



# *City of Tarpon Springs, Florida*

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## Memorandum

**Date:** August 2, 2018  
**To:** Website Update  
**From:** Bob Robertson, P.E., Project Administration Department Director  
**Subject:** Anclote River Dredge Project Status Update

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Below is a brief summary of the Anclote River Dredge Project status.

Project work continues by the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). This project falls under the USACE jurisdiction and is being monitored by City staff. The USACE is working with the City to finalize the legal agreement through which the City/County partnership can provide up to \$300,000, contributed by Pinellas County, to fund the design and permitting phase. While the paperwork on this agreement is still be finalized, the USACE began working on the design in early 2018 to avoid project delays.

In other funding news, the State of Florida has approved up to \$676,046 for securing a property and for the construction of a storage and dewatering system on the property for the sediments that will be dredged from the river. This upland site is currently the project's target location for sediment storage and dewatering. The Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) will be administering the grant on behalf of the State. City Staff recently completed work plan paperwork and submitted it to FDEP for processing and approval. The funds for this grant became available in July 2018 (the beginning of the State's fiscal year).

The USACE continues to work with Pasco County as they explore the possibility of using the sediments from this dredge for beach re-nourishment at the North Anclote Park. The feasibility of this option has not yet been fully vetted. Sediment storage and treatment at this site, the upland site mentioned above, or possibly a combination of both sites is currently being evaluated by the USACE's technical team.

As this time, it is our understanding that the United States Congress has made funding available to the USACE for this project. The amount of funding is \$3.5 million according to the USACE. Recently the US Coast Guard agreed with the USACE's recommendation to relocate the outer reaches of the Federal Channel in the vicinity of Anclote Key to deeper waters. This will move the outer reaches of the channel to safer depths and avoid having to dredge these sections of the channel. As such, the \$3.5 million U.S. Congressional appropriation should be enough funding to complete the dredge of the Anclote River to expected and restorative depths, not simply "pre-Hurricane Irma" depths. As of this update it

is the USACE's intention to finalize design in this calendar year in hopes of beginning the construction bid process as early as late 2018 or more likely in early 2019.

City Staff continues to monitor the project and remain involved and available to assist the USACE during design and construction.