JMM/bj

Enclosure



Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council

IC&R

Intergovernmental Coordination and Review

9455 Koger Blvd., Suite 219, St. Petersburg, FL 33702
Phone (727) 577-5151 Suncom 586-3217 FAX (727) 570-5118
<http://access.tampabayrpc.org>

TAMPA HARBOR - YBOR TURNING BASIN LIMITED RE-EVALUATION REPORT,
FL9812310800, CITY OF TAMPA, IC&R #020-99.

The Florida State Clearinghouse has requested review and comment on a proposal by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACOE) to prepare a Limited Re-evaluation Report for the enlargement of the Ybor Turning Basin, as requested by the Tampa Port Authority. The project is located in Tampa harbor, at the intersection of Ybor, Garrison and Sparkman channels.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is considering the construction of the previously-authorized Turning Basin. The Rivers and Harbors Act of 1970 authorized an additional width of 200 feet on the southwestern side of the existing basin. There is a need to ease the difficulties experienced in maneuvering large vessels in this area of the Port. An estimated 550,000 cubic yards of material would be removed. The USACOE is considering disposal of up to 200,000 cubic yards of the material in Garrison Channel.

Council Comments/Concerns

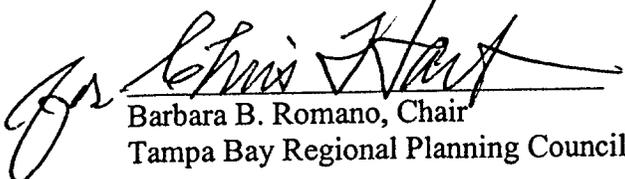
The project will impact "Natural Resources of Regional Significance" in *Future of the Region: A Strategic Regional Policy Plan for the Tampa Bay Region (FRSRPP)*, because Tampa Bay is such a resource. The nature of the project makes it a potentially positive one for the system, however.

The material to be removed consists of 30% soft sands and silty sands; 37% soft to stiff clays with some sand and limestone; 30.1% stiff to hard silts with much limestone; and 3% limestone. Much of this material is suitable for in-water disposal. The remainder must be placed in a diked facility due to its physical properties. Scattered oyster beds in the area will be relocated to a suitable site.

Garrison Channel is 1,500 feet long and 300 feet wide. It was deauthorized as a navigation channel in 1981. Its authorized depth was 30 feet, and it is now 20-25 feet deep. Since deauthorization, bridges have been constructed at both ends. The bridge elevations are approximately 12.5 and 18.5 feet, precluding shipping traffic. The adjacent waterfronts are being redeveloped into hotel, recreational and commercial uses. The bottom sediments of the channel are anoxic, and the depths preclude use as significant natural habitat. The proposal to use the Ybor Turning Basin dredged material to raise the bottom elevation of Garrison Channel to -10 feet could result in better water quality and habitat in this portion of the bay. The depths would still be more than adequate for boats that could reach the area.

A number of issues have been identified by the Council's Agency on Bay Management, and are listed in the attached letter. The concerns identified by the Agency on Bay Management should be addressed in the Limited Re-evaluation Report.

Council adopted February 8, 1999


Barbara B. Romano, Chair
Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council

This potential project has been reviewed for consistency with the Council's adopted growth policy, *Future of the Region: A Strategic Regional Policy Plan for the Tampa Bay Region*. The pertinent Council policies are as follows:

- 4.5.1 Protect, preserve and restore all regionally-significant natural resources shown on the Map of Regionally-Significant Natural Resources.
- 4.6.6 Evaluate the potential to mitigate adverse impacts resulting from prior alteration of natural hydrologic and circulation patterns in surface and groundwater (e.g., finger canals, altered streams, saltwater intrusion, causeways).
- 4.7.2 Uncontaminated dredged material shall be considered a resource to be utilized for appropriate beneficial uses such as recreation and wildlife habitat. Require revegetation plans for spoil areas utilizing appropriate native plant species.
- 4.7.4 Encourage the development and use of innovative and efficient dredged material disposal methods which reduce adverse environmental impacts and financial costs of dredged material disposal.
- 4.7.7 Implement use of best available technology to reduce sediment resuspension and releases during dredging activities.
- 5.4.3 Develop port facilities and maintain waterways to ensure an optimum balance between economic benefits, and environmental and social costs.

PLEASE NOTE: The Committee's comments constitute compliance with Florida's Intergovernmental Coordination and Review process only.



January 25, 1999

Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council
Agency on Bay Management

9455 Koger Blvd., Suite 219
St. Petersburg, FL 33702-2491
(727) 577-5151 FAX: (727) 577-5118
Suncom 586-3217

Barbara B. Romano, Chair
Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council
9455 Koger Blvd., Suite 219
St. Petersburg, FL 33702

An Alliance of Agencies,
Organizations and
Interest Groups for the
Management of Tampa Bay

Re: IC&R #020-99 - Tampa Harbor / Ybor Turning Basin Limited Re-
evaluation Report

At its meeting on January 14, 1999, the Agency on Bay Management received a presentation by US Army Corps of Engineers' representative Ms. Tracy Leaser on the project. Discussion concerned the need for the project, the type of material to be dredged, the condition of the proposed disposal site (Garrison Channel), other disposal alternatives, potential impact on waterfront and in-water use of the Garrison Channel, and water quality.

As a result, the Agency voted unanimously, with one abstention (Mr. Bill Fonferek), to send the following list of recommendations regarding the above-referenced project:

- The nature and quality of the material to be removed/disposed must be considered, to ensure no further water quality degradation.
- It should be demonstrated that disposal of the material in the Garrison channel, raising the bottom elevation to approx. -10 ft., would be a beneficial use; and that the material can be stabilized there.
- Alternatives to the proposed turning basin widening and to the proposed disposal method should be fully explored.
- The City of Tampa should be notified of the proposal. Extensive planning has been done to revitalize the waterfront and construct a River Walk along the north side of Garrison Channel.

Please consider these comments in the Council's review, and include this letter with the Council's report to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Sincerely,

Suzanne Cooper, AICP
Principal Planner

- Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council
- Florida Senate
- Florida House of Representatives
- The Tampa Bay Estuary Program
- FL Department of Environmental Protection
- FL Marine Research Institute
- FL Department of Transportation
- FL Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission
- Southwest FL Water Management District
- Environmental Protection Commission of Hillsborough County
- IFAS / Florida SeaGrant
- National Audubon Society
- ManaSola 88
- League of Women Voters' Environmental Coalition
- Sierra Club
- Tampa BayWatch
- Center for Marine Conservation
- Coastal Conservation Association
- Egmont Alliance
- Tampa Bay Pilots
- Commercial Fishermen
- Recreational Interests
- Tampa Bay Partnership
- Contractors and Builders Assoc. of Pinellas County
- National Marine Fisheries Service
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- U.S. Geological Survey
- Dames & Moore
- Cargill Fertilizer, Inc.
- IMC-Agnco Fertilizer
- Florida Petroleum Council
- Florida Power Corporation
- Tampa Electric Company
- Florida Power & Light Company
- Port Manatee
- Port of St. Petersburg
- Tampa Port Authority
- Hillsborough County
- Manatee County
- Pasco County
- Pinellas County
- City of Clearwater
- City of St. Petersburg
- City of Tampa
- Eckerd College
- Hillsborough Community College
- USF Marine Science/Tampa Bay PORTS

cc: Lt. Col. Michael A. Moore
Ms. Tracy Leaser
Mr. Bill Fonferek

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Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council
9455 Koger Boulevard, Suite 219
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Demetria L. Merritt
Jacqueline R. Wilson

Robert B. Hunter, AICP
Executive Director

RE: SAI#: FL9812310800C, Ybor Channel Turning Basin

Dear Mr. Meyer:

In regard to the proposed dredging of the Ybor Channel Turning Basin, the Planning Commission has already expressed concerns over the potential to disturb contaminated sediments and erosional impacts to the North-East coast of Harbour Island (Please refer to our letter dated May 20, 1998). Therefore, this letter will focus on the proposed reuse of dredged material in Garrison Channel.

Prior to this project commencing, the Planning Commission would like to suggest two actions occur. Firstly, an up-to-date assessment of water quality (including oxygen levels), benthic conditions and biological communities should be conducted to assess the necessity and probable advantages and disadvantages of such a project. Secondly, an assessment of the sediment should be conducted to determine any potential detrimental effects of exposing this material to the water column in Garrison Channel.

Thank you for the opportunity to participate in this review. We look forward to continued participation in this process.

Sincerely,



Shawn C. College, AICP
Senior Planner

cc: Roc King, Planning Commission

601 E. Kennedy, 18th Floor
P.O. Box 1110
Tampa, Florida 33601-1110
813/272-5940
FAX 813/272-6258
FAX 813/272-6255
Internet E-Mail:
planner@plancom.org
Home Page:
<http://www.plancom.org>

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