

NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

Division of Water, Bureau of Flood Protection and Dam Safety
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November 22, 2016

Honorable Greg Letica
Mayor
Village of Asharoken
1 Asharoken Avenue
Asharoken, New York 11768

Re: Asharoken Storm Damage Reduction Project

Dear Mayor Leticia:

This letter is in follow up to the discussions the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (Department) has had with the Village of Asharoken (Village) over the past few years regarding the Asharoken Storm Damage Reduction Project. The Village has been involved in the development of the Asharoken Coastal Storm Risk Management Feasibility Study (Study) throughout its development. As stated in my letter (attached) of October 18, 2016 to Colonel Caldwell of the United States Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), State law requires the Department to have a local sponsor. The Village of Asharoken has fulfilled that requirement for the Study phase of this Project, however, at this time the Department needs to know if the Village supports the Project identified in the Corps Study in order for the Study to move to completion.

The next step in the Corps process for completing the Study is the Corps Agency Decision Milestone (ADM). At the ADM, the Study's recommended plan will be presented to Corps Headquarters, who will be asked to endorse the plan and approve the path forward for finalizing the Study. Prior to scheduling the ADM, the Corps has requested a letter of support from the Department, who is the Non-federal Sponsor for the Study. The Department supports the Project proposed in the Corps Study, with the understanding that the Project will be modified to a sand only project. However, in order for the Department to provide a letter of support to the Corps, the Department must have a letter of support from the Village of Asharoken, who is the Department's local Sponsor for the Study.

The letter from the Village must demonstrate the Village's willingness to move the recommendations in the Study forward to construction. Specifically, the Corps is requiring the letter to explicitly express support for a specific project alternative, a willingness to construct that supported alternative, a willingness to obtain all the



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necessary real estate required by any means necessary, and a willingness to provide appropriate public access. The Corps has defined appropriate public access as access every half mile along the Project area, and parking at each access point. If the Village is unable to provide this letter of support, the Corps will suspend the Project and the Study will not be completed. In addition, the Department needs the Village to acknowledge the financial requirements that are associated with the next phase of the Project, which includes the local sponsor funding 30% of the Non-federal share of the Project's construction.

Based on discussions with Corps staff, it is my understanding at this point in time that my letter of October 18, 2016 will not result in the Corps moving forward with the Study unless the above discussed letter of support is provided. Therefore, without a letter of support from the Village, the Corps work on the Study will be suspended. In order to keep the Project moving forward please provide the requested letter of support by December 7, 2016. If the Village is unable to provide a letter of support, please provide a response to this letter by the same date.

If you have any questions, you may contact Matt Chlebus matthew.chlebus@dec.ny.gov or myself at (518) 402-8185.

Sincerely,



Alan A. Fuchs, P.E.
Director
Bureau of Flood Protection and Dam Safety

Enclosure
cc w/Encl.:

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