



CHAD A. LUPINACCI
Supervisor
Town of Huntington



GREGORY D. LETICA
Mayor
Village of Asharoken

January 31, 2019

Mr. Alan Fuchs, Division of Water
New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
625 Broadway, 4th Floor
Albany, NY 12233-3504

RE: Asharoken, NY
Locally Preferred Plan
Coastal Storm Risk Management Feasibility Study

Dear Mr. Fuchs:

The Village and Town are committed to partnering with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) and US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to finalize the Locally Preferred Plan (LPP) for the construction of a project to protect a critical section of Asharoken Avenue/Eatons Neck Road. The project area is under the daily threat of overtopping and undermining caused by frequent northeast winds and coastal storms in Long Island Sound. In a span of two weeks this fall, the Village/Town had to close the road for a total of nine hours due to unsafe conditions to people, property and resources. The attached photographs depict these extraordinary conditions that are now occurring very frequently. Because of the impacts caused by the present condition of the seawall and eroded beach seaward of it on the safety and wellbeing of everyone who drives past this area, the Village and Town request that the study be advanced as quickly as possible.

The Village and the Town recognize our responsibility in identifying a locally preferred plan. The Village/Town appreciate the expertise of the USACE and NYSDEC in helping to refine our conceptual LPP into a more defined plan that will address this critical flooding and erosion problem. Members of your Planning and Engineering units visited the site on November 13, 2018 and saw firsthand the need for protection and were instrumental in helping the Village/Town to understand the scope and scale of the needed project, and formalize the LPP plan identified herein.

The Village/Town desires that the following generic considerations be included in our LPP.

The protective works must be durable enough to withstand the coastal waves, tides and current focused in this area by the coastal storms generated on Long Island Sound. Accordingly, the Village/Town desire an LPP that includes a durable coastal structure, such as a rock seawall, steel bulkhead or combination thereof. We request the Corps assistance in determining the appropriate structure type, and how such a feature could be constructed given the existing site conditions. As you are aware, and the attached photographs document, the waves impacting this area regularly overtop the existing rock wall.



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The Village/Town request that the LPP include a beach fronting the durable coastal structure. During the site visit on the 13th the presence of natural cobble beach to the north of the project area appeared to be instrumental in providing protection to that area. The Village/Town request that the LPP include a natural cobble beach compatible with the storm conditions in the area and of a similar or slightly larger grain size than presently exist. The Village / Town request the Corps' assistance in evaluating the difference in performance, and life-cycle cost for a cobble beach, compared to the Corps' prior NED recommendation, of a sand beach.

The Draft Feasibility Report for Asharoken considered the use of a tapered groin field in order to mitigate downdrift erosion to the north of the project area, when used in conjunction with compatible beach fill as described above. We would also ask that the impact of the existing groin be included in the analysis to determine the LPP. The Village/Town support the inclusion of a tapered groin field as part of a LPP as long as the groin field does not cause erosion of the beach to the northwest of the groin field.. We request the Corps' assistance in evaluating the best method to retain beach fill in the LPP, and if these structures would provide stability without downdrift impacts, if a natural cobble beach is included in the LPP.

Another design element that the Village/Town desires to see in the LPP feasibility study is the elevation of the existing roadway. The current roadway in the project area is the lowest point between Eatons Neck to the north and Asharoken Avenue to the south. As such it is the weakest point in the overall area, and is subject to flooding from Northport Bay. Elevating the roadway is prudent because it will mitigate future flooding by sea level rise.

Although the level of storm protection must be balanced with cost, the Village/Town request that a level of protection equal to or greater than the 1 in 25-year storm event be provided with the LPP.

Given the above, the Village and Town are requesting Corps' assistance in the design and evaluation consistent with the general criteria for the LPP described above. We are requesting that the finalization of the LPP include the following:

1. The Village/Town desire a LPP that includes a durable coastal structure, fronted by a beach fill. We request the Corps assistance in defining the appropriate type of hard structure, and the appropriate dimensions of a structure and beach fill to achieve a 25-year design level. We also request the Corps to evaluate the effectiveness of a cobble beach, and the expected life-cycle cost of a cobble beach compared to a regular beach fill.
2. The Village/Town support a tapered groin field and an analysis of the effects of the existing groin, if a life-cycle cost analysis shows that these tapered groins are more cost-effective than a hard structure and beach alone, and do not cause erosion of the beach to west of the groin field.
3. The Village / Town support the elevation of the roadway, and would request Corps assistance in determining the appropriate height in order to reduce flooding from Northport Harbor now and in the future with sea level rise.



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The Village/Town are committed to providing the required real estate, lands and rights of way needed to implement the LPP. This includes provisions for construction, maintenance and public access.

The Village/Town are ready to proceed forward as described above and again express our thanks to the USACE and NYSDEC for their expertise and partnership in this critical Coastal Storm Risk Management Study.

Sincerely,

Honorable Gregory Letica
Mayor, Village of Asharoken

Honorable Chad Lupinacci
Supervisor, Town of Huntington

Enclosure

cc w/ Encl: T. Suozzi, Member of Congress
S. Couch, USACE
S. McCormick, NYSDEC



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Location Map



Town Hall • 100 Main Street • Huntington, N.Y. 11743
Village Hall, 1 Asharoken Avenue, Asharoken, NY 11768



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October 27, 2018



Town Hall • 100 Main Street • Huntington, N.Y. 11743
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