

Association of State FloodPlain Managers
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Resolution on Substantial Damage and Improvement

WHEREAS, the National Research Council (NRC) has published a report entitled "Managing Coastal Erosion," which discusses the issues of erosion-zone management strategies, supporting data needs, and applicable methodologies to administer these strategies through the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), and

WHEREAS, this study concluded that jettied entrances and breakwaters protecting harbors along sandy coasts often cause accretion updrift and erosion downdrift of these structures, and

WHEREAS, the construction, reconstruction, and maintenance of groins can also cause updrift accretion and downdrift erosion, and

WHEREAS, this study also concluded that when rivers delivering sand and sediment to the coast are dammed for flood control and other purposes, beach erosion can result over the long term.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS RESOLVED that the ASFPM hereby adopts the following position on these recommendations related to the impacts of navigational and flood control projects on shoreline stability:

1. Sand dredged from entrances, harbors, inlets and tidal deltas, if of suitable quality (nontoxic and compatible grain size), should be used effectively as beach nourishment, rather than be deposited into deep water. Additional costs associated with the beachfill alternative should not be a cause for rejection of that alternative.
2. Environmental Impact Statements for such projects should provide a detailed discussion of potential impacts of navigation and shore protection structures on adjacent (updrift and downdrift) shorelines. Alternative sites and designs, including relocation of upland structures, must be evaluated with an emphasis on reducing or mitigation potential impacts, rather than responding to resultant erosion caused by the proposed project.
3. Studies should be conducted by the Army Corps of Engineers to develop recommendations on proper procedures to mitigate negative effects of existing structures that on adjacent shorelines. These studies should address the negative impacts of specific projects that have been shown to cause significant erosion problems. Such mitigation could include the construction of sand, bypassing systems, increased emphasis on beach nourishment, the structural modification of existing jetties, groins and breakwaters, and the possibility of relocation of structures. Communities affected by proposed project should be involved in the studies and should be informed of the study results, conclusions and recommendations.
4. Planners and regulatory agencies should carefully consider the effects of dams and flow regulations upon the supply of sand to the beaches. Detailed sediment budgets and analyses should be required as part of any Environmental Impact Statement for such projects. If analyses indicate potential

negative impacts to sediment budgets, then alternative design and/or mitigation options must be incorporated into project designs.

AND IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Coastal Committee Chair shall prepare a letter for signature by the Chair of the ASFPM relaying this position to FEMA, the Army Corps of Engineers, and the Environmental Protection Agency.

Adopted by the Board of Directors in January, 1991.