



US Army Corps
of Engineers
Galveston District
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News Release

PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE

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Corps Announces Beach Nourishment

Part of Freeport Channel Project

GALVESTON, Texas -- Beach nourishment of Surfside Beach will begin within the near future during dredging of Freeport Channel, Col. Brink P. Miller, District Engineer, for the Galveston District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, announced.

"This is part of the Corps' program to provide 'beneficial uses of dredged material,'" Miller said. "This is what we have been working toward for many years, with sand being placed on the beach as part of the Corps' channel enlargement project for Freeport Channel."

One of the final stages in the federal-local cost-shared \$89.3 million project, sand will be pumped onto Surfside Beach between the new north jetty and State Highway 332.

Sand from the channel widening will be pumped 5,600 feet down the beach, to an elevation of about five feet, and a width of 100 to 200 feet. The sand will be rough graded after dredge pipelines are removed.

Officials said access to the beach will be restricted during the dredging to avoid safety hazards to beach-goers.

The beach sand will be dredged from the site previously occupied by the old north jetty, with the dredge removing an estimated seven to nine feet of sand.

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Approximately 280,000 cubic yards of dredged material will be relocated to Surfside Beach by King Fisher Marine Service Inc., of Port Lavaca, under a \$756,000 subcontract.

After this work is complete, the channel enlargement will be completed to the authorized depth of 45 feet, and a 400-foot width in the entrance and jetty channel by Great Lakes Dredge and Dock Co., Oak Brook, Ill.

A \$12,390,000 contract was awarded Great Lakes for dredging, which includes the beach nourishment. An additional 4.4 million cubic yards of material will be removed by the electric dredge California, which will be placed at Port of Freeport disposal areas in the vicinity of FM 1495 and SH 288.

The new Coast Guard station, also located on the north jetty, is nearing completion, and relocation of the old station will permit completion of dredging. The Coast Guard will vacate the existing station by Sept. 27, with the Village of Surfside Beach having 14 days to move the station for use as their city hall and civic center.

The Corps will have 30 days to clear the site before scheduled start of dredging at that location.

Corps officials said dredging is scheduled for completion by January. Work remaining for the authorized project includes extension of the north jetty by 500 feet, rehabilitation of the south jetty, and construction of two recreational areas.

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Completion of the \$89.3 million project is scheduled for November 1993. Of this total, federal cost is \$59,380,000, Port of Freeport cost is \$29,500,000, and the Coast Guard is contributing \$450,000, for navigational aids.

An additional feature of the navigation project and beach nourishment is plans to establish a park in the vicinity of the upper end of the new north jetty.

Work is scheduled to start this fall on the park under a state grant of \$500,000 in combination with federal funds to build the park with picnic sites, walkways, bathrooms, parking areas and other facilities.

Officials said the park will be ready for public use next summer. The park is part of the federal-local cost-sharing.

Officials involved in planning for the park were F. J. Richers, chairman of the Port of Freeport Commission, and Warren Leddick, director, Brazoria County Park Commission.

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