



INCORPORATED  
**VILLAGE OF ASHAROKEN**

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Colonel Thomas D. Asbery  
Commander, USACOE NY District  
26 Federal Plaza, Room 2113  
New York, New York 10278

July 15, 2017

Dear Colonel Asbery,

I would like to extend my congratulations to you on your appointment as Commander of the New York District and wish you all the best in your new position. I look forward to working with you in the future.

As Mayor of the Village of Asharoken located on the North Shore of Long Island I am very concerned about an existing project that was constructed by the Army Corps of Engineers in 1994. This project (Asharoken Beach Section 103) is a seawall that protects the only thruway (Asharoken Avenue) to Eaton's Neck. I am writing to notify the ACOE that the seawall protecting Asharoken Avenue and Eaton's Neck has outlived its expected economic lifespan and is in the process of failing. The seawall is being undermined by erosion of the beach and recently the landward side of the 10' steel sheathing has developed a very large depression which has never happened before. The large rocks that support the roadway and sand fill have collapsed approximately 4-5 feet. The depression is a very serious problem that is going to continue to worsen. The top of the steel sheathing has severely rusted and is no longer structurally sound enough to keep the 20 foot long steel caps attached during storms. In my opinion these failures do not fall under normal operational repair and maintenance. The wall is routinely overtopped by waves during normal windy days, as well as storms, creating very problematic driving conditions for Village and Town of Huntington residents.

If the seawall fails a very vulnerable stretch of Asharoken Avenue could be destroyed and Eaton's Neck isolated from Long Island. The safety and well-being of several thousand Asharoken and Town of Huntington residents, the Eaton's Neck Fire Department and the U.S. Coast Guard depends on Asharoken Avenue, which handles about 5,000 vehicles a day.

With the hurricane season upon us and winter nor'easters looming I am respectfully asking the ACOE to immediately evaluate the seawall, determine the failure mechanism of the depression, engineer a solution to repair or replace the seawall and source a means to fund this project. We must act proactively to avoid the seawall from eventual destruction causing serious impact on the people that rely on it.

I look forward to hearing back from you and the New York District office so we can work together to fix this very serious and dangerous situation.

Sincerely,



Mayor Dr. Gregory Letica

Cc:

The Honorable Charles Schumer, U.S. Senate  
The Honorable Thomas Suozzi, U.S. House of Representatives  
The Honorable Andrew Cuomo, New York State Governor  
The Honorable Carl Marcellino, New York State Senator  
The Honorable Andrew Raia, New York State Assemblyman  
The Honorable William Spencer, Suffolk County Legislature  
Commander Kevin Reed, Deputy Sector Commander, USCG Sector Long Island Sound  
Mr. Lawrence Mazzola, USACE P.E. Deputy District Engineer  
Mr. Joseph Seebode, USACE Deputy District Engineer Programs Project & Management  
Mr. Clifford S. Jones III, USACE Chief, Planning Division NY District  
Mr. Andrew Martin, FEMA Region 2  
Mr. Alan Fuchs, Director, NYSDEC Bureau of Flood Protection and Dam Safety  
Ms. Susan McCormick, NYSDEC Division of Water  
Ms. Carrie Meek Gallagher, Director, NYSDEC Region 1  
Town of Huntington Supervisor, Frank P. Petrone