FIRE ISLAND INLET & SHORES WESTERLY TO JONES INLET, NY
Restoration of Previously Constructed Projects

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS **BUILDING STRONG®**

Description
Hurricane Sandy severely impacted large portions of the northeastern United States. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' previously constructed Fire Island Inlet and Shores Westerly to Jones Inlet project area was impacted with the storm causing a great deal of coastal erosion at Gilgo Beach - where sand from the dual-benefit project is placed for shore protection.

Authorities
The Fire Island Inlet Federal Navigation Channel was originally authorized by the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1937 and subsequently modified by the Rivers and Harbors Acts of 1958 and 1962. In August 1988, the existing project was modified to provide for the maintenance of a realigned channel in the vicinity of the naturally deep channel to a depth of 14 feet plus 2 feet allowable overdepth. The material from the dredged channel is used as nourishment along the shoreline several miles west of the inlet at the designated beach, Gilgo Beach, for erosion control.

Everything the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers does must be tied to a statutory authority. The near-term coastal restoration work at Gilgo Beach is being done under the standing authorities granted to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers through the Flood Control and Coastal Emergencies Act.

- Through the Flood Control and Coastal Emergencies Act, PL 84-99, the Corps of Engineers is authorized to **repair** previously constructed projects after a large event like Hurricane Sandy. Through this authority the Corps of Engineers will be able to replace the approximately 1.2 million cubic yards of sand lost from the project area during Hurricane Sandy.

History
Fire Island Inlet and Shores Westerly to Jones Inlet project is a multi-purpose project that provides navigation and shore protection benefits through the periodic maintenance dredging of Fire Island Inlet with placement of dredged sand along the shoreline several miles west of the inlet at the designated barrier island's critical erosion area - Gilgo Beach. The sand placed at Gilgo is intended to nourish the westerly beaches, provide coastal storm risk reduction and to ultimately help reduce the risk of barrier island breaches.

The most recent maintenance dredging cycle was completed in winter 2007-08. The work included dredging and placement of 619,000 cubic yards of sand along the critical erosion area at Gilgo Beach.

Current Operations
The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers awarded a contract for the placement of approximately 1.7 million cubic yards of sand along Gilgo Beach in August 2013 and work is currently underway. The project is scheduled to be completed in Spring 2014. The Army Corps is coordinating with the state of New York to combine this work with state-funded sand placement at other nearby beaches that are not part of Corps of Engineers projects that would fall into Flood Control and Coastal Emergencies Act authorities as described above. This will reduce dredge mobilization costs, which tend to be a large part of the cost for this type of work. Sand will be dredged from the Fire Island Inlet Federal Navigation Channel, which has had issues with shoaling in recent years. Those shoaling issues were exacerbated by Hurricane Sandy and using sand from the inlet will provide additional navigation improvement benefits.

Questions? Call the public affairs office at 917-790-8007 or e-mail CENAN-PA@usace.army.mil

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS – NEW YORK DISTRICT
26 Federal Plaza
New York, NY 10278
www.nan.usace.army.mil