



**US Army Corps
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New York District

NEWS RELEASE

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Multi-Agency Consensus Reached on Approach to Protect Long Island's South Shore

New York — Members of the multi-agency team working on the Fire Island to Montauk Point Reformulation Study met last week to discuss the overall vision for the project. The vision was jointly developed to articulate the approach being taken by the interagency study team to integrate the Corps' environmental operating principles, and to formulate a project which achieves a balance of economic and environmental benefits.

Team members representatives from New York State, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Department of Interior, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and The Nature Conservancy worked for several months to develop a clear, concise Vision Statement to guide the Reformulation Study to its conclusion. The meeting provided an opportunity to discuss the Vision Statement and its goals and challenges with senior leaders from the regional offices of the participating agencies.

The agencies recognized the importance of coordinating this vision with the involved local municipalities to ensure a unified approach from all levels of government. Joe Vietri, Deputy Chief of the Corps' New York District Planning Division summed it up, "This is not a Corps project. It is imperative that this vision is endorsed and supported by all levels of government for this project to be a success."

With this year's severe weather and the increased risk of storm damage, the multi-agency team is formally endorsing the Vision Statement as a unified strategy to advance the analyses needed to develop environmentally sustainable alternatives. All participants in the June 6th meeting, held at the New York District US Army Corps of Engineers offices, demonstrated strong support for the Vision Statement and committed their respective agencies to following it's guidance in completing the Reformulation Study by 2005.

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