

Beaches Quick Guide

Often storms erode the coastline or leave dangerous escarpments on the beach. Beaches and shore lines may be eligible for emergency sand placement or permanent restoration. Project location, scope of work, sand source, and potential impacts to flora and fauna are all important components to be considered. Since these areas may be environmentally sensitive, coordination with multiple agencies may be required. All beach projects undergo extensive review by FEMA. The scope of work will determine the level of FEMA review and environmental consultation.

1. The Public Assistance Program and Policy Guide (FP 104-009-2/April 2018) states:

- a. If a natural or engineered beach has eroded to a point where a 5-year flood could damage improved property, cost-effective emergency protective measures on the beach that protect against damage from that flood are eligible (see page 81).
- b. Eligible measures typically include the construction of emergency sand berms to protect against additional damage from a 5-year flood. Emergency sand berms are not intended to permanently restore the beach; they are intended only to provide protection from immediate threats. The Applicant may construct emergency berms with sand recovered from the beach or with imported sand. If the Applicant constructs the berm with imported sand, FEMA will only provide PA funding if the sand is from a source that meets applicable environmental regulations and one of the following circumstances exists:
 - i. Recoverable quantities are insufficient; or
 - ii. State, Territorial, Tribal, or local government regulations prohibit placement of the recovered sand.
- c. Based on the average expected erosion for a 5-year flood, FEMA only provides PA funding for emergency berms constructed with up to 6 cubic yards per linear foot of sand above the 5-year stillwater elevation or the berm's pre-storm profile, whichever is less. Stillwater elevation is the maximum storm-induced water-surface elevation. In some cases, placing sand below the 5-year stillwater elevation may be necessary to provide a base for the berm. The placement of that sand is also eligible as part of the emergency protective measure.
- d. Placement of dune grass on an emergency berm is only eligible if it is required by permit and is an established, enforced, uniform practice that applies to the construction of all emergency berms within the Applicant's jurisdiction, regardless of the circumstance. The Applicant must include the dune grass placement cost in the berm construction cost when evaluating cost-effectiveness. Any maintenance of the dune grass after the initial installation is not eligible.

2. Eligibility Requirements

You must be an **Eligible Applicant** as defined in the Public Assistance Policy Digest, page 9, and have the legal responsibility (see page 20) to perform beach work. <http://www.fema.gov/public-assistance-policy-and-guidance>

3. Documentation Requirements

- a. Latitude and longitude of project
- b. R-monuments or V-monuments
- c. Linear feet of beach involved/affected
- d. Above or below mean high water line
- e. Dates of construction (start to finish)
- f. Potentially affected threatened or endangered species

- g. USFWS Conservation and Other Minimization Measures Required – statement of compliance with all general and specific permit and project conditions
- h. Turtle monitoring program (monitoring results/report)
- i. In or near CBRA unit
- j. Latitude and longitude of sand source
- k. Dune slope ratio
- l. Escarpment height and length

4. Potential Agency Coordination

- a. Federal
 - U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)
 - U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)
 - National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)
 - National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)
 - U.S. Coast Guard
- b. State
 - North Carolina Natural Heritage