



*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*

## **U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands agree to end Saipan Beach Road Feasibility Study**

At the request of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI), the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Honolulu District, agrees to halt the feasibility study for Coastal Storm Risk Management on Saipan Beach Road.

Long-term coastal erosion threatens Beach Road, a primary territorial highway and main public thoroughfare on the island of Saipan. The feasibility study assessed coastal storm risk management actions that would reduce tropical storm-induced damages as well as long-term erosion to Beach Road, a seaward pedestrian walkway, and the surrounding infrastructure and property.

Based on evaluation and comparison of the alternatives, USACE recommended the construction of a hybrid seawall as the Tentatively Selected Plan and National Economic Development plan with a Federal interest. The proposed plan would reduce risk to Beach Road from coastal storms and sea level rise over the project life. However, CNMI preferred natural and nature-based solutions to mitigate the threats. This could not be done as economically as the hybrid seawall; therefore, CNMI provided USACE with a Notice to Terminate the study in September 2021.

“We remain dedicated to an ongoing productive partnership with CNMI, and I am hopeful that we can continue to assist the CNMI achieve their objectives through the Garapan Watershed Assessment and future studies and projects,” said **Commander Lt. Col Eric Marshall, USACE, Honolulu District.**

To view the termination report, go to <https://www.poh.usace.army.mil/Missions/Civil-Works/Civil-Works-Projects/Saipan-Beach-Road/>