The South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control, Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management (the Department), an agency of the State of South Carolina, organized and existing under the authority of the South Carolina Coastal Zone Management Act, S.C. Code Ann. §48-39-10 et seq., finds that emergency conditions are imminent in anticipation of the passing of Hurricane Irma beginning on September 6, 2017, on beaches facing the Atlantic Ocean in the State of South Carolina and therefore located within the “critical area” jurisdiction of the Department. These conditions may expose and create an imminent threat to the existing habitable structures and critical infrastructure on front beach properties.

The Department finds that this imminent threat constitutes temporary emergency conditions that are likely to endanger the health, safety, welfare, and resources of residents of the coastal zone as well as the general population of the State of South Carolina. Accordingly, the Department, pursuant to the authority of S.C. Code Ann. §48-39-130(D)(1), hereby issues an Emergency Order to allow the owners of front beach properties, whose lands and buildings abut the Atlantic Ocean, to conduct minor renourishment in those areas of the beach threatened by erosion. The local government with jurisdiction over the site must be notified of the activity.

This Emergency Order, 17-EO-HI2, will expire on November 6, 2017 (60 days from the date of this Order). Pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. §48-39-130(D)(1), property owners may request an individual emergency order from the Department if an emergency persists.
Specifically, all work must conform to the following requirements:

1. The Department must be notified in writing of all activities performed under this Emergency Order within 72 hours. This notification should include the property owner's name, the property address, and the date minor renourishment was conducted. This information must be submitted in the form of an email to Blair N. Williams, Critical Area Permitting Section Manager at williabn@dhec.sc.gov.

2. The amount of sand added to the beach under this Emergency Order must be documented and submitted to the Department in the form of number of truckloads of sand and/or sand volume. This information must be submitted in the form of an email to Sean Briggs, OCRM Compliance and Enforcement Section Manager, at briggssm@dhec.sc.gov.

3. Renourishment sand must originate from an upland source and be approved by the Department as beach compatible. Material must be clean and free of any debris.

4. Sand placed on the beach must be located between the extended property lines of the property receiving the sand.

5. Sand may be stabilized with sand fencing and beach vegetation consistent with the requirements of GP-90-F (Sand Fencing) and GP-06-DV (Dune Vegetation).

6. A copy of the issued Emergency Order shall be in possession of anyone performing the sandscraping on the beach.

7. The contractors performing work under this Emergency Order shall be in direct contact with the S.C. Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Marine Turtle Conservation Program (MTCP) representative. Daily, early surveys of the beach are performed to document turtle nesting activity and MTCP representative shall be consulted each morning prior to any work being performed on the beach. In the event a nest is disturbed during construction and/or sea turtle adult is encountered, all work should cease and the DNR MTCP should be contacted immediately. The MTCP contact is Michelle Pate who can be reached at 843-953-9052 (office) or PateS@dnr.sc.gov.