

# REACH 8 PROJECT UPDATE

**Citizens Association of Palm Beach  
Community Meeting  
April 18, 2024**

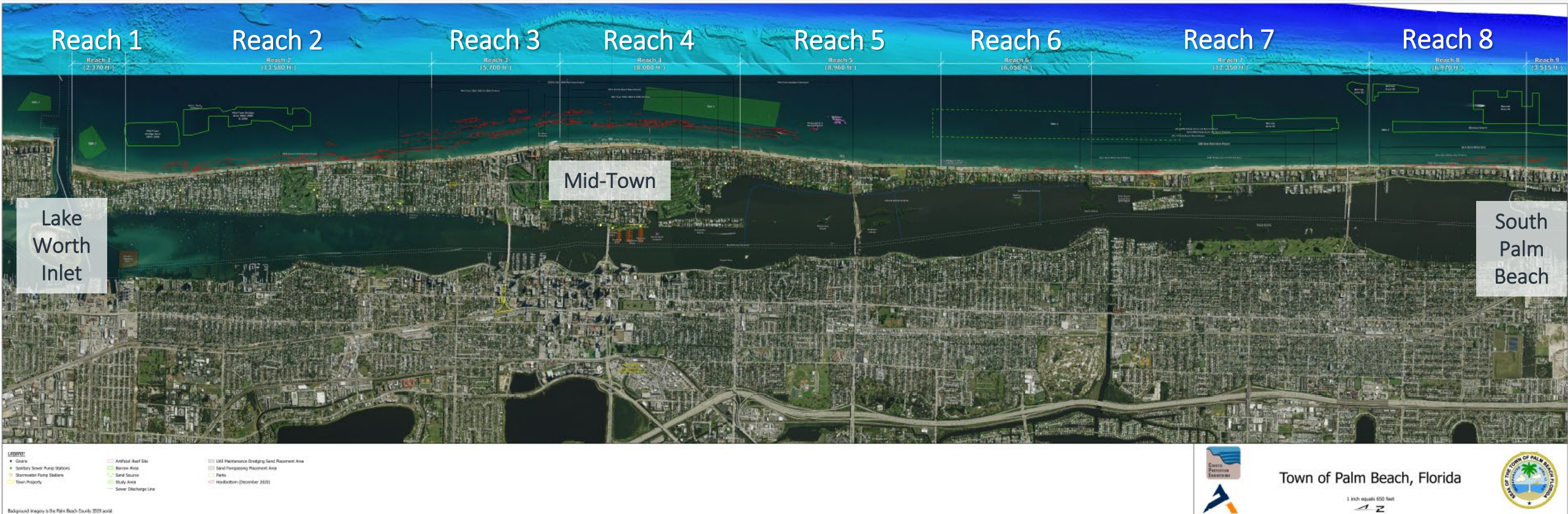
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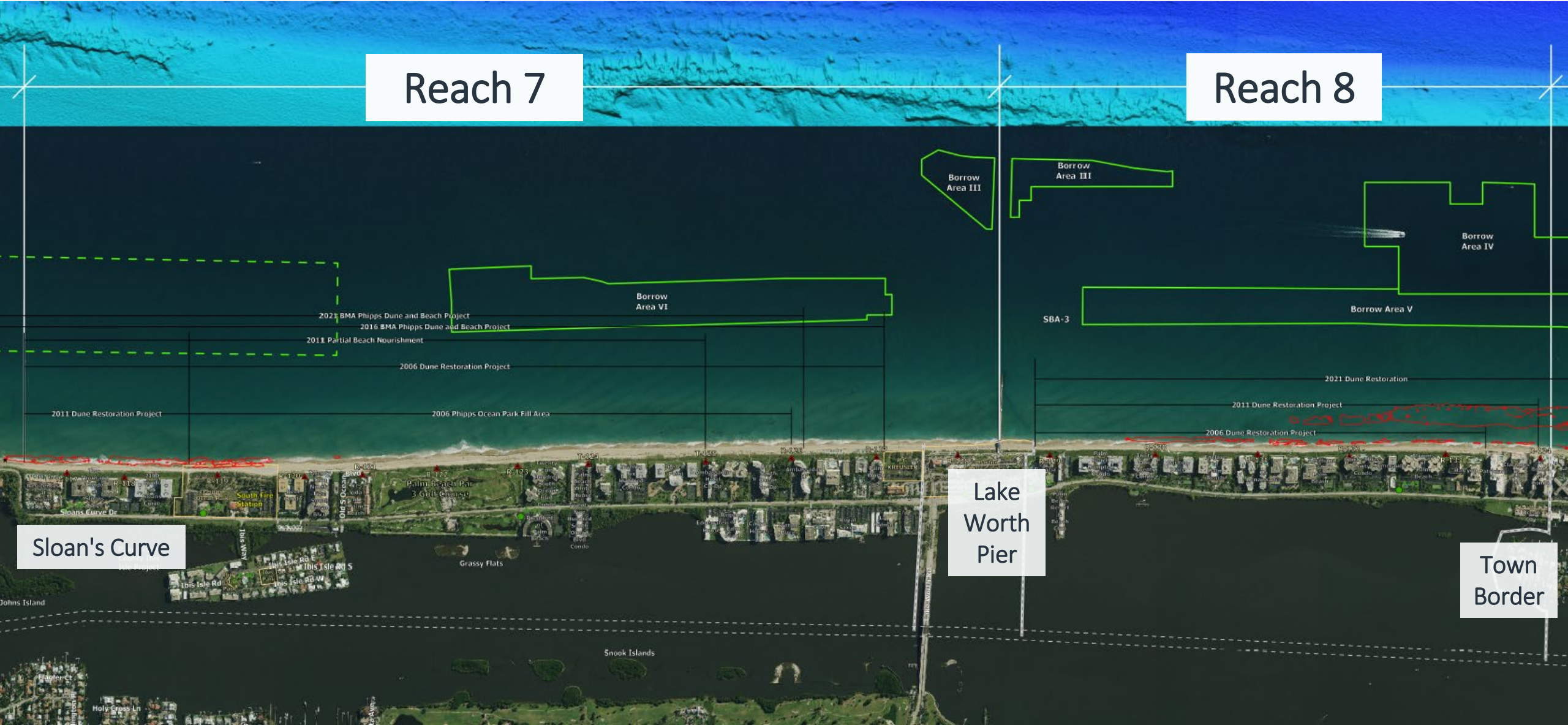
COASTAL  
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# TOWN OF PALM BEACH COASTAL PROGRAM REACHES





# REACH 7 AND REACH 8



Reach 7

Reach 8

Borrow Area III

Borrow Area III

Borrow Area IV

Borrow Area VI

SBA-3

Borrow Area V

2023 BMA Phipps Dune and Beach Project  
2016 BMA Phipps Dune and Beach Project  
2011 Partial Beach Nourishment

2006 Dune Restoration Project

2011 Dune Restoration Project

2006 Phipps Ocean Park Fill Area

2021 Dune Restoration

2011 Dune Restoration Project

2006 Dune Restoration Project

Sloan's Curve

Lake Worth Pier

Town Border

Grassy Flats

Snook Islands

# SHORE PROTECTION BOARD EDUCATION VIDEOS



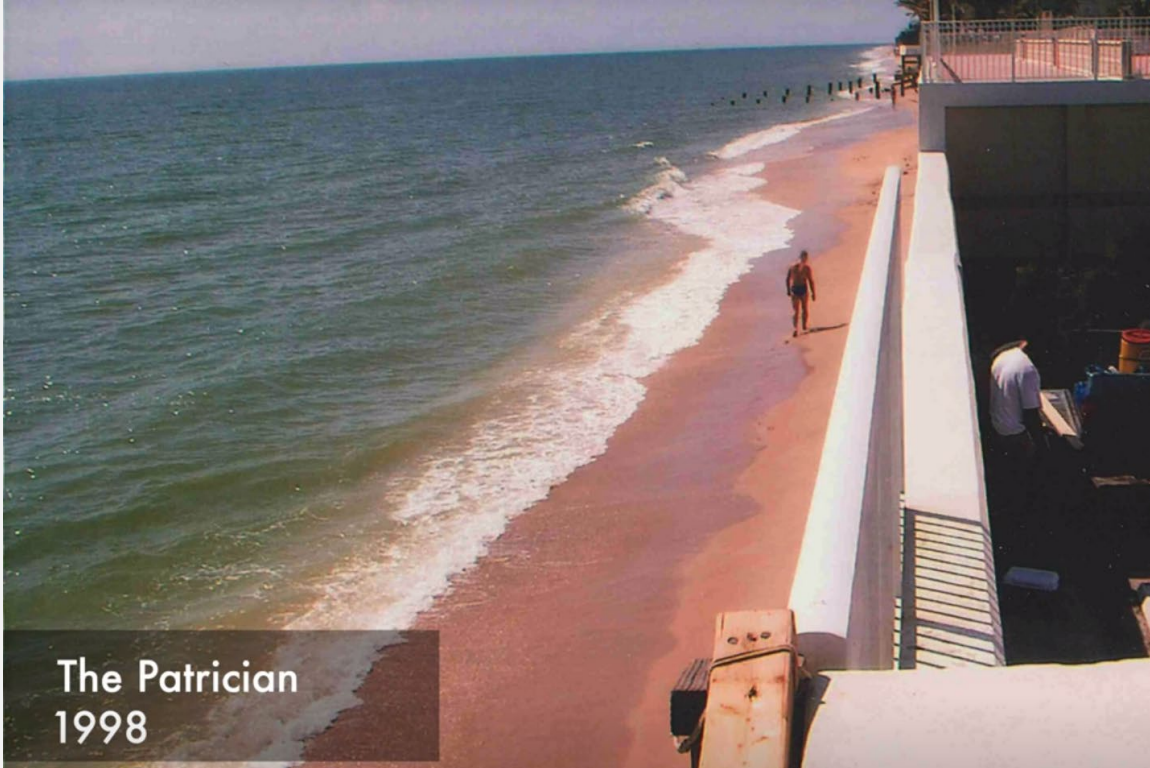
Reach 8

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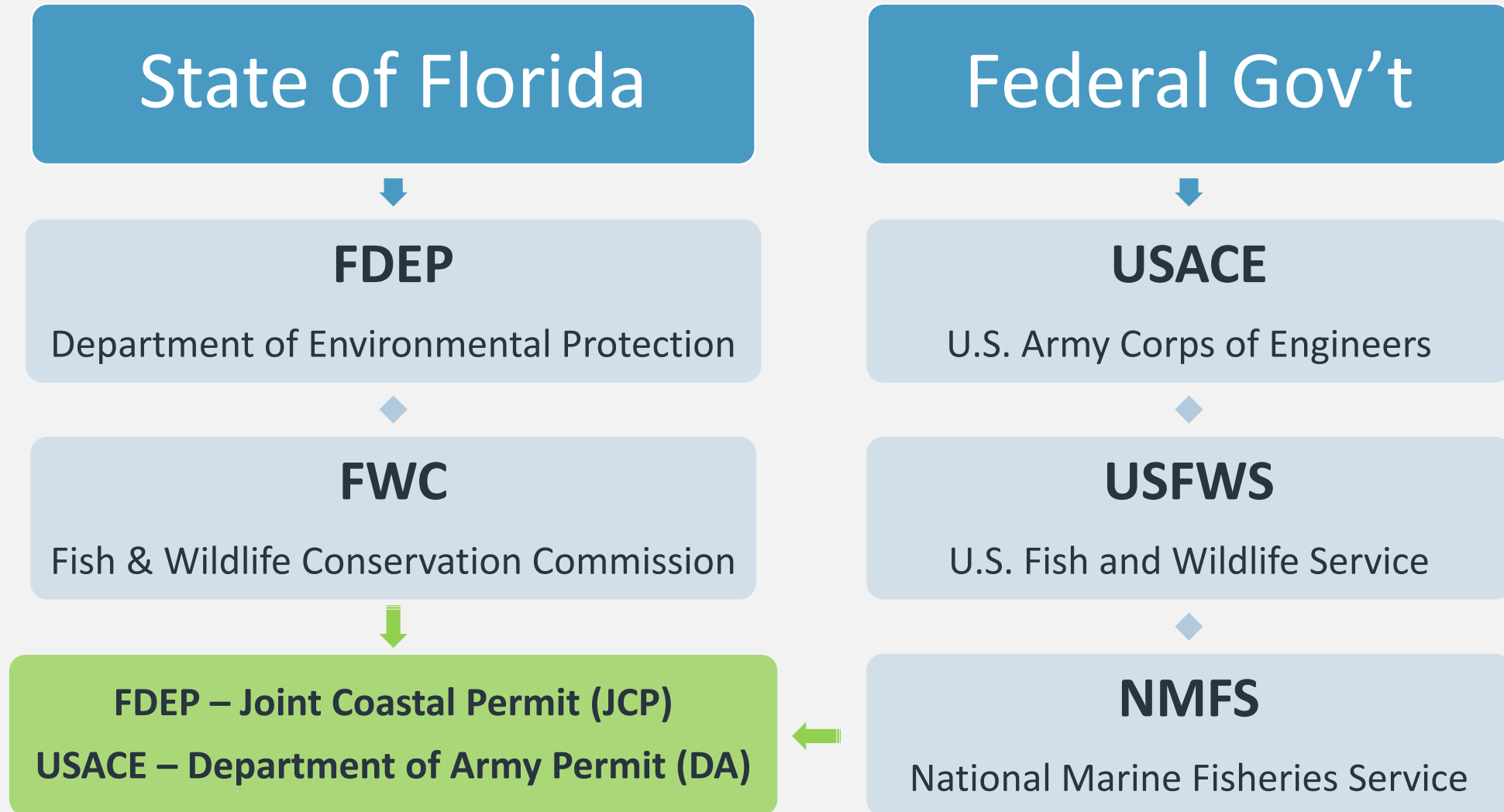


# BEACH CONDITIONS



- Conditions have improved through the Town's coastal management efforts
- Beach impacted by 2022 hurricanes and 2023/2024 winter storms


# REGULATORY AGENCIES – TERMS & DEFINITIONS

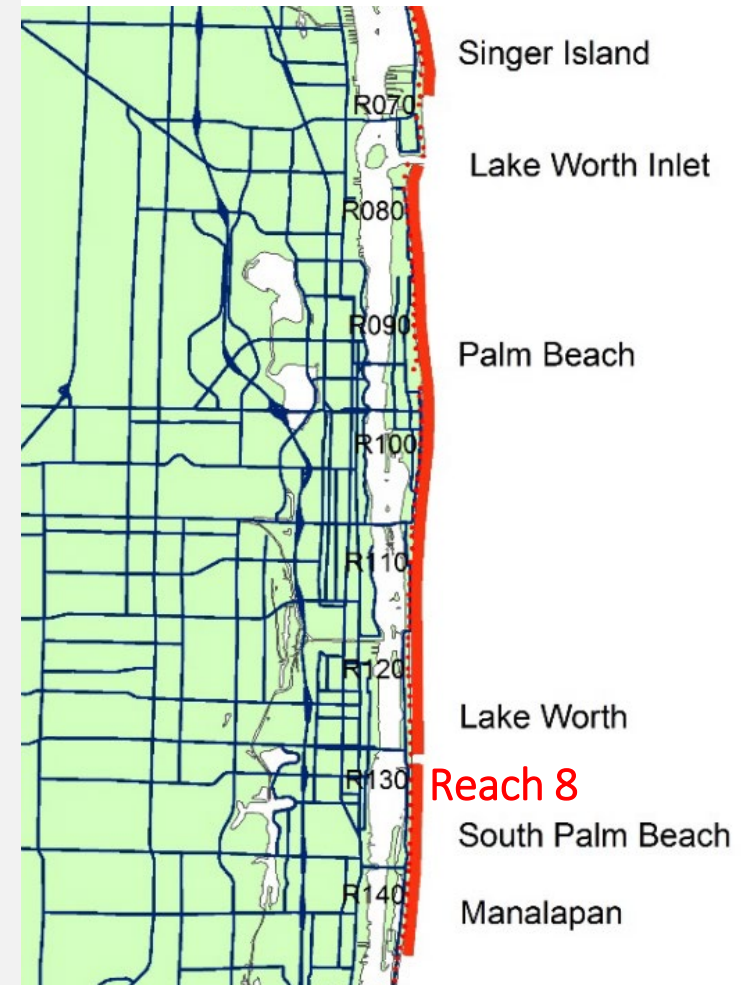


# REACH 8 PERMITTING HISTORY

- State-designated “critically eroded shoreline”
- Project originally designed as continuous beach/dune nourishment
- Design modified significantly during permitting process for “avoidance, minimization, and mitigation” of potential hardbottom impacts
- FDEP issued a Draft Permit and Notice of Intent
- Permit issuance challenged in administrative hearing and caused project to be reformulated

## Erosion Classifications

 Critically Eroded Beach



# REACH 8 REFORMULATION

- Project redesigned for regulatory limitations
- Boundary shifted to south of Lake Worth Pier
- Reduced beach width and “dune only” areas
- 15-year authorization requested (multiple projects)
- Mitigation for nearshore hardbottom (artificial reef)
- Federal permit application triggered an EIS

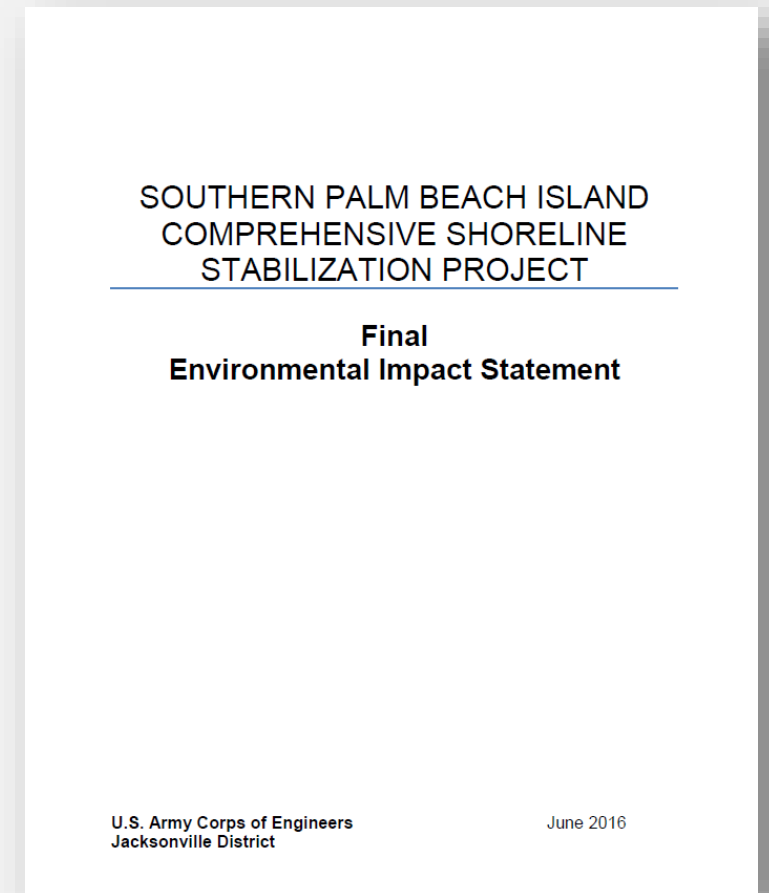




# ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT (EIS)

- Pursuant to National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA):
  - Considered a “major federal action” significantly affecting the human environment with potential for environmental impacts
- EIS objective:
  - To identify the “least environmentally damaging practicable alternative” that achieves the stated project purpose and need
  - Record of Decision (ROD)
- Stated “Purpose and Need” for Reach 8:

*“Use cost effective **beach fill placement** and/or coastal protection structures when environmentally possible ... and enhance the existing **beach and dune system for 15-year storm protection to upland property, and, at a minimum, demonstrate 25-year storm protection to habitable buildings currently without seawalls ...”***



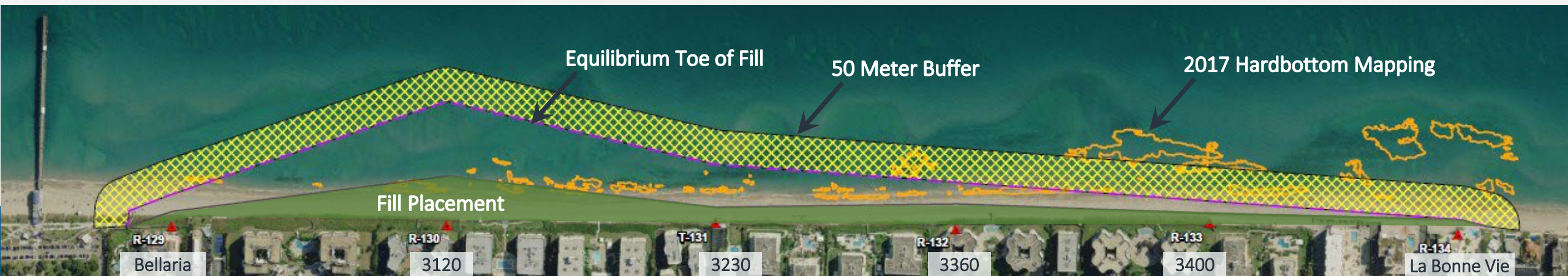
# EIS ALTERNATIVE 2 (SELECTED ALTERNATIVE)

## ■ Project Design:

- Northern project limit R129-210' (Bellaria Condominium)
- Southern project limit R134+135' (La Bonne Vie Condominium)
- Beach and dune segment (allows in-water placement)
- North and south dune only segments (dry beach placement)

## ■ Potential impacts to nearshore hardbottom:

- 3.81 acres of impact published in Final EIS
- 6.17 acres of impact later determined by NMFS
- Analysis required new assessment method and addition of buffer area



# AGENCY REQUESTS AFTER FEIS PUBLICATION

- 6/17/2016** Final EIS (FEIS) published by USACE
- 3/28/2018** USACE request to re-address NMFS comments on Draft EIS  
- Response submitted with DA permit application filed on 10/10/2018
- 4/17/2018** FWS Request for Additional Information  
- Response submitted 11/21/2018; FWS consultation complete 12/19/2018
- 2018-2020** USACE coordination with NMFS on consultation/concurrence for DA permit:  
- NMFS-HCD for beach fill and mitigation reef (ongoing)  
- NMFS-PRD for mitigation reef - concurrence letter received (12/13/2019)  
- NMFS-PRD for beach fill (ongoing)
- 1/31/2020** USACE confirmed Town had submitted all information required for review
- 10/20/2020** USACE request to increase mitigation requirements (NMFS-HCD)
- 9/22/2021** USACE letter to add coral survey for 2020 SARBO (NMFS-PRD)





# PATH TO COMPLETE REGULATORY PROCESS

## ■ Current Activities:

- FDEP Joint Coastal Permit application – submitted in July 2023
- Requests for information – finalizing assessment and mitigation plan
- Coral survey – completed in August 2023
- Update artificial reef design – surveys in April 2024

## ■ Next Steps:

- Continued coordination to complete NMFS consultations
- USACE Record of Decision (ROD) to formally close out EIS process
- FDEP Joint Coastal Permit (JCP) issuance for state authorization
- USACE issuance of DA permit to complete federal permit process

# THANK YOU!

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