



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Padre Island National Seashore

P.O. Box 181300

Corpus Christi, Texas 78480



IN REPLY REFER TO:

9.D.

December 3, 2015

Dear Interested Party:

The National Park Service (NPS) will be preparing an environmental assessment (EA) which will analyze the environmental effects of a new Beach Access Boardwalk and restoration of dunes that is proposed for Padre Island National Seashore, Texas. The proposed boardwalk will comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and is intended to provide visitors to the Seashore with ADA compliant access to the beach while restoring the primary dune line. The boardwalk is proposed to be constructed either following the route of the current boardwalk, raised to pass over the dunes or to be built over the dunes in a straight line from the Visitor center deck. Construction of either proposal would include an ADA accessible ramp as well as stairs down to the beach after passing over the dunes. Included in the EA will be an analysis of potential impacts to visitors, staff, and primary dune line as well as analysis of impacts to other resources such as Threatened and Endangered Species.

An EA will be prepared in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) to provide the decision-making framework that 1) analyzes a reasonable range of alternatives to meet project objectives, 2) evaluates issues and impacts to National Seashore resources and values, and 3) identifies mitigation measures to lessen the degree or extent of these impacts.

The NPS encourages public participation throughout the NEPA process during which the public has two opportunities to formally comment on the project; once during initial project scoping and again following release of the EA. We are currently in the scoping phase of this project, and invite you to submit your written comments online at the NPS Planning, Environment, and Public Comment website at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov>.

If you are not able to submit comments electronically through this website, then you may also submit written comments to me at the address on the letterhead. Please provide all comments by January 3, 2016. These comments will be considered during preparation of the EA. We look forward to hearing from you.



If you have any questions, or require additional information, please contact Mr. James Lindsay at (361) 949-8173 ext. 223, or email James_Lindsay@nps.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Mark E. Spier". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Mark" and last name "Spier" being more prominent than the middle initial "E".

Mark Spier
Superintendent

Enclosures:

Map - Malaquite Beach Access and Dune Restoration Alternatives





Malaquite Beach Access and Dune Restoration Alternatives

