US Army Corps of Engineers®
New York District

LAKE MONTAUK HARBOR, EAST HAMPTON, NEW YORK

NAVIGATION IMPROVEMENTS

DRAFT SUPPLEMENTAL ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

MAY 2025

APPENDIX F:

CULTURAL RESOURCES

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, NEW YORK DISTRICT
JACOB K. JAVITS FEDERAL BUILDING
26 FEDERAL PLAZA
NEW YORK NEW YORK 10278-0090

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

January 7, 2025

Environmental Assessment Section
Environmental Analysis Branch

Katelyn Lucas
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
Delaware Nation
P.O.Box 825
Anadarko, OK 73005

Subject: 19PR05078, Lake Montauk Harbor Navigation Improvements Project

Dear Ms. Lucas,

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New York District (District) and its partner, the Town of East Hampton, are in the Pre-Construction, Engineering and Design (PED) Phase for the Lake Montauk Harbor Navigation Improvements Project (Project). The District is finalizing plans and designs to improve navigation in Lake Montauk Harbor, Suffolk County, New York and the inlet connecting it to Block Island Sound (Enclosure 1). The Project includes deepening the federal channel to -17 ft. MLLW (mean lower low water), creating a deposition basin on the eastern side of the channel to the same depth, and placing the dredged materials in the downdrift beach west of the inlet.

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the details of a recent remote sensing survey, and consult with your office regarding the District's updated determination of effects to historic properties in accordance with Section 106 of the NHPA.

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Report Findings and Updated Determination of Effects

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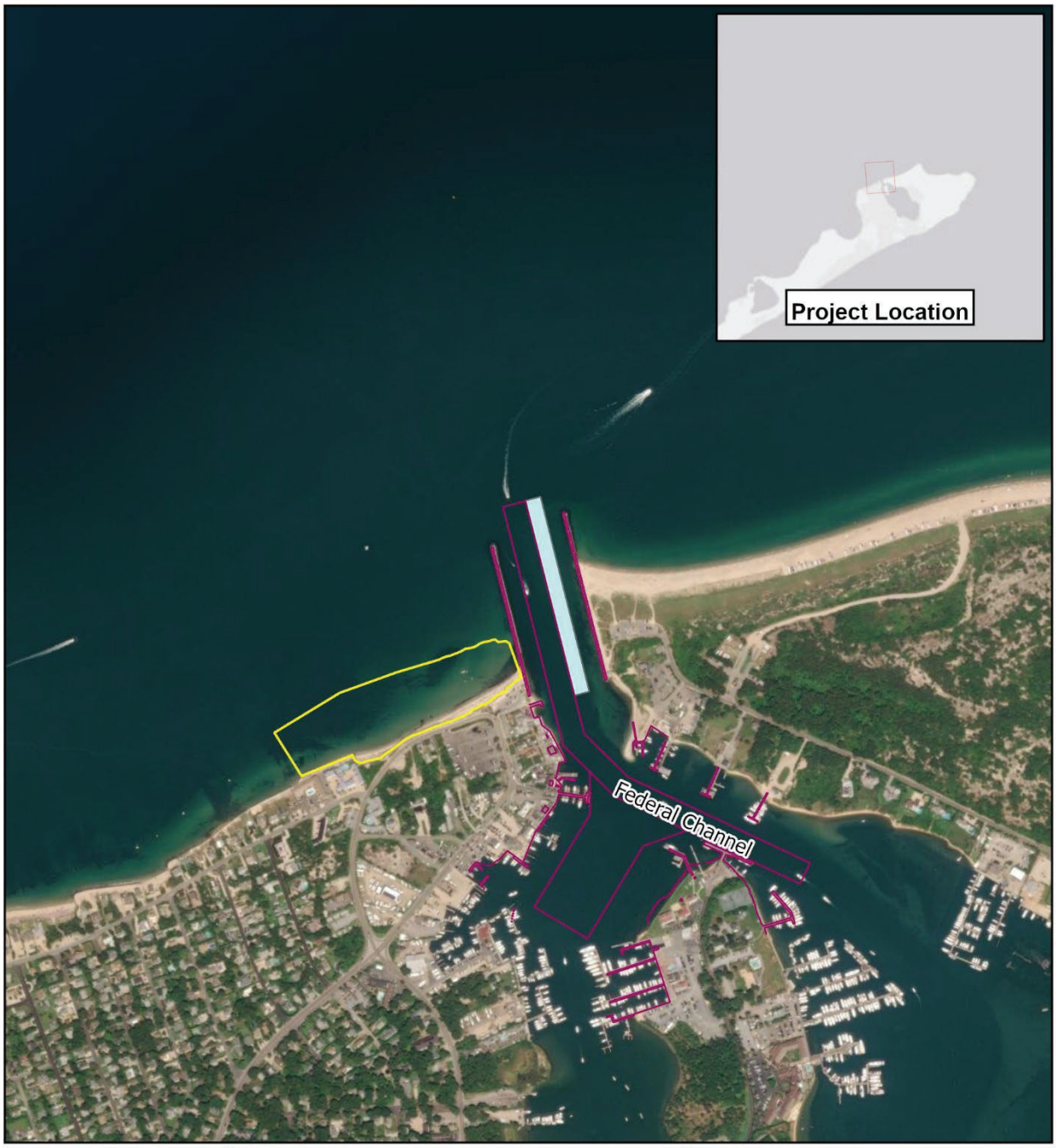
Sincerely,

WEPPLER.PETER.M.1228647353 Digitally signed by WEPPLER.PETER.M.1228647353 Date: 2025.01.07 15:15:32 -05'00'

Peter M. Weppler
Chief, Environmental Analysis Branch

Enclosures:
Enclosure 1: Area of Potential Effect for Sand Placement Activities
Enclosure 2: Remote Sensing Survey of Lake Montauk Harbor, Montauk, New York in Connection with the Section 107 Small Navigation Improvement Project

Enclosure 1. Area of Potential Effect of the Lake Montauk Harbor



US Army Corps of Engineers
New York District

Lake Montauk Harbor, East Hampton, NY
Cultural Resource Remote Sensing Survey

Legend
Deposition_Basin
Survey Area

0 500 1000
Feet

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REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

January 7, 2025

Environmental Assessment Section
Environmental Analysis Branch

Susan Bachor
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
Delaware Tribe of Indians
5100 E Tuxedo Blvd,
Bartlesville, OK 74006

Subject: 19PR05078, Lake Montauk Harbor Navigation Improvements Project

Dear Ms. Bachor,

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Peter M. Weppler
Chief, Environmental Analysis Branch

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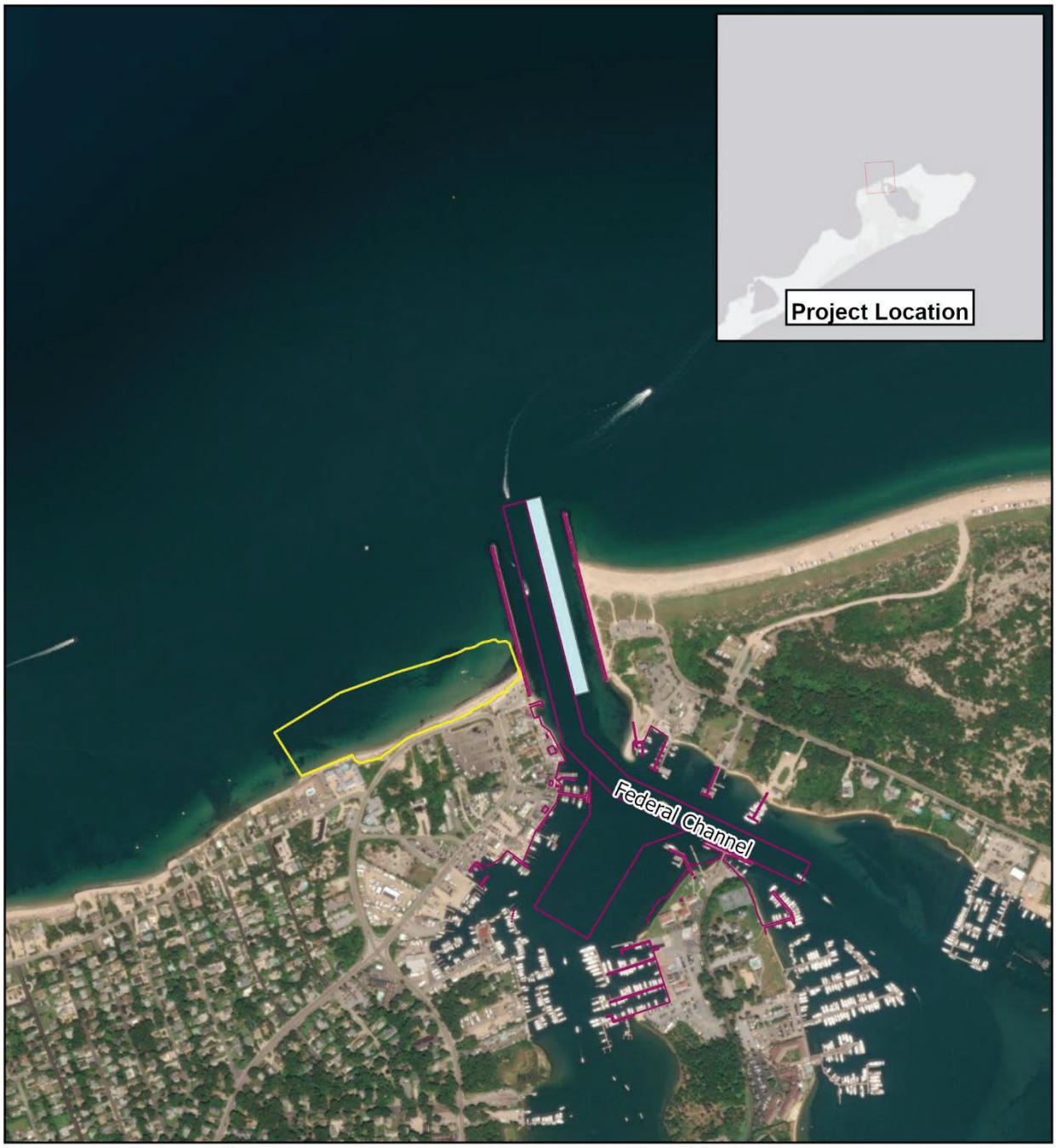

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REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

January 7, 2025

Environmental Assessment Section
Environmental Analysis Branch

Gina Santucci
Environmental Review Coordinator
New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission
David N. Dinkins Municipal Building
1 Centre Street, 9th Floor North
New York, NY 10007

Subject: 19PR05078, Lake Montauk Harbor Navigation Improvements Project

Dear Ms. Santucci,

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Peter M. Weppler
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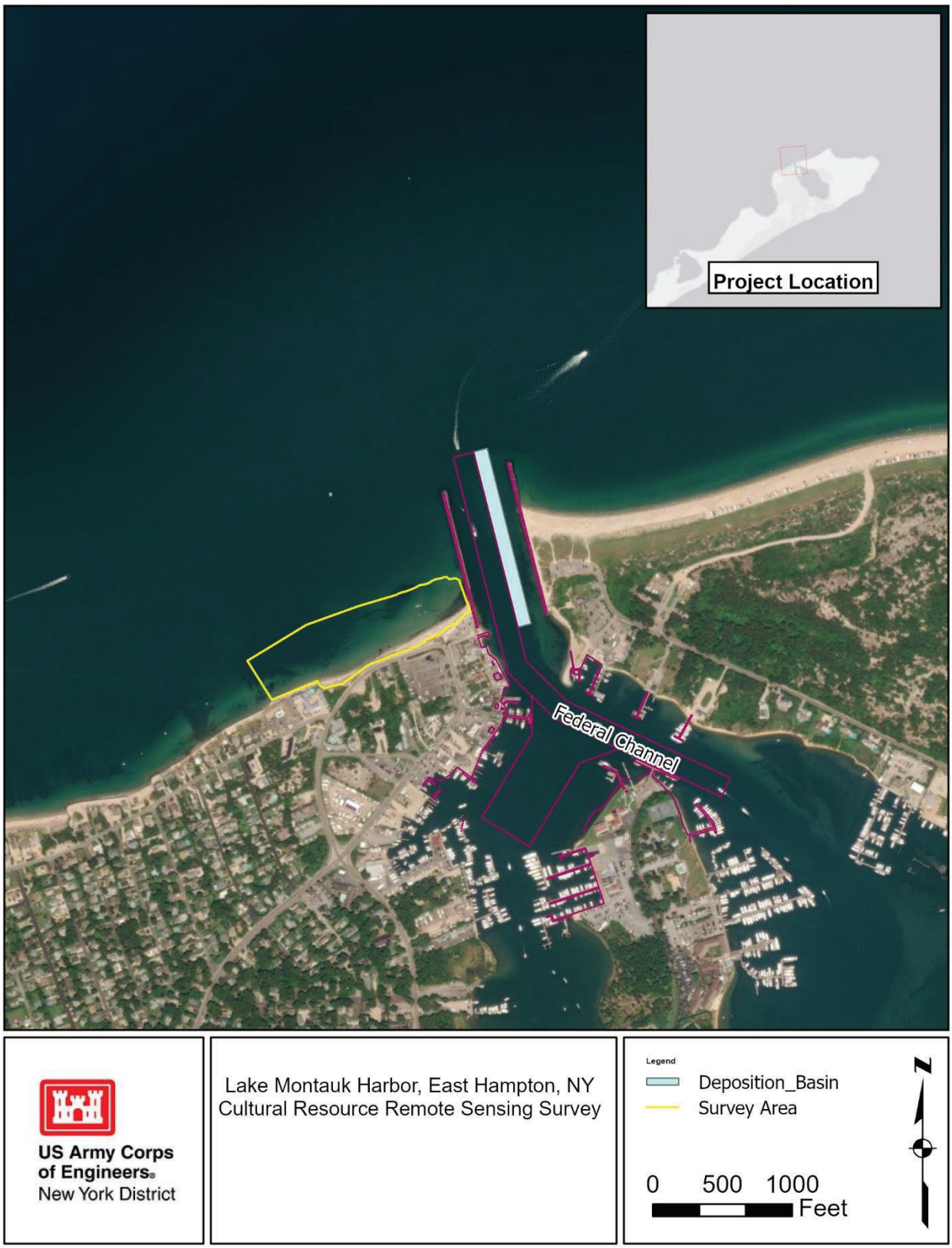

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REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

January 7, 2025

Environmental Assessment Section
Environmental Analysis Branch

Rainbow Chavis
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
Shinnecock Indian Nation
P.O. Box 5006
Southampton, NY 11969

Subject: 19PR05078, Lake Montauk Harbor Navigation Improvements Project

Dear Ms. Chavis,

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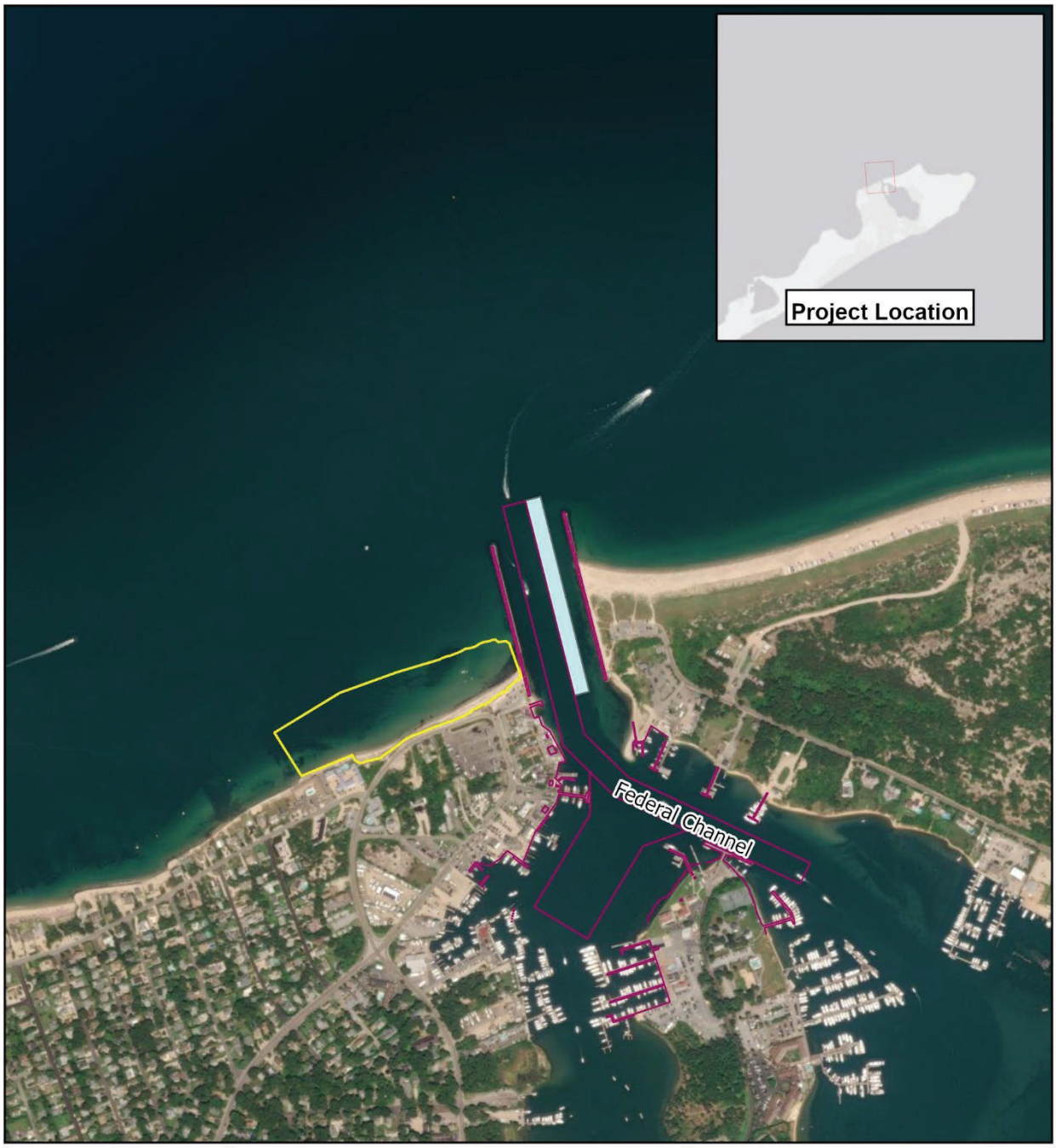

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January 7, 2025

Environmental Assessment Section
Environmental Analysis Branch

Mr. Daniel Mackay,
Deputy Commissioner
New York State Division for Historic Preservation
Peebles Island State Park
P.O. Box 189
Waterford, NY 12188-01

Subject: 19PR05078, Lake Montauk Harbor Navigation Improvements Project

Dear Mr. Mackay,

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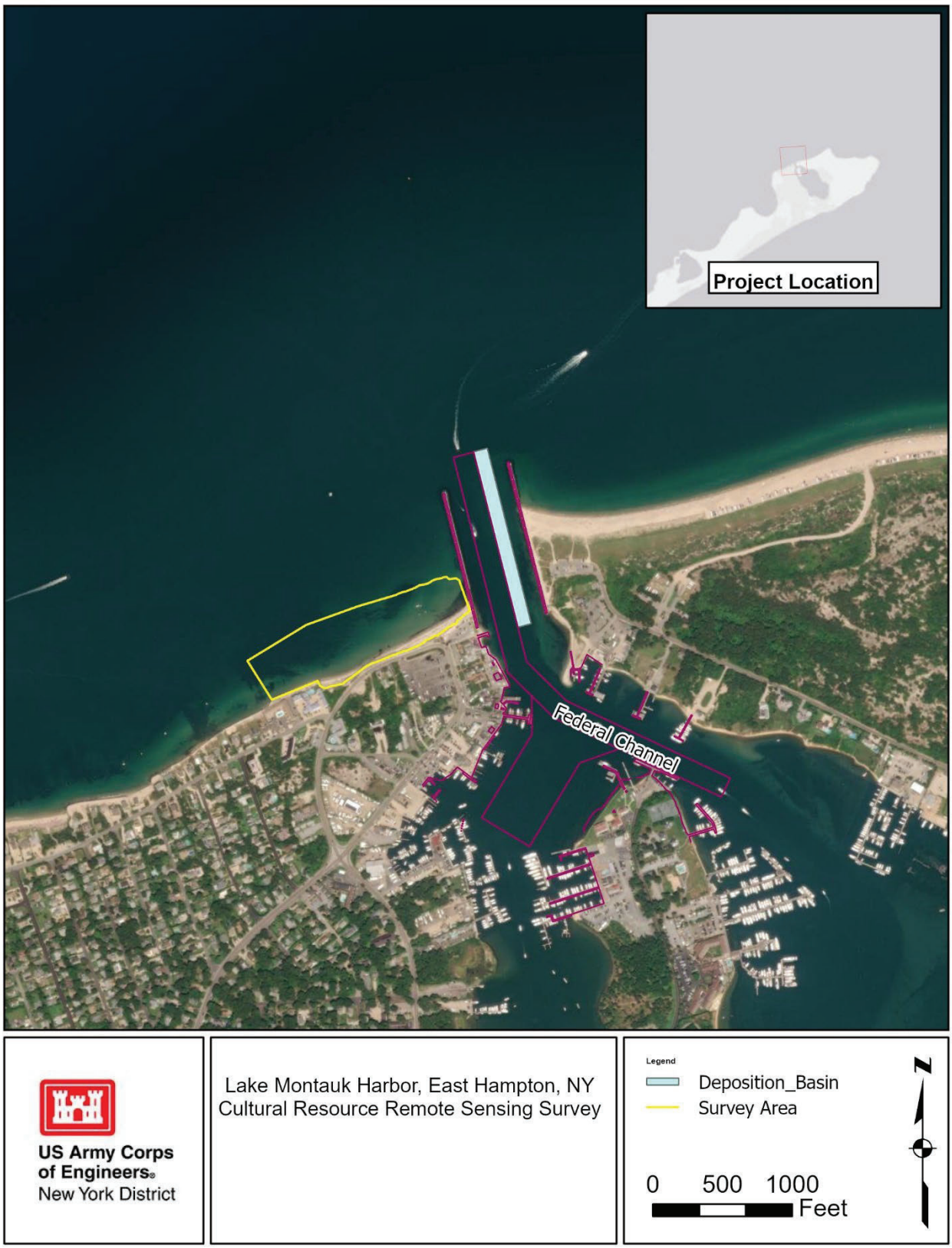
Enclosure 2: Remote Sensing Survey of Lake Montauk Harbor, Montauk, New York in Connection with the Section 107 Small Navigation Improvement Project

Enclosure 1. Area of Potential Effect of the Lake Montauk Harbor



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, NEW YORK DISTRICT
JACOB K. JAVITS FEDERAL BUILDING
26 FEDERAL PLAZA
NEW YORK NEW YORK 10278-0090

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

January 7, 2025

Environmental Assessment Section
Environmental Analysis Branch

Dr. Jeffrey Bendremer, PhD.
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
Stockbridge-Munsee Community
Tribal Historic Preservation Extension Office
86 Spring Street
Williamstown, MA 01267

Subject: 19PR05078, Lake Montauk Harbor Navigation Improvements Project

Dear Dr. Bendremer,

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New York District (District) and its partner, the Town of East Hampton, are in the Pre-Construction, Engineering and Design (PED) Phase for the Lake Montauk Harbor Navigation Improvements Project (Project). The District is finalizing plans and designs to improve navigation in Lake Montauk Harbor, Suffolk County, New York and the inlet connecting it to Block Island Sound (Enclosure 1). The Project includes deepening the federal channel to -17 ft. MLLW (mean lower low water), creating a deposition basin on the eastern side of the channel to the same depth, and placing the dredged materials in the downdrift beach west of the inlet.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, as a federal agency, has certain responsibilities pertaining to the identification and protection of cultural resources. The Federal statutes and regulations authorizing the Corps to undertake these responsibilities include Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), as amended (54 U.S.C. §306108), the Archaeological and Historic Preservation Act, as amended (P.L. 93-291); the Abandoned Shipwreck Act of 1987 and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation Guidelines for the Protection of Cultural and Historic Properties (36 CFR Part 800). During the Feasibility Phase the District carried out a cultural resources assessment and determined that the Undertaking would have no adverse effect on historic properties. On July 26, 2019 the District consulted with the New York State Historic Preservation Office (NYSHPO) and interested tribes regarding its determination. The NYSHPO concurred with the District's finding of No Adverse Effect. The Delaware Nation and the Stockbridge-Munsee Community concurred with the proposed Project at that time. The Final Feasibility Report and Environmental Assessment were completed in December of 2020 and can be found at https://www.nan.usace.army.mil/Missions/Civil-Works/Projects-in-New-York/Lake-Montauk-Harbor/

Recently the District has made modifications to the design of the sand placement area to address limitations associated with the acquisition of properties along the western

end of the Project. This letter is to update you on those design changes, provide you with the details of a recent remote sensing survey, and consult with your office regarding the District's updated determination of effects to historic properties in accordance with Section 106 of the NHPA.

Design Updates

The 2020 Feasibility Report included the placement of the dredged sand on the downdrift beach from the inlet. The original design consisted of a placement area extending 3,000 feet from the western inlet jetty measuring 46 feet wide through its length. Due to limitations associated with the acquisition of the properties along this portion of the Project, the District has adjusted the placement area to a more limited 1,400 feet from the western inlet jetty measuring 275 feet wide through its length bringing the placement area further out into the water (Enclosure 1). To address the potential for submerged cultural resources in the nearshore area west of the western inlet jetty the District contracted PaleoWest, LLC d/b/a Chronicle Heritage to conduct a comprehensive submerged cultural resources assessment survey (SCRAS) of the expanded APE.

Report Findings and Updated Determination of Effects

The geophysical survey of the sand placement area required a terrestrial remote sensing survey of onshore areas and a submerged remote sensing survey of nearshore survey areas. The terrestrial remote sensing survey, conducted from 10 September 2024 through 11 September 2024, utilized a handheld Geometrics MagEx magnetometer, while the submerged remote sensing survey was conducted on 11 September 2024 and 13 September 2024 and employed a magnetometer, side-scan sonar, and subbottom profiler. The total survey area designated for both onshore and nearshore surveys comprised a 1.33 US acre area that is approximately 1,400 feet long and 495 feet wide. The onshore and nearshore survey transect lines covered approximately 2.73 miles across 12 individual transects.

Analysis of the remote sensing data collected within the APE identified seventy-nine (n=79) magnetic anomalies between the onshore and nearshore survey areas. Nearby shoreline infrastructure, such as the channel jetties, generated magnetic field deflections obscuring smaller anomalies. Anomalies generated by these sources of known infrastructure were contoured and analyzed but were not considered in the final count of magnetic anomalies Additionally, four (n=4) side-scan sonar contacts, fifteen (n=15) subbottom impedance contrast reflectors, and one (n=1) subbottom profiler contact were identified within the APE or immediately outside of the APE.

With respect to identifying potential significance, magnetometer and side-scan sonar data revealed that none of the anomalies or contacts were potentially significant resources (i.e., targets). The subbottom profiler data analysis also indicated that none of the identified subbottom profiler features had the potential to contain cultural material, and the subbottom profiler contact was not considered potentially significant.

Based on these findings the District has concluded that will have **No Adverse Effect to historic properties**.

Please review the enclosed survey report and provide comments pertaining to the District's findings within thirty days of receipt of this letter. If you or your staff require additional information or have any questions, please contact Ryan Clark, Project Archaeologist, at (917) 790-8623 or by email at Ryan.n.Clark@usace.army.mil. Thank you for your assistance with this project.

Sincerely,

WEPPLER.PETER.M.1228647353

Digitally signed by WEPPLER.PETER.M.1228647353
Date: 2025.01.07 15:27:12 -05'00'

Peter M. Weppler
Chief, Environmental Analysis Branch

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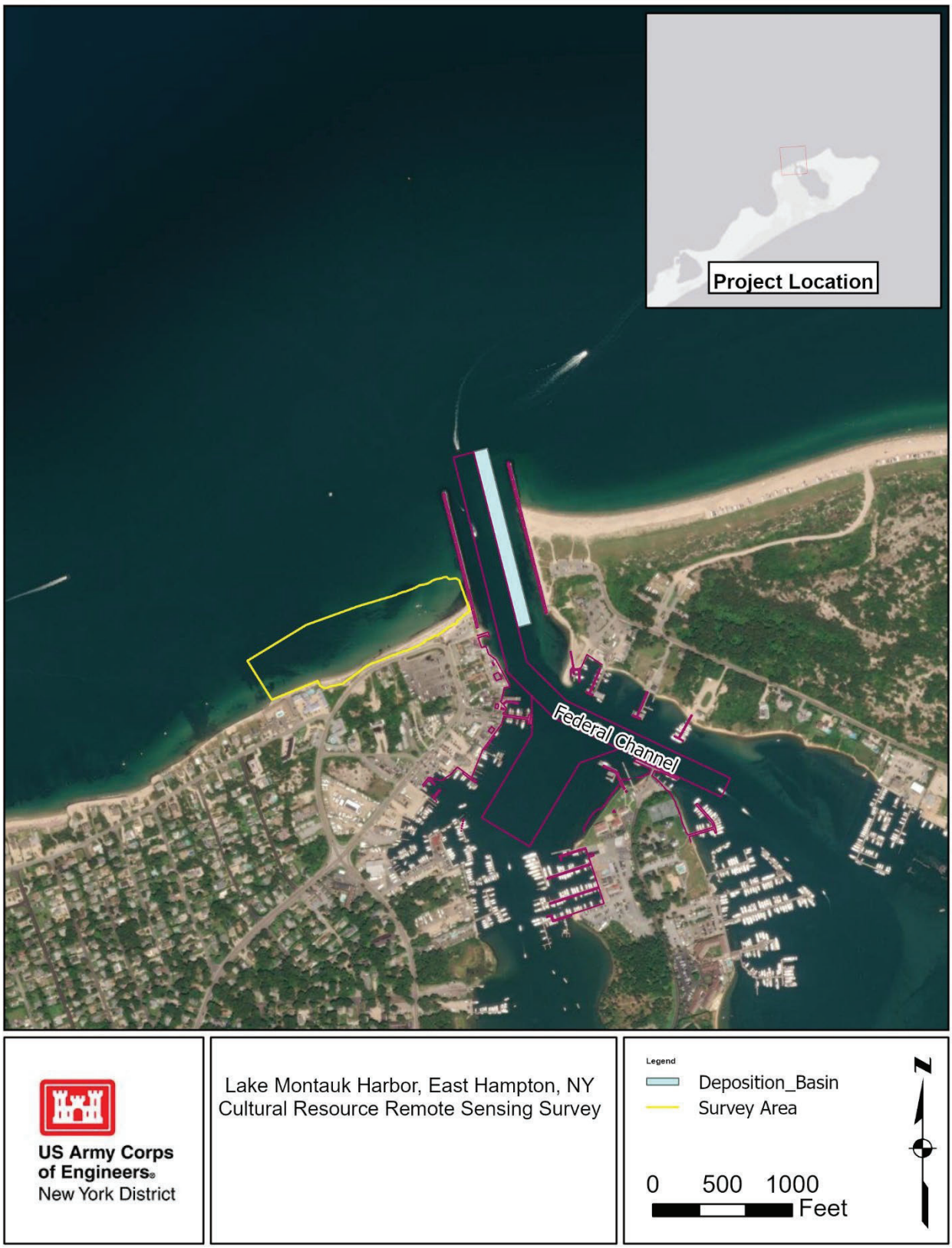

New York State
Parks, Recreation and
Historic Preservation

KATHY HOCHUL
Governor

RANDY SIMONS
Commissioner Pro Tempore

January 10, 2025

Ryan Clark
USACE
26 Federal Plaza
New York, NY 10278

Re: USACE
Lake Montauk Harbor Navigation Improvements Feasibility Study and Environmental Assessment
NY
19PR05078

Dear Ryan Clark:

Thank you for requesting the comments of the New York State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). We have reviewed the submitted materials in accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966. These comments are those of the SHPO and relate only to Historic/Cultural resources. They do not include other environmental impacts to New York State Parkland that may be involved in or near your project.

Based on this review, SHPO continues to concur with your agency's determination that the undertaking will have No Adverse Effect on historic properties.

If you have any questions, I can be reached at Jessica.Vavrasek@parks.ny.gov.

Sincerely,

Jessica Vavrasek

Jessica Vavrasek, Ph.D.
Scientist – Archaeology/NAGPRA