

Department of Homeland Security - Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)

FINAL PUBLIC NOTICE: Short Beach Dune Project; Nahant, Essex County, MA

Pursuant to the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Executive Orders 11988 (Floodplain Management) and 11990 (Wetlands), the National Historic Preservation Act, and the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) implementing regulations at Title 44 of the Code of Federal Regulations Part 9, FEMA hereby provides notice of its intent to provide funding to the Town of Nahant, MA for the Short Beach Dune Restoration Project. Funding would be provided through FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Grant Program.

The purpose of the proposed action is to reduce the risk of coastal storm hazards along Nahant Road, which is currently protected by an existing dune along Short Beach. The proposed action consists of the following: 1) raise approximately 2,860 linear feet of dune at Short Beach from an elevation of between 14 to 15 feet NAVD88 to 18 feet NAVD88 using material that is consistent with the physical properties of the existing dune; 2) raise and restore three access points in order to preserve dune height and volume; 3) move memorial benches for the duration of construction and replace once construction is completed; 4) leave trees in place and plant disturbed soils with native forbs and grasses.

The project is within a mapped special flood hazard area (100-year floodplain). A map of the area is available upon request.

FEMA determined the proposed action meets the criteria of the previously publicly reviewed Programmatic Environmental Assessment (PEA): "Massachusetts Coastal Flood and Erosion Mitigation Projects." FEMA documented this determination in a Massachusetts Coastal Infrastructure Programmatic Environmental Assessment Compliance Checklist for the Short Beach Dune Restoration Project which can be accessed online at: <https://nahant.org/coastalresources/beaches/> A copy of the PEA is available upon request.

Document requests and comments about this project must be submitted within 15 days of the date of this publication to:

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