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START OF SAND PUMPING IN NORTH MYRTLE BEACH DELAYED A FEW DAYS

North Myrtle Beach, SC – May 10, 2019 – Sand pumping was to start Monday, May 13 in North Myrtle Beach but strong offshore winds and waves have slowed offshore pipe mobilization, delaying the start of beach nourishment a few days.

The project, which will see sand placed on 2.7 miles of the city's 9 miles of beach, begins at Sea Mountain Highway and moves north to 54th Avenue North. The other leg extends from Ocean Creek Drive to 43rd Avenue South. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers surveys of the beach determine sand placement in order to maintain the overall beach profile.

The public may track the project in real-time by using the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Charleston District's web mapper at <https://arcg.is/1591Wu>.

During active sand pumping, the vast majority of the beach will remain open and available for the public to enjoy.

The project replaces some 280,000 cubic yards of sand lost to Hurricane Florence. It was to have merged with last year's Hurricane Irma beach nourishment project but delays in completing the Myrtle Beach segment pushed the North Myrtle Beach segment into this spring.

The contractor works 24 hours a day, seven days a week, usually completing up to 500 feet per day, barring mechanical or weather/sea condition delays. This means active construction moves quickly and will only be in front of any particular building or area for two or three days. It is required that bulldozers, trucks and other equipment use backup alarms at all times.

Beach-goers may cross over pipelines running along the beach, outside of any fenced areas, where the contractor places crossover sand ramps. The public should keep away from pipelines and only cross them at the sand ramps.

Because the project takes place during sea turtle nesting season, the contractor will comply with the requirements of the Endangered Species Act and the Marine Mammals Protection Act.

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