

MARK WILLIAMS
COMMISSIONER

DOUG HAYMANS
DIRECTOR

NOV 6 2020

Pete Gulbranson
City of Tybee Island
P.O. Box 2749
Tybee Island, Georgia 31328

Re: Letter of Permission, Maintenance & Extension of Existing Dune Crosswalks Authorized Under Shore Protection Act Permit #169, Dune Crosswalks located at 18th, 15 ½, 15th, 13th, 12th, 11th, 10th, 9th, 8th, 7th, 6th, and Eastgate, Tybee Island, Atlantic Ocean, Chatham County, Georgia

Dear Mr. Gulbranson:

This Letter of Permission (LOP) is in response to your October 2, 2020 request to maintain existing dune crosswalks authorized by Shore Protection Act (SPA) Permit #169. The proposed project involves replacing the existing dune crosswalks and extending the seaward terminus of each structure to the seaward toe of the dune. The dynamic dune field within these project areas is accreting. At many of these locations, the existing structures are impacting sand dune formation and the potential for storm surge to compromise the dune fields is a public safety concern. The project will begin no sooner than 15 days after the date on this letter and be completed within 6 months of the letter's issuance.

As proposed, the project scope includes re-constructing dune crosswalks to maintain the integrity of the seaward sand dunes at the terminal end of these City of Tybee Island public streets: 18th, 15 ½, 15th, 13th, 12th, 11th, 10th, 9th, 8th, 7th, 6th, and Eastgate.

Each replacement crosswalk will be constructed according to the SPA Standard Permit Conditions for Dune Crosswalks (attached). As proposed, all dune crosswalks will be constructed 3ft. above the grade of the existing sand dunes, the width of the dune crosswalk will not exceed six feet as measured from the outside posts, and each structure will terminate seaward of the seaward toe of the most seaward dune. The seaward terminus of each dune crosswalk shall not encroach into the active intertidal beach seaward of the ordinary high water line at each location. There will be no excavation of the existing structures. Hand tools will be used to cut existing timbers at grade. Portions of the dune crosswalk that are buried under the dune field will remain undisturbed. The proposed project includes the replacement of pilings, decking, handrails, stringers, and signage, as needed. All demolition materials will be removed from the dynamic dune field and disposed of in an appropriate upland facility. Additionally, Department staff will identify the seaward terminus of each structure in the field prior to commencing with construction. Sand fence installation will be coordinated to enhance accretion and minimize maintenance of the newly constructed dune crosswalks and will be installed in accordance with the DNR Sand Fence Guidelines.

The Department authorizes the temporary activities associated with the activities as depicted in the attached project request. It is the applicant's responsibility to minimize any additional impacts at the site and to protect the shore jurisdictional areas.

This LOP is not meant to exempt the above referenced activities from future environmental laws. **No unauthorized equipment, materials or debris may be placed, disposed of, or stored in jurisdictional areas.** Any incidental impacts associated with this project must be rectified by fully restoring areas to their pre-construction topographic and vegetative states. This LOP is valid for the above referenced projects. Any change in the use, location, dimensions, or configuration of the approved project, without prior notification and approval from this office could result in the revocation of this LOP and in the required removal of the materials and related structures. This project must comply with all other Federal, State, and local statutes, ordinances and regulations.

Thank you for working with the Department. Please do not hesitate to contact Deb Barreiro at (912) 266.3695 if you have any questions or concerns with this project or any future projects.

Sincerely,



Jill Andrews
Chief, Coastal Management Section

Enclosures: COTI Crosswalk LOP Request 10.2.2020, SPA Standard Conditions for Dune Crosswalks, Georgia DNR Sand Fence Guidelines

cc: Shawn Gillen
City of Tybee Island
P.O. Box 2749
Tybee Island, Georgia 31328

LOP20200111



Georgia Department of Natural Resources Sand Fence Guidelines



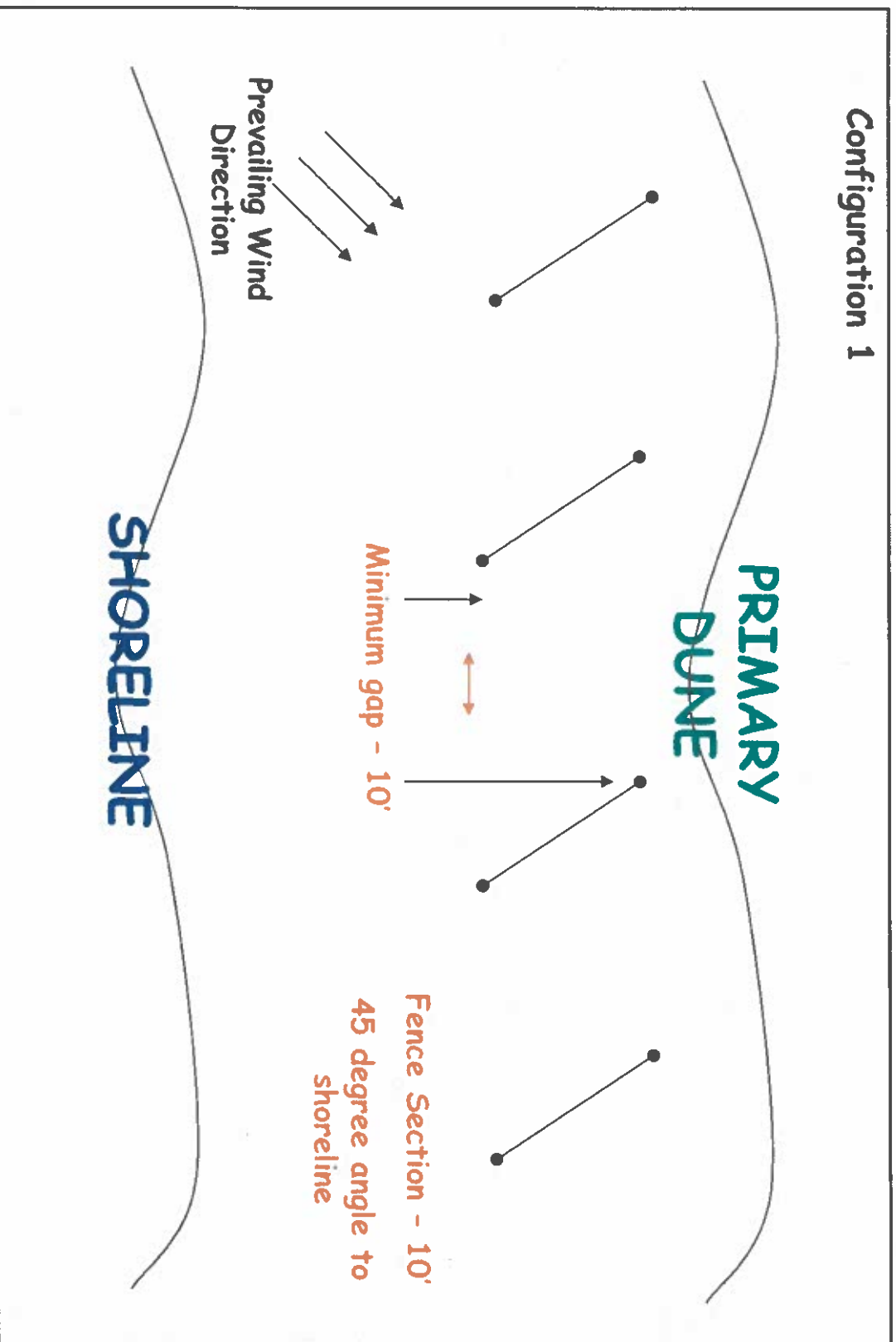
Sand fencing is used extensively along the Atlantic Coast to build and stabilize dunefields and control human access to the beach. Unfortunately, some sand fence configurations have been shown to restrict or inhibit sea turtle nesting. The **Management Plan for the Protection of Nesting Loggerhead Sea Turtles and their Habitat in Georgia (II, B, 2, C)** stipulates that "fencing must be placed so as not to deter turtles' access to nesting areas, and arranged to prevent trapping nesting turtles". The following sand fence guidelines are designed to provide good dune building and stabilization performance, while minimizing impacts to sea turtles.

Standard sand fencing consists of 4' wooden slats wired together with spaces between the slats. Woven fabric type fencing has also been successfully used in dune restoration projects. However, it is important that fabric fencing have a 40% to 60% open to closed space ratio to be effective. Fabric fencing is susceptible to ultraviolet degradation causing it to sag and lose its original shape. With sufficient maintenance, this problem may be avoided.

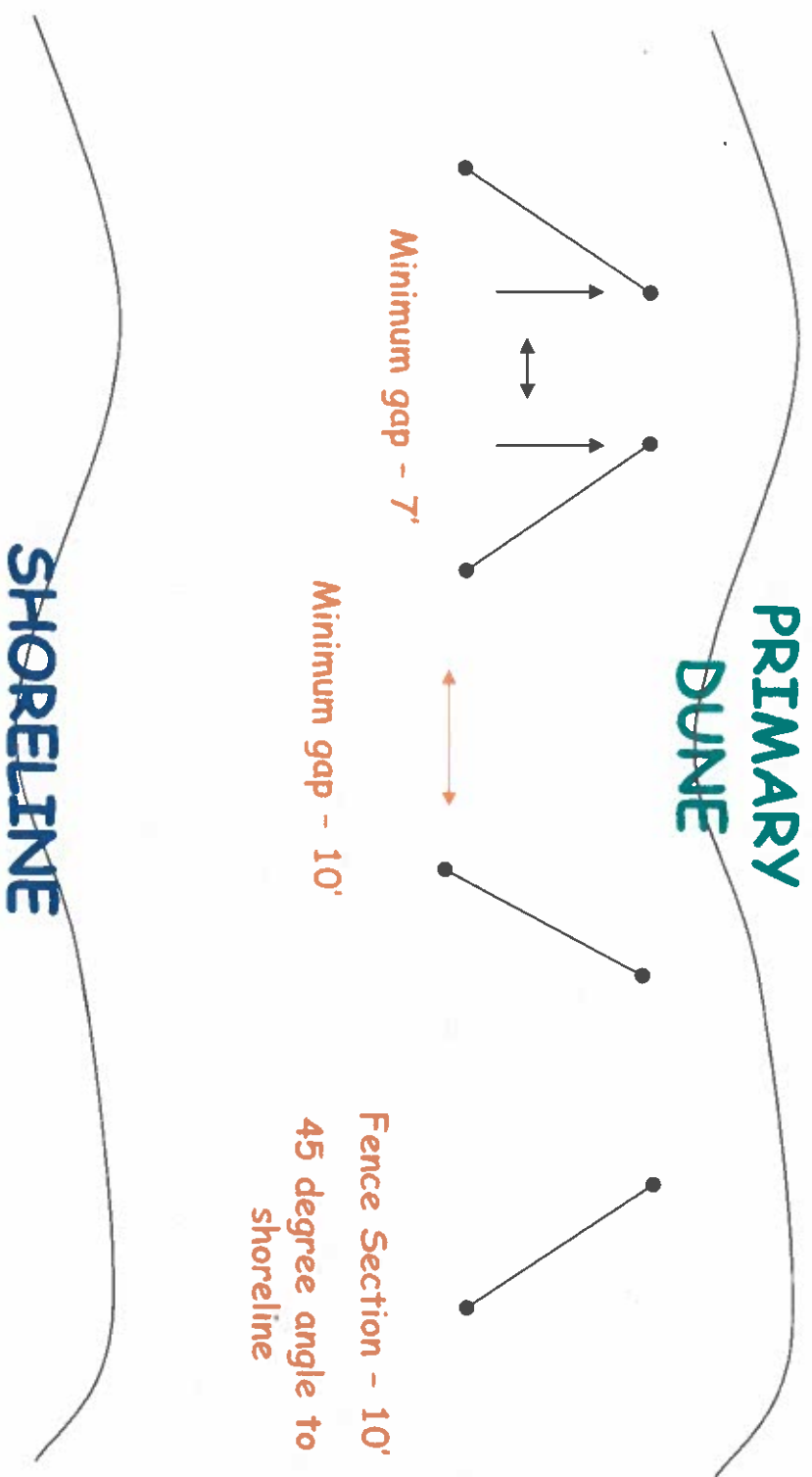
Guidelines for Sand Fence Placement:

1. Installation and repositioning of sand fences shall be conducted outside the marine turtle nesting season (May 1 – October 15) unless approved by the USFWS or GADNR Nongame-Endangered Wildlife Program.
2. Sand fence shall be installed in a temporary manner in accordance with the attached conceptual drawing. Configuration 1 consists of 10 foot sections of fence spaced at a minimum of 10 feet on a diagonal alignment to the shoreline (facing the prevailing wind). Configuration 2 consists of two 10 foot sections placed in an "open V" shape with the wider end facing the shoreline. Minimum space between ends of the "V" is 10 feet, and minimum width between the close ends of the "V" is 7 feet. For both configurations, the approximate angle of the fence to the shoreline is 45 degrees.
3. Sand Fence shall not be placed in the inter-tidal zone. Sand Fence must be placed above the highest spring high tide line, preferably adjacent to the primary dune.
4. Sand Fence shall not be placed within 7' of a beach scarp.
5. Sand Fence shall not be placed in front of an existing fence until the existing fence is completely buried.
6. Sand fences shall not be placed to control pedestrian traffic seaward of the secondary dunes. A post and rope fence may be used to restrict pedestrian access without impacting nesting marine turtles.
7. If fence material is damaged, debris must be removed from the beach area by the owner in an expeditious manner.

Configuration 1



Configuration 2





COASTAL RESOURCES DIVISION
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DOUG HAYMANS
DIRECTOR

Shore Protection Act O.C.G.A. 12-5-230 Standard Permit Conditions for Dune Crosswalks

Only one crosswalk structure shall be allowed on a parcel. In considering the design and routing of a crosswalk, the shortest route over the lowest area of the dunes shall be plotted to minimize impacts to the sand sharing system. For new construction, no decks or viewing platforms will be approved in the jurisdictional area. Previously permitted and grandfathered structures may be maintained provided they are serviceable. Additionally, the applicant requesting the structure must own 100% of the private lands through which the structure crosses or have the express written permission of the owner.

The following standard conditions shall apply to dune crosswalks:

1. The height of the structure shall be at least 36" above the grade of the sand dune and the width shall be no greater than 6' as measured from the outside posts, to allow for sand movement or accretion in the dynamic dune field.
2. The terminal point of the crosswalk shall be seaward of the seaward most dune but shall not encroach seaward of the ordinary high water line in the active intertidal beach.
3. If the shoreline erodes and the crosswalk extends seaward of the ordinary high water line, it will be the responsibility of the applicant to move the permitted improvements back to the dry sand beach, landward of the ordinary high water line.
4. The structure shall begin at the toe of the landward most dune.
5. Heavy equipment is prohibited in the Shore Protection Act jurisdiction. This project must be constructed using hand tools.
6. Clearing and grading of dunes is not authorized in conjunction with the construction of this project; stockpiling of materials in the dunes is prohibited.
7. Vegetation may be cleared only for the width of the permitted structure. The maintenance trimming of jurisdictional vegetation will only be allowed within 6" of the sides of the structure and 7' high over the structure.
8. No motorized vehicles are permitted on the crosswalk structure, except for motorized wheelchairs for handicapped persons.
9. Any sand needed to restore the site to pre-project vegetated and topographic conditions, or for backfilling, must be beach quality and obtained from an upland source and not from the beach.

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CITY OF TYBEE ISLAND

October 2, 2020

Ms. Deb Barreiro Department of Natural Resources
185 Richard Davis Drive, Suite 104
Richmond Hill, GA 31324

Dear Ms Barreiro:

The City of Tybee Island requests an authorization from the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to perform maintenance on public pedestrian crossovers.

As part of its beach and dune restoration, the City plans to replace or extend several public pedestrian crossovers, beginning after November 1st of this year and anticipating completion before April 30th, 2021. The attachment specifies the location, current condition, and prescribed work to be done on the following crossovers:

- 18th Street
- 15-1/2th Street
- 15th Street
- 13th Street
- 12th Street
- 11th Street
- 10th Street
- 9th Street
- 8th Street
- 7th Street
- 6th Street
- East Gate

We also will construct a new pedestrian crossover at Anchor Park under SPA Permit #473 during this same time frame.

All crossovers will be built to standard DNR specifications.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Pete Gulbronson".

Pete Gulbronson, P.E.
City Engineer/Director of Infrastructure

Cc: Shawn Gillen, City Manager
George Shaw, Planning and Zoning Administrator
Alan Robertson, AWR Strategic Consulting

P.O. Box 2749 – 403 Butler Avenue, Tybee Island, Georgia 31328-2749
(866) 786-4573 – FAX (866) 786-5737
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| Street | Condition | Cross | Notes |
|---------------|--|----------------------------|---|
| 18th | New Closed to vehicles December 2019. Need to build landward end after parking lot decision. | 193' [Extend] [100'] | Rebuilt 2017 for \$30,887.53. Seaward end lost in Hurricane Irma. SPA Committee granted permit on March 30, 2018 good for 5 years. Crossover built February 2020. |
| 15 1/2 | Good condition - heavily used during season. Dunes growing on both sides. Remove signage on beach. | 232' [150'] | Rebuilt 2017 \$21,702.19 |
| Extend | Poor condition. Need to replace and lower slope of angle. Remove signage on beach. | 180' [300'] | Well established dunes; rebuilt 2017 Rebuild and lower slope. Extend. |
| 15th | Replace | | |
| 13th | Fair condition and short of seaward dune but dunes growing over walk. Need to extend - estimate 50' walk + 90' seaward = 140' total extension. | 354' [140'] | Rebuilt 2011 \$26,595.44 Need to extend. |
| Extend | Poor condition and intersects seaward dune. Dune growing over walk - estimate approx. 30' sand on walk. Need to extend - estimate 70' walk + 120' seaward = 190' total extension. | 445' [190'] | Rebuilt 2014 \$21,617.31 Need to extend. |
| 12th | Extend | | |
| 11th | Poor condition and intersects seaward dune. Blocked by sand - estimate 30' of sand on walk. Need to extend - estimate 120' seaward. | 462' [120'] | Thickest part of dune system. Rebuilt 2014 \$16,113.85. Need to extend. |
| Extend | | | |
| 10th | Fair condition and short of seaward dune. Blocked by sand. Need to extend - estimate 50' walk + 120' seaward = 170' total extension. | 472' [170'] | Thickest part of dune system. Rebuilt 2010 \$46,440. Need to extend. Stormwater containment system landward of seaward dune. |
| Extend | | | |
| 9th | Fair condition and intersects seaward dune. good dune system. Dunes growing over. Need fencing south side. | 538' [100'] | Thickest part of dune system. Add dune fencing. Rebuilt 2015 \$20,159.07 |
| Extend | | | |

| Street | Condition | Cross [Extend] | Notes |
|----------------------------------|--|-------------------|---|
| 8 th Extend | Fair condition and intersects seaward dune. Significantly blocked by sand - almost impassible. Need to raise and extend estimate 120'. | 475' [150'] | Rebuilt 2013 \$31,299.04 Need to extend or leave short. fill in dune. lay mobi-mat. |
| 7 th Extend | Fair condition and intersects seaward dune. Significantly blocked by sand. Estimate extend 120'. Need to rebuild fencing. | 422' [100'] | Rebuilt 2015 \$24,652.21 Need to extend. |
| 6 th Extend | Good condition - dunes growing on either side. | 340' [100'] | Rebuilt 2015 \$18,728.57 |
| Anchor | New installation under SPA Permit #473. Planned for Fall/Winter 2020. | [250'] | New installation. Consider composite (Trex) material experiment |
| Eastgate Build | Good condition and intersects seaward dune. Mobi-Mat. ADA Access. | 288' [100'] | Rebuilt 2011 \$18,459.97 |
| Extend | | | |



Image © 2020 TerraMetrics
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