

PERMITTED PLANS

"ATTACHMENT A"
REVISED SEPTEMBER 25, 2008

SWG-2006-00647

PROVISIONS FOR SEA TURTLE AND PIPING PLOVER MONITORING ON 21-MILE STRETCH OF BEACH WITHIN THE CITY OF CORPUS CHRISTI'S BEACH MAINTENANCE AREA

SEA TURTLES

1. The City will ensure that daily patrols are carried out from 15 March to 1 October for the entire 21-mile stretch of beach within the project area, beginning at 6:30 am and ending at 6:30 pm.
2. Conservation measures and monitoring of beach maintenance activities by trained city employees and volunteers affiliated with the University of Texas Marine Science Institute (UTMSI) and the Padre Island National Seashore (PINS) are already in place and will continue to be implemented. The City is committed to using their own staff or other qualified contractors for those time periods and in those sections of beach not patrolled by either PINS or UTMSI.

UTMSI conducts volunteer turtle patrols on the "northern section" of beach (northern side of Packery Channel to Port Aransas City limits) daily from April 1 to June 30. These patrols are conducted during daylight hours, from approximately 6:30 am and are normally completed by 2:00 pm. Trained City staff or other qualified contractors will monitor UTMSI's stretch of beach from approximately 2:00 pm to 6:30 pm. The City has a Memorandum of Understanding with UTMSI to utilize ATVs provided by the City to conduct daily turtle patrols from March 15-March 31 and from July 1-October 1 on the "northern section" of beach. As previously stated, UTMSI will conduct its own patrols from April 1-June 30.

PINS conducts volunteer turtle patrols daily from April 1 to July 14 on the "southern section" of beach (southern side of Packery Channel to the northern boundary of PINS). These patrols are conducted during daylight hours, starting at approximately 6:30 am and extending to 6 pm. The City has contracted with PINS to conduct daily turtle patrols from July 15-October 1 on the "southern section" of beach. During the time period from March 15-March 31, a trained city-staff monitor will patrol the "southern section" of beach.

3. If a turtle or a turtle nest is located beach cleaning activities will immediately cease within 100 ft. of the siting location, and a city staff member will immediately report the siting to the Sea Turtle Restoration Program.
4. Beach cleaning activities will not recommence within 100 feet of the nest site until a designee from the Sea Turtle Restoration Program has arrived on site and has given approval to do so. The City has stated that its staff will honor this commitment to cease maintenance activities within 100 feet of the nest site for a period no greater than 3 hours.

If a designee from the Sea Turtle Restoration Program has not arrived on site within 3 hours of receiving the report from the City, the City has stated that its staff will flag the nest area and recommence work making sure that the nest site is avoided.

5. The City will require all personnel involved in beach maintenance activities to receive training each year, prior to their involvement in cleaning activities, on how to recognize and avoid impacts to sea turtles, how to conduct the monitoring, and how to report any sightings to the proper authorities. All turtles, turtle nests, or turtle eggs found by monitors or reported to beach maintenance personnel will be safe-guarded by City staff until they can be relocated by the appropriate authorities.

The City will arrange a yearly training course with either PINS or UTMSI. The scope of training will include: (1) Identification of different turtle species; (2) Recognition of turtle tracks; (3) Basic procedures for recording turtle information if turtle returns to the water prior to arrival of rescue team; (4) Protection of nest areas; (5) Contact information for different rescue agencies in the area.

In addition to annual refresher training for existing beach maintenance staff, the City will also provide new hires with turtle training. This training will be also be arranged with either a PINS or UTMSI volunteer turtle patrol representative prior to turtle nesting season.

The City will also provide a financial reward to any City beach maintenance employee who successfully identifies a turtle nesting site. All turtles, turtle nests, or turtle eggs found by monitors or maintenance personnel will be safe-guarded by City staff until they can be relocated by the appropriate authorities.

6. All ruts and berms created by city equipment engaged in beach maintenance activities will be smoothed out to no greater than 2 inches each day so that turtle tracks can be better identified and to prevent small turtles from becoming entrapped. Mechanical beach equipment shall not penetrate more than 2 inches into the surface of the beach.
7. The City will ensure that public education signs concerning turtles and their protection are posted at strategic locations within the project area. Information to be included in the signs and placement locations will be coordinated with the Sea Turtle Coordinator at Padre Island National Seashore. These signs shall contain information on both the importance of protecting sea turtles and on what to do and whom to call in the event a turtle siting occurs.
8. In the event a take occurs, the City will immediately notify both the USACE Corpus Christi Regulatory Office and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Corpus Christi Field Office.
9. For 2 weeks every March (during Spring Break) and for an additional 1 week event between June 1 and September 15, the City will be allowed to maintain a safety lane for the ingress and egress of emergency vehicles within a heavy tourist area between Zahn

Road and the north Jetty and Packery Channel. The safety lane would include an approximate 20 foot wide bermed traffic way located between MHT and the annual high tide line. Berms will be smoothed out to heights no greater than 2 inches after these special events. Monitors will be present in the area while work is being conducted. The same monitoring required for daily beach operations will also apply to the creation and smoothing of berms. If City staff observes a turtle making its way onto the beach where berms are in place, they will attempt to create an unrestricted passage for the turtle by smoothing out the berms with a shovel or tool. The proper authorities will be contacted immediately when the turtle is observed.

10. Public driving lanes will be approximately 25 feet in width and located no closer than 50 feet from the MHT line and 25 feet from the base of the foredunes. The City will take precautionary steps to avoid beach maintenance work in the foredune area after 2:00 p.m. Sand and sargassum will be placed on the foredune area adjacent to where it is removed. Sand and sargassum placement areas will have 10-20 foot gaps every 200 feet to allow turtles to traverse these areas.
11. During beach maintenance activities equipment will be driven above the "wet line" on the beach to more easily identify sea turtle tracks and minimize disturbance to birds.
12. Prior to 1 March of each calendar year, the City will submit an annual turtle monitoring plan to USACE for approval. This plan shall contain information on how the City will ensure compliance with the three preceding conditions. In addition, an annual follow-up report will be presented to the Corps prior to February 1 of the following calendar year containing a summary of the number of turtles and/or nests found that year by species, a map depicting the location of each nest, and the number of takes, if any, by species.

PIPING PLOVER

1. The City will arrange a yearly training course with either PINS or UTMSI. The scope of Training will include: (1) Identification of piping plovers; (2) Recognition of habitat; (3) Basic procedures for recording piping plover information; (4) Contact information for different rescue agencies in the area. In addition to annual refresher training for existing beach maintenance staff, the City will provide new hires with piping plover training. This training will also be arranged with either a PINS or UTMSI representative, or the Service.
2. A habitat monitoring effort for 3 different maintained areas of beach (Priority Areas 1, 2, and 3) located within the City's 21-mile beach maintenance area and a control area will be undertaken in an effort to allow the City to conduct beach maintenance activities as authorized by the USACE permit; monitor the effects of beach maintenance activities on piping plovers and their habitat; to make determinations about potential adjustments to beach maintenance activities in an adaptive fashion, on an as-needed basis. Parameters to be assessed include beach width, beach topography, sargassum amounts, bird use, and beach maintenance practices.

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3. A Habitat Monitoring Effort Report will be submitted to USACE by February 1 of each year for a period of 5 years. The report will include a daily journal of beach maintenance practices, beach width and topography data taken on a quarterly basis, sargassum amounts taken on a quarterly basis, and observed bird use on a quarterly basis.

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