



5 September 2003

INFORMATION PAPER

SUBJECT: Saipan Lagoon Erosion, Saipan

1. Purpose: To provide information on the subject project.
2. Points of Major Interest and Facts.

a. The study is being conducted under authority of Section 22 of the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 1974, as amended, and funded under the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Planning Assistance to States (PAS) Program. PAS studies are normally cost shared on a 50 percent Federal and 50 percent non-Federal basis. However, Section 1156 of the WRDA 1986 waives the project sponsor's cost sharing requirements up to \$200,000 for all studies and projects conducted within the CNMI.

b. The study was initiated in fiscal year 1995 at the request of the project sponsor, CNMI, Coastal Resources Development Office. The study scope calls for the monitoring of the coastal processes along the western coast of Saipan from Chalan Kanoa to Garapan over a number of years to identify areas of critical shoreline erosion and developing appropriate mitigation alternatives.

c. The first three phases of the study, conducted between 1995 and 1997, established the baseline conditions along the affected shorelines through the use of aerial photography and topographic surveys. The fourth through sixth phase of the study conducted between 1998 and 2002 repeated the process to identify shoreline changes. The final phase of the study, scheduled for completion in FY04, will result in a technical report documenting the study findings and recommending mitigation alternatives. To date, \$55,000 in study funds was received and no additional funds are required.

3. Congressional Interest. There is minimal Congressional interest in this project, at this time.