

In September 2005, the Hillsborough County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) tasked the County Administrator to develop a study to address the issue of sedimentation within the coastal residential canal communities of Hillsborough County. Under the County Administrator's direction, the Public Works Department developed a scope of work for the Comprehensive Canal Dredging and Preventative Measures (CCDPM) Study. This study was to look at each of these communities within the unincorporated portions of the county and to develop a plan and cost estimate for an assessment of canal dredging needs to include: sampling of sediments to estimate quantities to be removed and likely contributing sources and respective volumes of those contributions; testing of sediments to determine any contaminants present and disposal options; cost estimates for sediment removal and disposal; possible apportioning of costs based on sources of the sediment; and funding alternatives based on different philosophies of who is responsible for the problem and who benefits from the solution, also considering whether different responsibilities should attach for new development requests vs. existing ones.

Attached are the various reports detailing the findings of the CCDPM, as well as the final recommendations to the BOCC from the Canal Advisory Committee (CAC). The CAC was a citizen / governmental advisory board that served to steer the various phases of the project. The CAC has developed these recommendations through an eighteen month consensus building process.

Each of the reports deals with the following communities: Alafia River, Apollo Beach North, Apollo Beach South, Baycrest, Bayport, Dana Shores / Lower Sweetwater Creek Area, Essex Downs and the Ruskin / Little Manatee Area. The reports consist of the following:

The **Project Background and Information Report** details the historic information regarding each of the affected communities. This information consists of historic aerials, permitting information, ownership and project characterization.

The **Project Feasibility Reports** detail the engineering information for each of the affected communities. It includes the bathymetric surveys, proposed dredging footprint, total volumes, sediment analysis, water quality information, sedimentation attribution and cost. These reports are broken out by specific project area.

The **Preventative Measures Reports** outlines several preventative measures that the homeowners and the County can undertake to potentially lessen the degree of sedimentation within each of the communities. It also details the results of the questionnaire that citizens were asked to complete at the onset of the study.

The **Final Recommendations Report** outlines the recommendations that the CAC has proposed. These recommendations involve dealing with the existing sedimentation issues by proposing a Sediment Abatement and Remediation Program. This program would serve to dredging the existing canals as well as development means to lessen the degree of future siltation. It outlines a proposed funding mechanism as well as several measures for increasing water quality.