In an effort to improve our understanding on the workings of the coastal ocean for a variety of environmental applications and to improve upon forecasts of storm surge for residents along the West Coast of Florida, the University of South Florida's College of Marine Science (USF/CMS) established a real-time Coastal Ocean Monitoring Prediction System (COMPS) for the West Florida Shelf region. COMPS is a regional coastal ocean observing system operating along the Gulf of Mexico's west Florida coast and was implemented in 1997 as a State of Florida legislative initiative. Data and model products are disseminated in real-time to federal, state, and local emergency management officials by various means including the Internet (URL http://comps.marine.usf.edu).

The COMPS overall program goal is to provide real-time data for emergency management use and to improve description and understanding of the relevant physical processes that control coastal flooding, and gulf circulation driven effects on red tides, oil spills and Coast guard search and rescue operations. USF/CMS COMPS is an active member of the SECOORA (Southeast Coastal Ocean Observing Regional Association) whose goal is to develop a regional coastal ocean observing system for the southeast (NC, SC, GA, FL) United States – all part of the ever evolving NOAA IOOS (Integrated Ocean Observing System).

COMPS (URL http://comps.marine.usf.edu) program assets consist of arrays of offshore buoys and coastal tidal stations for surface meteorology and in-water measurement of temperature, salinity, and currents, and sea level; along with five High Frequency (HF) radar sites for offshore surface-current velocity field measurements. The operational USF/CMS HF Radar Network, currently consists of three Direction Finding (DF) CODAR long-range SeaSonde HF radars and two Phased Array (PA) WERA systems with the Venice station site containing a co-located CODAR and WERA system; the first and only co-located and operational site in America.

Equipment has been secured with plans underway for the installation of a fourth CODAR system at Tierra Verde/Ft De Soto Park to facilitate and evaluate additional fill-in of the offshore coverage extent during periods of low wave energy. Therefore, a modification to existing station number 4 (Seista Key/Sarasota County) of the current license WD2XVR is hereby requested consisting solely of a change in the name and location:

FROM: Sarasota County: Fixed/Base, 948 Beach Road Siesta Key, Florida at 27-15-52N Latitude and 82-33-03W Longitude.

TO: Pinellas County: Fixed/Base, 3500 Pinellas Bayway S., within Fort DeSoto Park Tierra Verde, Florida at 27-38-17 N Latitude and 82-44-23 W Longitude.

Everything else will stay the same – the same 4 frequencies, station class, emission designator, power, frequency tolerance, and CODAR equipment manufacturer - only the station name and location will change.

Please be aware that because of the co-located CODAR and WERA systems, there will be two station locations listed on our WD2XVR license as Tierra Verde (PINELLAS), each with very similar Lat/Long locations. Just like the two existing co-located CODAR and WERA stations at Venice, Florida.