

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PARK AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT – CRANDON PARK MASTER PLAN ENVIRONMENTAL PERMITTING DUE DILIGENCE

Client Name: *Miami-Dade County Parks and Recreation Department*

Type of Service: *Master Plan & Environmental Permitting Due Diligence*

Milian, Swain & Associates, Inc. (MSA) provided civil and environmental engineering services for the Crandon Park Master Plan Environmental Permitting Due Diligence. The Crandon Park Master Plan called for enhancing the shoreline of the Park by increasing the recreational potential of this area. The Master Plan implemented the recreational enhancements to the shoreline drop-off areas north and south of the attached sand bar. The enhancements to the shore line were to be accomplished by placement of sand to shallow the existing north and south drop off area and creating an artificial reef snorkeling area in the south drop-off area. The Master Plan also depicted the creation of a bicycle path along the Florida Power and Light Company (FP&L) utility easement from Crandon Marina to the old traffic circle by the Calusa Mangrove Trail at the south end of Crandon Park. In addition, the Master Plan required the construction of a linear boardwalk loop trail from the existing parking lot at the new Calusa Mangrove Trail site providing a view of Biscayne Bay and an interpretive mangrove experience for Park patrons. All of the above mentioned enhancements to Crandon Park required the acquisition of environmental permits prior to commencing construction activities. Various permits were required from multiple environmental regulatory agencies. The following were MSA's scope of services to identify the required environmental permits; the constraints and difficulties associated with each permit and the approximate length of time required to process and review the permits:

Data Collection - MSA reviewed Crandon Park Master Plan documentation and met with Miami-Dade County Parks and Recreation Department staff to obtain as much information as possible regarding the Master Plan proposed improvements. In addition, MSA identified the federal, state and local environmental regulatory agencies having jurisdiction over the proposed improvements. We also identified the permits associated with each of the agencies, obtained copies of the permit applications and reviewed the requirements and coordinated interviews with the agency representatives.

Meetings with Environmental Regulatory Agencies - MSA attended a meeting with representatives of the United States Army Corp of Engineers (COE) at their Miami-Dade County office. We attended a meeting each with representatives of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) at their West Palm Beach office as well as with representatives of the Miami-Dade County Department of Environmental Resources Management (DERM). These meetings were to discuss the required permits, the application requirements, the constraints and difficulties associated with each permit and the expected length of time associated with the processing and the review of the permits. The meetings were documented with minutes for use in the preparation of the due diligence letter report.

Preparation of Due Diligence Report - MSA compiled the information collected through the review of available documents, meetings with Parks and Recreation Department staff and meetings with regulatory agency representatives in a letter report that identified the required permits, the information that had to be provided as part of the applications, the constraints and difficulties associated with each permit and the approximate length of time required for processing and review of the application. This letter report was supported by exhibits and contained copies of blank permit applications.