



November 8, 2022

Mr. Edgar Garcia  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
10117 Princess Palm Avenue, #120  
Tampa, FL 33610

**Re: Response to Request for Additional Information  
St. Regis Groin – Old Colony Beach Club  
1620 Gulf of Mexico Drive, Sarasota, Florida  
USACE Application SAJ-1999-05180**

Dear Mr. Garcia:

Monarch Ecology Group, LLC (MONARCH) is providing the following response to address environmental comments in the Request for Additional Information (RAI) issued by U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) on October 27, 2022 for the proposed groin repair. All other (non-environmental) comments are being addressed by engineers.

MONARCH also conducted an environmental assessment for the existing groin structure (and surrounding areas) on September 25, 2022 and prepared an environmental report (enclosed) summarizing our findings. Listed species concerns are also addressed in detail in the report.

**USACE Comment:**

**Please revise your drawings to indicate the height above mean high water line of your finished slabs. In addition, please Indicate the location of any vegetation along the shoreline and in-water withing the work area.**

Response: The engineering drawings have been revised to show the proposed height of the proposed groin slabs relative to mean high water (MHW) and the extent of shoreline vegetation. The MHW was surveyed by American Surveying and Mapping, Inc as reflected on the enclosed survey.

During the environmental assessment conducted on September 25, 2022, MONARCH evaluated the area around the existing groin for seagrasses (including 100-foot perimeter around the groin) and no seagrasses were found. The extent of shoreline vegetation landward of the groin structure was also surveyed (by American Surveying and Mapping, Inc.) and is reflected on the revised construction drawings prepared by The Tignor Group, P.A.

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**USACE Comment:**

**Avoidance and Minimization: Please provide a brief statement on how potential impacts to resources and ESA species have been adequately avoided and minimized (noise impacts, marine vegetation impacts, ESA, etc.)?**

Response: A detailed summary of resources and listed species (ESA) concerns are addressed in MONARCH's Environmental Assessment Report (enclosed) including submerged resources (seagrasses, corals, etc.), fish, manatees, sea turtles and listed shorebird species. MONARCH's environmental assessment included both a submerged resource survey for the groin structure and surrounding area (100-foot perimeter) as well as a habitat assessment of the shoreline immediately landward of the groin. As summarized in our report, no seagrasses, corals or oyster beds were found on, under or around the structure. The submerged bottom around the structure was characterized entirely by sandy bottom with scattered patches of red drift algae floating on the bottom. Submerged resources documented during the survey were limited to algae, encrusting algae and barnacles growing on the existing groin structure. Therefore, the project will not adversely affect any protected submerged resources or result in a loss of essential fish habitat.

Various fish species and a blue crab were also observed under and around the structure as summarized in MONARCH's report and dolphins were also observed swimming seaward of the groin. No manatees or sea turtles were observed in the water. The in-water work proposed (for groin repairs) is not expected to result in adverse impacts to fish, marine mammals (manatees and dolphins) or sea turtles since they are mobile species that can easily vacate the area during in-water construction. Additionally, floating turbidity curtains will be installed around the perimeter of the groin structure before any in-water work starts to prevent them from entering the in-water workspace during construction. All mobile species are expected to vacate the area when turbidity curtains are installed. The project will also follow *Standard Manatee Conditions* (FWC 2011), *Sea Turtle and Smalltooth Sawfish Construction Conditions* (NOAA March 2006) and *Protected Species Construction Conditions* (NOAA May 2021) for in-water work in which case construction personnel will monitor for both manatees and sea turtles to make sure they don't become entangled in the floating turbidity curtains or trapped in the workspace. Additionally, USFWS raised concerns for manatee calves and sea turtles becoming entrapped in the structure if there are any gaps less than eight (8) inches. The existing structure has several large and small gaps as reflected in the photolog (Appendix C) included in MONARCH's Environmental Assessment Report (enclosed), but many large gaps existing under the structure that would allow for marine life to retreat or flee as needed. Any new support structures installed will be spaced such that there are no small gaps that would trap manatee calves or sea turtles.

During the environmental assessment, MONARCH also evaluate the shoreline beach area to evaluate for native vegetation and listed species including shorebirds and sea turtles. The construction equipment will be staged from the uplands landward of the groin in the landward beach/dune area which has sparse dune vegetation including railroad vine, sea oats, beach sunflower and sandspurs. The construction staging will occur in the same construction footprint authorized by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) as part of the Coastal Control Construction Line (CCCL) permit (ST002303) issued on February 11, 2022. A copy of

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the CCCL permit is included as an appendix in MONARCH's report (Appendix B) along with the construction drawings and dune mitigation plan. The CCCL permit authorized some activities along the beach with marginal dune impacts and also included a dune restoration plan as outlined in Special Permit Condition 3 of the FDEP permit. The groin repair will be conducted prior to any of the CCCL authorized activities and dune restoration.

MONARCH carefully evaluated the beach for evidence of sea turtle and shorebird nesting and no nests were observed. The survey was conducted on September 25, 2022 which is outside of shorebird nesting season (February 15<sup>th</sup> – September 1<sup>st</sup>), but falls within sea turtle nesting season (May 1<sup>st</sup> through October 31<sup>st</sup>). We recognize sea turtles and listed shorebirds have potential to nest along Sarasota County beaches, therefore, every effort will be made to time construction such that it occurs outside of both shorebird and sea turtle nesting season. In the event that construction cannot be avoided during nesting season (as a result of permit delays), a qualified ecologist will conduct pre-construction survey immediately before construction commencement to evaluate for any sea turtle and shorebird nests and a qualified bird/sea turtle monitor will also oversee construction to monitor for shorebird and sea turtle nesting activity. Should the ecologist find any active shorebird or sea turtle nests during construction, the nest will be carefully staked out and FWC will be notified for a site inspection before any construction resumes. It should be noted that FWC was also heavily engaged in the review of the CCCL permit as it relates to sea turtle and shorebird concerns.

Given we are currently outside of both shorebird and sea turtle nesting season, it would be beneficial for the USACE to expedite permit issuance to allow for construction before nesting season resumes for shorebirds (February 15<sup>th</sup>) and sea turtles (May 1<sup>st</sup>). The FDEP is also expected to issue an exemption for the groin repairs in the next couple of weeks. The Applicant will provide the USACE with a copy of the FDEP exemption upon issuance.

**USACE Comment:**

**Mitigation/ Protective Measures: Please provide either a brief statement describing how impacts to the waters of the United States are to be compensated (if any?) or a statement explaining why compensatory mitigation should not be required for the proposed impacts.**

Response: The project includes repairs for the existing groin structure which has been in existence since 1965. Since the work will be limited to the footprint of the existing groin, the project will not result in a loss of WOTUS. The groin itself is only 130 feet long and the proposed work is not much different in scope than a dock repair/replacement which is considered exempt under state and federal guidelines. The extent of repairs may be limited to replacement of the slab (on top of groin structure), but may also require selective repair/replacement of support structures as needed.

MONARCH's Environmental Assessment Report (enclosed) provides a thorough summary of our findings and addresses listed species concerns as well as protection measures that will be implemented during construction. Given the limited scope of the project (repair/replacement in the same footprint), the lack of resources found during the submerged resource survey and the protective measures that are being implemented during construction, the project is not expected to

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result in any adverse impacts to protected resources or listed species. Therefore, compensatory mitigation is not warranted.

**USACE Comment:**

**Will the project be accomplished using the standard manatee conditions for in-water work?** <http://www.saj.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory/SourceBook.aspx>

Response: *Standard Manatee Conditions* (FWC 2011) will be followed for in-water work. However, it should be noted that construction equipment will be staged from the uplands (not from a barge). Floating turbidity curtains will be installed prior to construction which should prevent manatees from entering the in-water workspace. Construction personnel will monitor for manatees during in-water construction and will also monitor to ensure no manatees become entangled in the floating turbidity curtain. We anticipate *Standard Manatee Conditions* will become a condition of the permit consistent with all other in-water work authorized by the USACE.

**USACE Comment:**

**Will the project be accomplished using the Protected Species Construction Conditions?** [https://media.fisheries.noaa.gov/2021-06/Protected Species Construction Conditions 1.pdf?null](https://media.fisheries.noaa.gov/2021-06/Protected_Species_Construction_Conditions_1.pdf?null)

Response: The Project will follow *Protected Species Construction Conditions* (NOAA NMFS Fisheries Southeast Regional Office May 2021) and *Sea Turtle and Smalltooth Sawfish Construction Conditions* (NOAA Match 2006). We also anticipate this will become a condition of the USACE permit.

Sincerely,

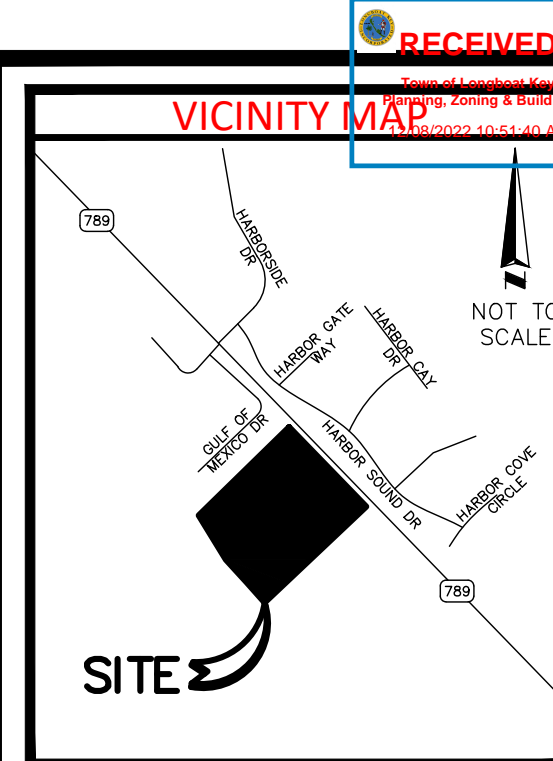
**MONARCH ECOLOGY GROUP, LLC.**

*Kerri A. MacNutt*

Kerri A. MacNutt  
Principal

cc: George Liebel, Unicorp w/attachments  
Kristy Tignor, P.E., The Tignor Group, P.A. w/attachments  
Reuben Clarson, P.E., Reuben Clarson Consulting, w/attachments  
Michael Ogorek, Moss Construction, w/attachments  
Scott Gilner, P.E., Kimley-Horn and Associates, w/ attachments

Encl: Updated Survey (prepared by American Surveying & Mapping, Inc.)  
Monarch Environmental Assessment Report (11/7/22)



**OVERALL LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

A PARCEL OF LAND AND ASSOCIATED RIGHTS LOCATED IN U.S. GOVERNMENT LOT 4 IN SECTION 17, TOWNSHIP 36 SOUTH, RANGE 17 EAST, SARASOTA COUNTY, FLORIDA, MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:

COMMENCE AT THE INTERSECTION OF THE NORTH LINE OF U.S. GOVERNMENT LOT 4 IN SECTION 17, TOWNSHIP 36 SOUTH, RANGE 17 EAST, SARASOTA COUNTY, FLORIDA, WITH THE CENTERLINE OF GULF OF MEXICO DRIVE, FORMERLY JOHN RINGLING PARKWAY, SAID INTERSECTION BEING 613.5 FEET WESTERLY FROM THE NORTHEAST CORNER AND ALONG SAID NORTH LINE OF SAID GOVERNMENT LOT 4; THENCE RUN SOUTH 46°00'00" WEST, A DISTANCE OF 50.00 FEET TO A POINT ON THE SOUTHWESTERLY RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE OF SAID GULF OF MEXICO DRIVE AND THE NORTHERLY-MOST CORNER OF COLONY BEACH AND TENNIS CLUB AS RECORDED IN CONDOMINIUM BOOK 7 PAGES 12 THROUGH 25J OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF SARASOTA COUNTY, FLORIDA, AND THE POINT OF BEGINNING; THENCE ALONG SAID SOUTHWESTERLY RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE RUN SOUTH 44°00'00" EAST, A DISTANCE OF 780.11 FEET TO THE EASTERLY-MOST CORNER OF SAID COLONY BEACH AND TENNIS CLUB; THENCE DEPARTING SAID SOUTHWEST RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE ALONG THE SOUTHEASTERLY LINE OF SAID COLONY BEACH AND TENNIS CLUB AND THE SOUTHWESTERLY PROLONGATION THEREOF, RUN SOUTH 45°59'56" WEST A DISTANCE OF 1,004.73 FEET TO A POINT ON THE TOWN OF LONGBOAT KEY EROSION CONTROL LINE AND MEAN HIGH WATER LINE PER MEAN HIGH WATER SURVEY FILE #0083, DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION; THENCE ALONG SAID EROSION CONTROL LINE AND MEAN HIGH WATER LINE RUN THE FOLLOWING FIVE (5) COURSES: (1) NORTH 60°07'00" WEST A DISTANCE OF 25.20 FEET; (2) NORTH 41°34'51" WEST A DISTANCE OF 271.32 FEET; (3) NORTH 41°56'56" WEST A DISTANCE OF 143.24 FEET; (4) NORTH 31°53'19" WEST A DISTANCE OF 288.04 FEET; (5) NORTH 33°15'45" WEST A DISTANCE OF 61.25 FEET TO A POINT ON THE NORTHWESTERLY LINE OF AFORESAID COLONY BEACH AND TENNIS CLUB; THENCE DEPARTING SAID EROSION CONTROL LINE AND MEAN HIGH WATER LINE RUN NORTH 46°00'26" EAST ALONG SAID NORTHWESTERLY LINE A DISTANCE OF 923.30 FEET RETURNING TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING.

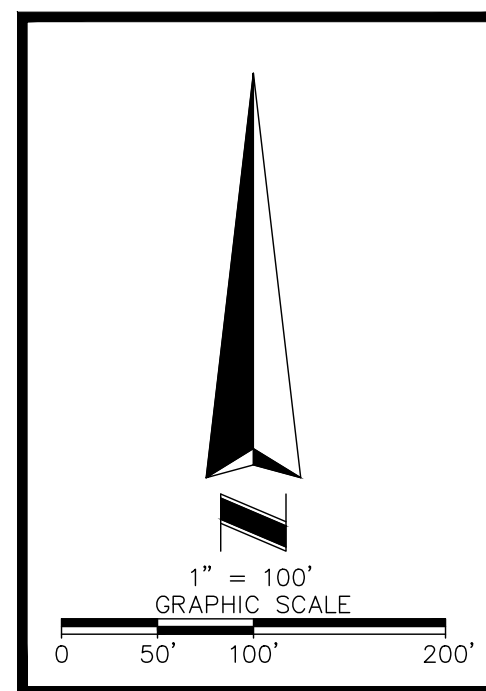
**RIGHT-OF-WAY DONATION PARCEL LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

A PARCEL OF LAND AND ASSOCIATED RIGHTS LOCATED IN U.S. GOVERNMENT LOT 4 IN SECTION 17, TOWNSHIP 36 SOUTH, RANGE 17 EAST, SARASOTA COUNTY, FLORIDA, MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:

COMMENCE AT THE INTERSECTION OF THE NORTH LINE OF U.S. GOVERNMENT LOT 4 IN SECTION 17, TOWNSHIP 36 SOUTH, RANGE 17 EAST, SARASOTA COUNTY, FLORIDA, WITH THE CENTERLINE OF GULF OF MEXICO DRIVE, FORMERLY JOHN RINGLING PARKWAY, SAID INTERSECTION BEING 613.5 FEET WESTERLY FROM THE NORTHEAST CORNER AND ALONG SAID NORTH LINE OF SAID GOVERNMENT LOT 4; THENCE RUN SOUTH 46°00'00" WEST, A DISTANCE OF 50.00 FEET TO A POINT ON THE SOUTHWESTERLY RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE OF SAID GULF OF MEXICO DRIVE AND THE NORTHERLY-MOST CORNER OF COLONY BEACH AND TENNIS CLUB AS RECORDED IN CONDOMINIUM BOOK 7 PAGES 12 THROUGH 25J OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF SARASOTA COUNTY, FLORIDA; THENCE ALONG SAID SOUTHWESTERLY RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE RUN SOUTH 44°00'00" EAST, A DISTANCE OF 50.00 FEET TO A POINT ON THE SOUTHWESTERLY RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE OF SAID GULF OF MEXICO DRIVE AND THE NORTHERLY-MOST CORNER OF COLONY BEACH AND TENNIS CLUB AS RECORDED IN CONDOMINIUM BOOK 7 PAGES 12 THROUGH 25J OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF SARASOTA COUNTY, FLORIDA; THENCE ALONG SAID SOUTHWESTERLY RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE RUN SOUTH 44°00'00" EAST, A DISTANCE OF 194.96 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING; THENCE CONTINUING ALONG SAID SOUTHWESTERLY RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE RUN SOUTH 44°00'00" EAST A DISTANCE OF 285.92 FEET; THENCE DEPARTING SAID SOUTHWESTERLY RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE RUN SOUTH 46°00'00" WEST A DISTANCE OF 3.00 FEET; THENCE RUN NORTH 44°00'00" WEST A DISTANCE OF 285.92 FEET; THENCE RUN NORTH 46°00'00" EAST A DISTANCE OF 3.00 FEET RETURNING TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING.

**SURVEYOR'S NOTES**

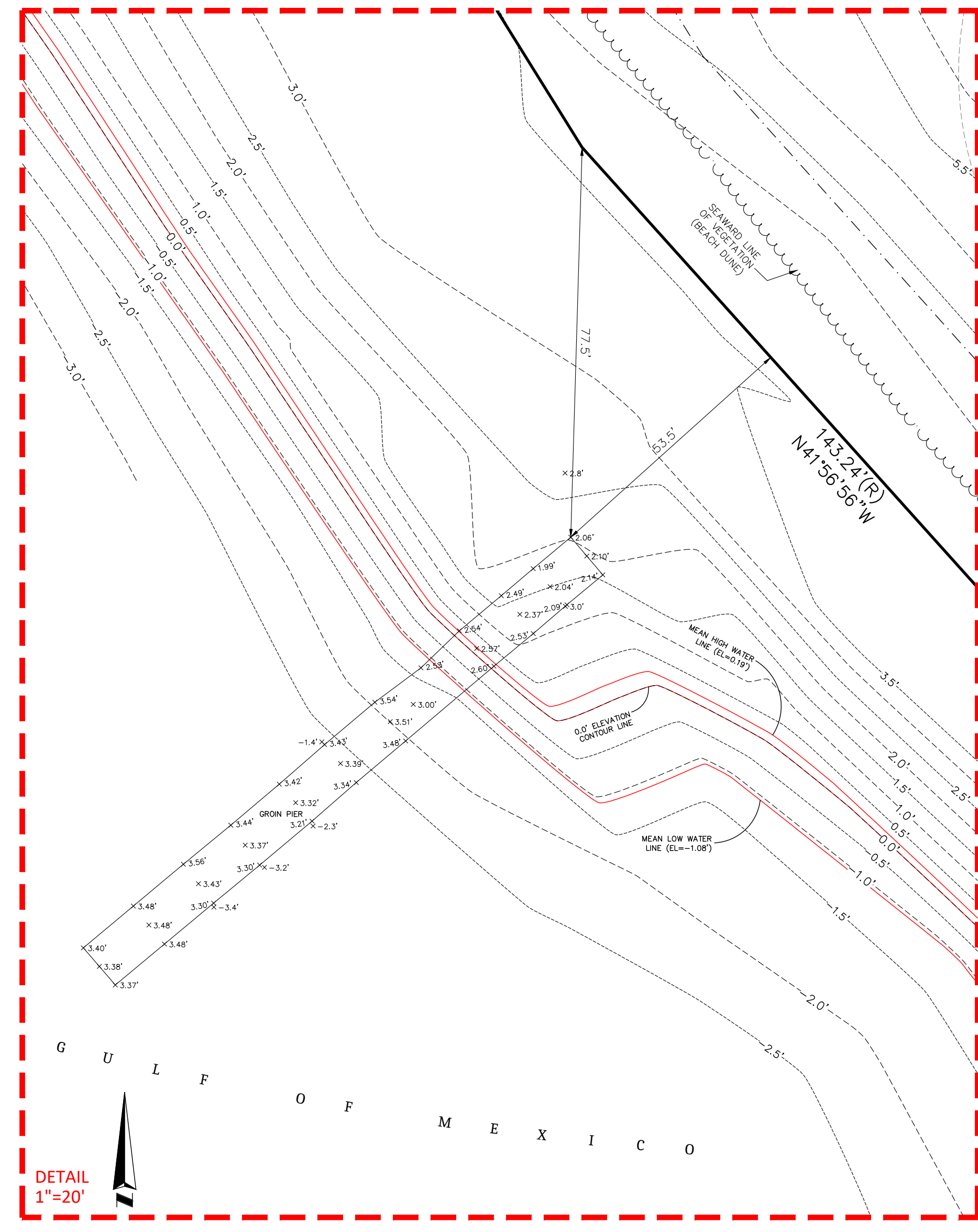
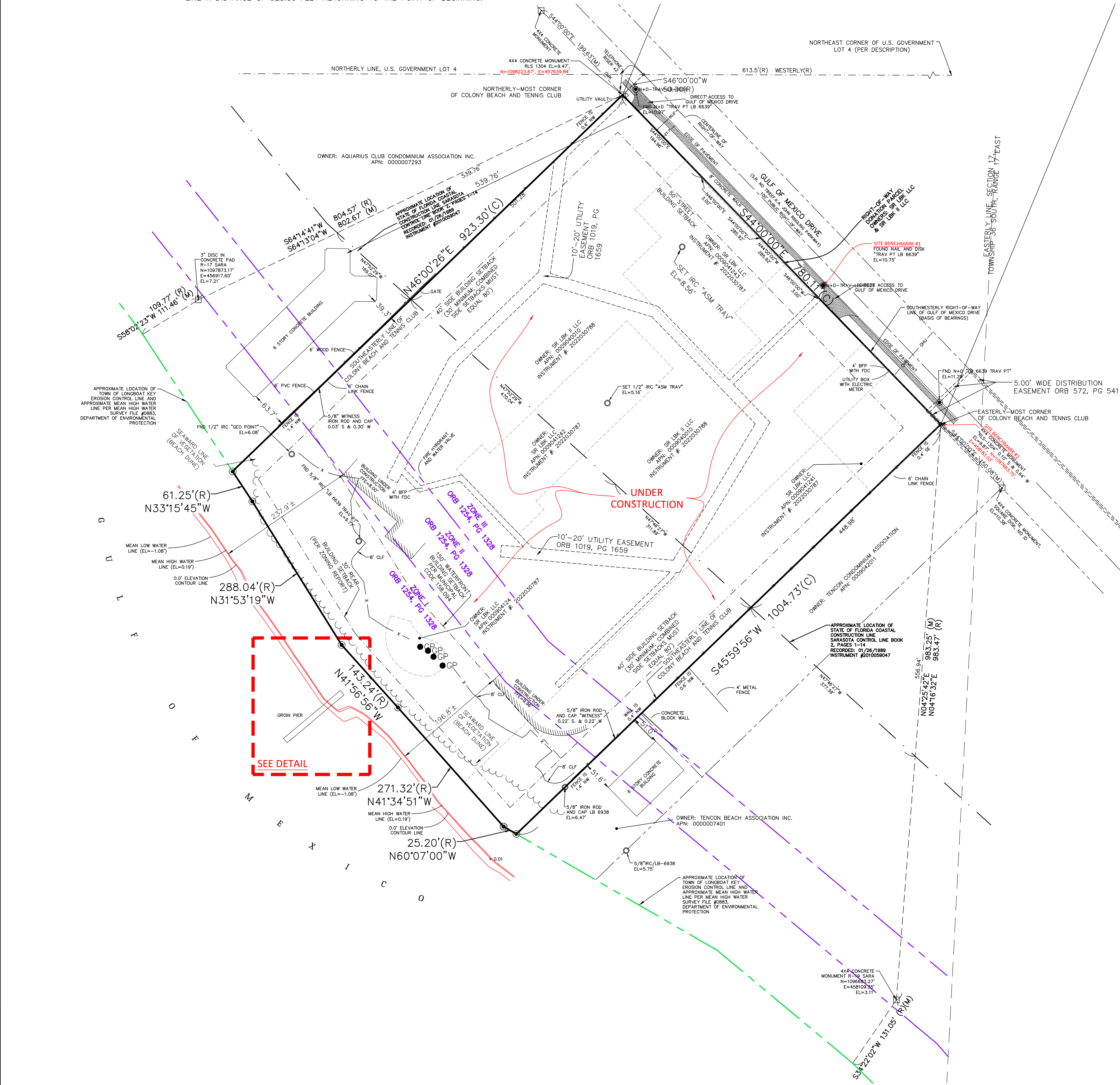
- BEARINGS SHOWN HEREON ARE BASED ON SOUTHWESTERLY RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE OF GULF OF MEXICO DRIVE (F.K.A. JOHN RINGLING PARKWAY), WHICH BEARS S44°00'00"E, PER CONDOMINIUM BOOK 7, PAGE 12A.
- ALL STATEMENTS WITHIN THE CERTIFICATION, AND OTHER REFERENCES LOCATED ELSEWHERE HEREON, RELATED TO: UTILITIES, IMPROVEMENTS, STRUCTURES, BUILDINGS, PARTY WALLS, PARKING, EASEMENTS, SERVITUDES, AND ENCROACHMENTS ARE BASED SOLELY ON ABOVE GROUND, VISIBLE EVIDENCE, UNLESS ANOTHER SOURCE OF INFORMATION IS SPECIFICALLY REFERENCED HEREON.
- NOT VALID WITHOUT THE SIGNATURE AND ORIGINAL RAISED SEAL OF A FLORIDA LICENSED PROFESSIONAL SURVEYOR & MAPPER PER F.S. 472.025 OR THE CERTIFIED ELECTRONIC SIGNATURE AND SEAL OF A FLORIDA LICENSED PROFESSIONAL SURVEYOR & MAPPER PER F.A.C. 5J-17.062(2) AND 5J-17.062(3).
- ALL RECORDING INFORMATION SHOWN HEREON REFERS TO THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF SARASOTA COUNTY, FLORIDA.
- VERTICAL INFORMATION BASED ON: BENCHMARK A 715, HAVING A PUBLISHED ELEVATION OF 7.74' NAVD83, DESCRIBED AS: CONCRETE MONUMENT WITH SURVEY DISK "A 715 2008". ELEVATIONS SHOWN HEREON ARE BASED ON NORTH AMERICAN VERTICAL DATUM (88).
- ELEVATIONS FOR THE GROUND PIER WERE COLLECTED ON 03/26/2022.
- ELEVATIONS FOR THE NORMAL HIGH WATER LINE (NHWL), NORMAL LOW WATER LINE (NLWL), AND 0.0' ELEVATION CONTOUR LINE WERE COLLECTED ON 11/05/2022. VALUES ARE BASED ON PUBLISHED ELEVATIONS PER THE NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION'S TIDES AND CURRENTS DATABASE FOR LONGBOAT KEY, FLORIDA, LISTED CONTROL STATION: 8726520 ST. PETERSBURG, TAMPA, FLORIDA.
- WEST-MOST FINISHED PAD IS 7.81 FEET HIGHER THAN THE NORMAL HIGH WATER LINE.



**SHEET 1 OF 1**

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS SURVEY, SUBJECT TO THE SURVEYOR'S NOTES CONTAINED HEREON, WAS MADE BY ME OR UNDER MY CLOSE PERSONAL SUPERVISION AND THAT I AM A LICENSED PROFESSIONAL SURVEYOR AND MAPPER IN CHAPTER 472, PART 17, FLORIDA STATUTES, AND I AM A LICENSED PROFESSIONAL SURVEYOR AND MAPPER PER F.A.C. 5J-17.062(2) AND 5J-17.062(3).

E. GLENN TURNER PSM #5643

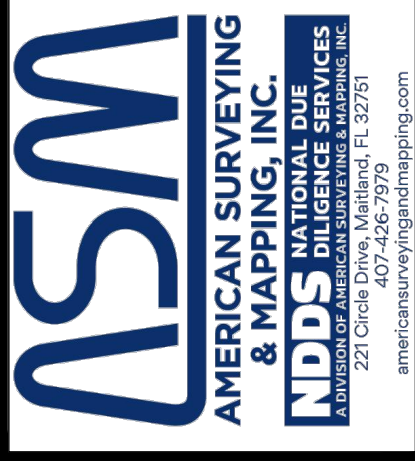


**6Diii LEGEND AND ABBREVIATIONS**

CONCRETE SURFACE	SQ.FT.	SQUARE FEET	SQUARE FEET/STRUCTURES
BFP	BACKFLOW PREVENTER	□	ELECTRIC BOXES/STRUCTURES
FDC	FIRE DEPARTMENT	□	UTILITY POLE
GP	GATE POST	□	ELECTRIC METER
(C)	CALCULATED DATA	□	SANITARY MANHOLE
(R)	RECORD DESCRIPTION PER CONDO BOOK 7 PAGES 12 THROUGH 25J	□	FIRE DEPARTMENT CONNECTION
(D)	DATA PER VESTING DEED	□	BACK FLOW PREVENTER
POC	POINT OF COMMENCEMENT	□	FIRE HYDRANT
POB	POINT OF BEGINNING	□	WATER VALVE
NAVD	NORTH AMERICAN VERTICAL DATUM PUBLISHED 1988	□	WATER METER
FDEP	FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION	□	WELL
PSM	PROFESSIONAL SURVEYOR AND MAPPER	□	UTILITY VAULT
LB	LICENSED BUSINESS	□	GAS UTILITY MARKER
		□	SIGN
		□	CONCRETE MONUMENT AS NOTED
		□	ELECTRIC PULLBOX
		□	TELEPHONE RISER
		□	TOP OF BANK
		□	OVER-HEAD UTILITY LINE
		□	RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE
		□	CENTERLINE
		□	EASEMENT LINE
		□	SETBACK LINE

DATE	REVISIONS	TECH
3-30-22	ADD ELEVATIONS TO PIER	CF
8-29-22	ADD MNWL CONTOUR/VEG LINE	CF
11-7-22	UPDATE NAL & VB + ADD NLWL	CF

**SPECIFIC PURPOSE SURVEY OF**  
**ST. REGIS HOTEL**  
**1620 GULF OF MEXICO DRIVE**  
**SECTION 17, TOWNSHIP 36 SOUTH, RANGE 17 EAST**  
**SARASOTA COUNTY**  
**LONGBOAT KEY, FLORIDA**



JOB NO.: 200854  
 SCALE: 1" = 100'  
 FIELD DATE: 11/05/22  
 DRAWN BY: GORRI  
 APPROVED BY: EGT  
 DRAWING FILE # 200854 - ST REGIS HOTEL - GROUND CROSS-SECTION - 11-07-22.DWG