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

Coastal Leaders Encouraged to Join Feds in Addressing Beach Nourishment Issue

*Assistant Secretary Woodley announces agreement between OMB, Army Corps of Engineers
to craft long-term funding solution to periodic beach renourishment*

WASHINGTON, DC – In his address to members of the American Shore and Beach Preservation Association (ASBPA) Wednesday, John Paul Woodley, Jr., the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works, announced that the federal Office of Management and Budget and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, are working on an approach for a long-term solution to the issue of periodic beach renourishment.

Woodley, who helped kick off ASBPA's 2007 Coastal Summit in Washington, DC – a three-day event featuring members of Congress and leading coastal scientists from around the country – invited officials from America's coastal communities to his office at the Pentagon to share their thoughts on beach nourishment.

“America's beaches draw millions of tourists and vacationers every year, serve as a vital buffer against severe waves and storms, and generate billions of dollars for our national, state and local economies,” said Harry Simmons, Mayor of Caswell Beach, NC and President of ASBPA. “The Assistant Secretary is keenly aware of these realities, and today conveyed his firm commitment to preserving our beaches for future generations. As the mayor of a coastal community, I was deeply encouraged by the Assistant Secretary's comments, and I look forward to working with him to find a solution to consistent funding.

Funding for beach nourishment projects is set by Congress; however over the last several years congressional leaders have been unsuccessful in reaching an agreement on comprehensive legislation to address the matter. A reauthorization of the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA), which last passed by Congress in 2000, would establish a consistent level of funding for beach nourishment projects.

ABOUT ASBPA: Founded in 1926, the American Shore and Beach Preservation Association (ASBPA) 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.

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