

For Immediate Release
May 16, 2007

Contact: Larry Farnsworth
(202) 232-6574
lfarnsworth@crosbyvolmer.com

Collier County Beach Named One of America's Top Restored Beaches

Innovative Designs, Governmental Coordination Reasons for Top Beach Honor

Fort Myers, FL – On the eve of the summer beach season, the American Shore and Beach Preservation Association (ASBPA) named Collier County Beach of Florida one of America's Top Restored Beaches. Collier County received the award following its outstanding intergovernmental coordination with respect to hurricane and storm damage rehabilitation.

“We've worked hard to use the best methods possible for the restoration of Collier County's beaches,” said Stephen Keene, Senior Coastal Engineer at Coastal Planning & Engineering, Inc. “We are very excited that ASBPA has chosen to recognize our beaches for this year's top restored beaches award.”

The Collier County project combines innovative design, extensive sand searches, sophisticated environmental data-gathering and monitoring, and careful operational strategies to produce a high-quality, durable beach with minimal social and environmental impacts. The excellent sand chosen for the project, the advanced extraction and placement methods, and the design of the profile has resulted both in better project performance and fewer environmental impacts. This project also involved outstanding intergovernmental coordination with respect to hurricane and storm damage rehabilitation.

“The Top Nourished Beach award was created in 2001 as a way of highlighting nourished beaches,” said Mayor Harry Simmons of Caswell Beach, N.C. and President of ASBPA. “As Americans begin to flock to our nation's coastline during the upcoming beach season, most beach-going Americans don't even realize they may be enjoying a nourished beach.”

Beach nourishment – the process of placing sufficient quantities of beach quality sand on eroding beaches to combat erosion – began occurring in the United States over 40 years ago in coastal communities on the East, West and Gulf Coasts. America now has over 370 nourished beaches, including Miami Beach; Coney Island, N.Y.; Waikiki and Venice Beach, Calif. Studies have shown that each dollar spent on beach nourishment generates an additional four to five in taxpayer benefits.

The Top Restored Beaches were chosen based upon three criteria: the economic and ecological benefits the beach brings to its community; the short and long-term success of the nourishment project; and the challenges each community overcame during the course of the project. In addition to Collier County Beach, the 2007 winners included: Surfside-Sunset Beach, CA; Chaland Headland Restoration Project, La.; East Beach, Norfolk, Va.; Collier County Beaches, Fla.; Perdido Pass, Ala.; West Hampton Dunes, Long Island, N.Y.; and Folly Beach, S.C.

For more information about ASBPA, to schedule an interview with Harry Simmons or to obtain photos, please contact Larry Farnsworth of Crosby-Volmer International Communications at lfarnsworth@crosbyvolmer.com.

ABOUT ASBPA: Founded in 1926, the American Shore and Beach Preservation Association represents the scientific, technical and political interests along the coast in an effort to shape national research and policy concerning shore and beach management and restoration. ASBPA strives to engage in a factual debate on coastal issues and economics that will foster sound, far-sighted and economical development and preservation of our beaches; thereby aiding in placing their beliefs within the reach of the largest possible number of people in accordance with the ideals of a democratic nation. For additional information about ASBPA, please visit www.aspba.org.

###