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Hudson-Raritan Estuary Ecosystem Restoration Feasibility Study

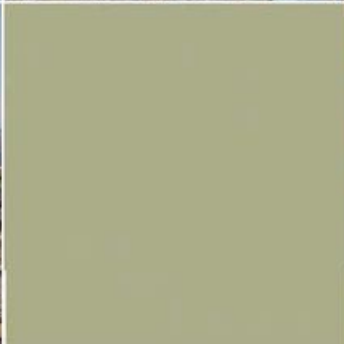
Appendix A
Support Letters from Non-Federal Sponsors
Feasibility Studies and Proposed Construction

**Draft Integrated Feasibility Report &
Environmental Assessment**
February 2017

**Prepared by the New York District
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers**

**THE PORT AUTHORITY
OF NY & NJ**





Hudson Raritan Estuary Ecosystem Restoration Feasibility Study

Tentatively Selected Plan Milestone

Sponsor Letters of Support



May 23, 2016

THE PORT AUTHORITY OF NY & NJ

Mr. Clifford S. Jones
Chief, Planning Division
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
26 Federal Plaza
New York, NY 10278-0090

Dear Mr. Jones:

The Port Authority of New York & New Jersey (PANYNJ) is the local sponsor with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers New York District (District) for the Hudson Raritan Estuary Ecosystem Restoration Feasibility Study. The Feasibility Cost Share Agreement (FCSA) executed July 12, 2001 for a total study cost of \$19,000,000 was to “fulfill the intent of the study authority and to assess the extent of the Federal interest in participating in a solution to the identified problem”. The Hudson Raritan Estuary (HRE) Study Area has been defined as the Port District, approximately a 25-mile radius around the Statue of Liberty.

Given that the HRE Study Area is inclusive of eight Planning Regions: (1)Jamaica Bay, 2)Lower Bay, 3)Upper Bay, 4)Lower Hudson River, 5)Newark Bay, Passaic River and Hackensack River; 6)Harlem River, East River, Western Long Island Sound, 7)Lower Raritan River, and 8)Arthur Kill/Kill Van Kull), the PANYNJ envisions that restoration actions will be recommended throughout the Study Area. The PANYNJ acknowledges that restoration actions identified during planning efforts from other ecosystem restoration feasibility studies, within the HRE Study Area, will be included in the HRE Interim Integrated Feasibility Report and Environmental Assessment. Specifically, the PANYNJ is supportive of integrating the recommendations from the following smaller feasibility studies:

- Jamaica Bay, Marine Park, Plumb Beach Feasibility Study;
- HRE- Lower Passaic River Ecosystem Restoration Feasibility Study;
- HRE- Hackensack River Ecosystem Restoration Feasibility Study;
- Bronx River and Basin Ecosystem Restoration Feasibility Study; and
- Flushing Creek and Bay Ecosystem Restoration Feasibility Study.

The PANYNJ commends the District’s approach to recommend restoration projects within a single report addressing the FCSA in a complete, cost effective and efficient manner. We value our long-standing partnership and stress the importance of restoring the NY/NJ Harbor Estuary and the need for future construction authorization for the restoration actions recommended in the Hudson Raritan Estuary Ecosystem Restoration Feasibility Study.

Sincerely,



Bernice R. Malione
Deputy Director
Office of Environmental and Energy Programs

4 World Trade Center - 15th Floor
150 Greenwich Street
New York, NY 10007

NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

Deputy Director, Region 2
47-40 21st Street, Long Island City, NY 11101
P: (718) 482-4875 | F: (718) 482-4026
www.dec.ny.gov

May 16, 2016

Clifford S. Jones
Chief, Planning Division
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
26 Federal Plaza
New York, NY 10278-0090

Dear Mr. Jones:

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) has had a long history with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers New York District (District) on ecosystem restoration activities within the Hudson Raritan Estuary (HRE). Specifically, NYSDEC has proudly worked with the District in the preparation of the HRE Comprehensive Restoration Plan, celebrated the successful construction of the Jamaica Bay Marsh Islands under the District's beneficial use program associated with the NY/NJ Harbor Deepening Project, and we are hoping to continue with the advancement of restoration projects throughout the HRE.

NYSDEC strongly supports the recommendations proposed in the Draft Integrated HRE Feasibility Report and Environmental Assessment (FR/EA) including the approach in combining all restoration recommendations from other ongoing ecosystem restoration studies into a single HRE Feasibility Report. This streamlined approach best maximizes resources, efficiencies and ecosystem benefits that can be achieved, not only for the USACE and NYSDEC, but for our fellow restoration partners within the HRE Study Area.

NYSDEC reaffirmed our commitment to advance the construction of Jamaica Bay Marsh Islands in our letter to the District Commander, Colonel Caldwell on March 1, 2016. The State also supports the many other recommendations for restoration of sites within New York State that were outlined in the Draft Integrated FR/EA. Building upon our ongoing restoration efforts within Jamaica Bay, most recently at Spring Creek South, NYSDEC is supportive of advancing restoration projects, pending appropriations, within Jamaica Bay (Dead Horse Bay, Fresh Creek, Hawtree Point, Dubos Point, Bayswater Point and Brant Point).

NYSDEC values our long-standing partnership and stresses the importance of restoring the NY/NJ Harbor Estuary and the need for future construction authorization for the restoration actions recommended in the Hudson Raritan Estuary Ecosystem Restoration Feasibility Study. We look forward to continuing to work the District on these important ecosystem restoration projects and furthering our collective vision for a World Class Harbor Estuary. If you or your staff have any questions, please contact me at 718-482-4949 or steve.zahn@dec.ny.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Zahn', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Stephen Zahn

Acting Regional Director, Region 2 New York City
New York State Dept. of Environmental Conservation



State of New Jersey

CHRIS CHRISTIE
Governor

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
Office of Natural Resource Restoration
Mail Code: 501-01
PO Box 420
Trenton, New Jersey 08625-420
Phone: (609) 984-5475 Fax: (609) 984-0608

BOB MARTIN
Commissioner

KIM GUADAGNO
Lt. Governor

May 23, 2016

Clifford S. Jones
Chief, Planning Division
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
26 Federal Plaza
New York, NY 10278-0090

Dear Mr. Jones:

The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) is the local sponsor with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers New York District (District) for the Hudson Raritan Estuary (HRE)- Lower Passaic River Ecosystem Restoration Feasibility Study after transition from NJ Department of Transportation (NJDOT) in November 2007. The Feasibility Cost Share Agreement (FCSA) was executed in April 2003 for a total study cost of \$9,000,000.

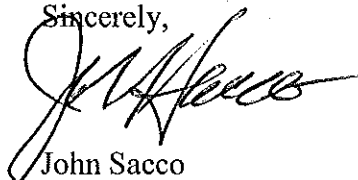
NJDEP supports the recommendations proposed in the Draft Integrated HRE Feasibility Report and Environmental Assessment (FR/EA). The NJDEP acknowledges your letter dated September 11, 2015 stating that the restoration recommendations within the Lower Passaic River will be incorporated in a single integrated HRE Feasibility Report meeting the requirements in the study's FCSA. NJDEP agrees with this streamlined approach that best maximizes resources, efficiencies and ecosystem benefits that can be achieved for not only the USACE and NJDEP, but for our fellow restoration partners within the HRE Study Area.

NJDEP supports the many recommendations for restoration of sites outlined in the Draft Integrated FR/EA. NJDEP specifically supports the advancement of the restoration projects for near-term construction at Essex County Branch Brook Park, Dundee Island Park and Clifton Dundee Park Green Acres Purchase. In addition, it is important to obtain construction authorization following USEPA remedial action at Kearny Point and Oak Island Yards. NJDEP is interested in becoming the local sponsor for future construction pending management approval and appropriations.

We value our long-standing partnership and stress the importance of restoring the NY/NJ Harbor Estuary and the need for future construction authorization for the restoration actions recommended in the Hudson Raritan Estuary Ecosystem Restoration Feasibility

Study. We look forward to continuing to work with the District on these important ecosystem restoration projects and furthering our collective vision for a World Class Harbor Estuary. If you require additional information, please contact David Bean at 609-984-3865 or David.Bean@dep.nj.gov

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Sacco", written over the printed name.

John Sacco
Section Chief

c: Rich Boornazian
Assistant Commissioner



Emily Lloyd
Commissioner

Angela Licata
Deputy Commissioner
Sustainability
alicata@dep.nyc.gov

59-17 Junction Blvd.
Flushing, New York 11373
Tel. (718) 595-4398
Fax (718) 595-4479

May 20, 2016

Clifford S. Jones
Chief, Planning Division
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
26 Federal Plaza
New York, NY 10278-0090

Dear Mr. Jones:

The New York City Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has had a long history with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers New York District (District) on ecosystem restoration activities within the Hudson Raritan Estuary (HRE). Specifically, DEP is the local sponsor for the Jamaica Bay, Marine Park and Plumb Beach Ecosystem Restoration Feasibility Study; Bronx River and Basin Ecosystem Restoration Feasibility Study; and the Flushing Creek and Bay Ecosystem Restoration Feasibility Study. DEP has also proudly worked with the District in the preparation of the HRE Comprehensive Restoration Plan, celebrated the successful construction of the Jamaica Bay Marsh Islands under the District's beneficial use program associated with the NY/NJ Harbor Deepening Project, and hopes to continue with the advancement of restoration projects throughout the HRE.

DEP strongly supports the recommendations proposed in the Draft Integrated HRE Feasibility Report and Environmental Assessment (FR/EA). The City acknowledges your letter dated September 11, 2015 stating that the restoration recommendations within Jamaica Bay, Flushing Creek and the Bronx River will be included in a single integrated HRE Feasibility Report. DEP agrees with this streamlined approach that best maximizes resources, efficiencies and ecosystem benefits that can be achieved for not only the USACE and DEP, but to our fellow restoration partners within the HRE Study Area.

DEP reaffirmed our commitment to advance the construction of Jamaica Bay Marsh Islands in our letter to the District Commander, Colonel Caldwell on March 1, 2016. The DEP also supports the many recommendations for restoration of sites within New York City that were outlined in the Draft Integrated FR/EA. DEP specifically supports, pending appropriations, the advancement of restoration projects within Jamaica Bay (Dead Horse Bay, Fresh Creek, Hawtree Point, Dubos Point, Brant Point and oyster reefs), Flushing Creek and the Bronx River (Bronx River Park/West Farm Rapids Park, Bronx Zoo and Dam and Muskrat Cove).

DEP values our long-standing partnership and stresses the importance of restoring the NY/NJ Harbor Estuary and the need for future construction authorization for the restoration actions recommended in the Hudson Raritan Estuary Ecosystem Restoration Feasibility Study. We look forward to continue to work with the District on these important ecosystem restoration projects and furthering our collective vision for a World Class Harbor Estuary. If you or your staff have any questions, please contact John McLaughlin at 718-595-4458 or jmclaughlin@dep.nyc.gov.

Sincerely,



Angela Licata
Deputy Commissioner, NYCDEP



NYC Parks

Jennifer Greenfeld
Chief, Forestry, Horticulture,
& Natural Resources

T 212-360-1488 | 718-760-6800 E Jennifer.greenfeld@parks.nyc.gov

**City of New York
Parks & Recreation**

Arsenal North
1234 Fifth Avenue
2nd Floor
New York, NY 10029
www.nyc.gov/parks

June 3, 2016

Clifford S. Jones
Chief, Planning Division
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
26 Federal Plaza
New York, NY 10278-0090

Dear Mr. Jones:

The New York City Department of Parks and Recreation (NYCDPR) has had a long history with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers New York District (District) on ecosystem restoration activities within the Hudson Raritan Estuary (HRE). NYCDPR has proudly worked with the District in the preparation of the HRE Comprehensive Restoration Plan, celebrated the successful construction of the Gerritsen Creek and Plumb Beach Projects, and hopes to continue with the advancement of restoration projects throughout the HRE.

The NYCDPR supports the many recommendations for restoration of sites within New York City that were outlined in the Draft Integrated Feasibility Report and Environmental Assessment (FR/EA). NYCDPR specifically supports, pending appropriations, the advancement of restoration projects within Jamaica Bay (Dead Horse Bay, Fresh Creek, Hawtree Point, Dubos Point, Brant Point) and the Bronx River (Stone Mill Dam, Bronx River Park/West Farm Rapids Park, Bronx Zoo and Dam and Muskrat Cove). NYCDPR values our long-standing partnership and stresses the importance of restoring the NY/NJ Harbor Estuary and the need for future construction authorization for the restoration actions recommended in the Hudson Raritan Estuary Ecosystem Restoration Feasibility Study.

We look forward to continuing our work with the District on these important ecosystem restoration projects and furthering our collective vision for a World Class Harbor Estuary. If you or your staff have any questions, please contact me at 212-360-1488 or Jennifer.greenfeld@parks.nyc.gov.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Greenfeld



Robert P. Astorino
County Executive

Department of Planning
Edward Burroughs, AICP
Commissioner

June 7, 2016

Clifford S. Jones, Chief
Planning Division, New York District
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
26 Federal Plaza
New York, NY 10278-0090

Subject: Bronx River Ecosystem Restoration Feasibility Study

Dear Mr. Jones:

The County of Westchester has been a local sponsor for the Bronx River and Basin Ecosystem Restoration Feasibility Study in partnership with the New York City Department of Environmental Protection (NYC DEP) since 2003. The Department of Planning has been the lead County agency and the primary County liaison with the NYC DEP and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New York District (USACE).

The County understands that the restoration recommendations made in the Bronx River Ecosystem Restoration Feasibility Study for Westchester County will be included in a single, integrated Hudson-Raritan Estuary Ecosystem Restoration Feasibility Study and Environmental Assessment. It is our understanding that the intention of this integration is to best maximize resources, efficiencies and ecosystem benefits for not only the USACE and the County, but for other entities participating in the Hudson-Raritan Estuary Ecosystem Restoration Feasibility Study. The County looks forward to completion of the study and using its components to better understand the Bronx River and its watershed and to assist in the development of effective strategies that will address sources of degradation and lead to improved management of the river and its floodplain and riparian ecosystem.

The Westchester County Department of Planning specifically supports the advancement of restoration projects named in the Bronx River Ecosystem Restoration Feasibility Study within Westchester County. These are titled "Bronxville Lake," "Crestwood Lake," "Harney Road/Garth Woods" and "Westchester County Center." It is understood that advancement of these projects is dependent on federal appropriations and that the County's support at this time does not commit the County to any financial obligations.

Westchester County values its long-standing partnerships and stresses the importance of restoring the Bronx River as well as the need for future construction authorization for the restoration actions

recommended in the Hudson-Raritan Estuary Ecosystem Restoration Feasibility Study. We look forward to continuing to work with the New York District on these important ecosystem restoration projects and furthering our collective visions to restore the many and varied ecosystems that comprise the Hudson-Raritan Estuary.

If you or your staff members have any questions or need further information, please do not hesitate to contact Robert Doscher at 914.995.4423 or rrd1@westchestergov.com.

Sincerely,



Edward Burroughs, AICP
Commissioner

cc: Kevin Plunkett, Deputy County Executive
George Oros, Chief of Staff
Eileen Mildenberger, Chief Advisor, Governmental Operations
Kathleen O'Connor, Commissioner of Parks, Recreation and Conservation
Jay Pisco, P.E., Commissioner of Public Works and Transportation
Patrick Natarelli, Chief Planner
David Kvinge, Director of Environmental Planning
Robert Doscher, Principal Environmental Planner



**Department of
Environmental
Conservation**



Department of Environmental Conservation
Regional Director, Region 2
47-40 21st
Long Island City, NY 11101

Department of Environmental Protection
Deputy Commissioner of Sustainability
59-17 Junction Blvd.
Flushing, NY 11373

March 1, 2016

Colonel David Caldwell
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
26 Federal Plaza
New York, NY 10278-0090

**Re: Letter of Interest to Partner on Future Marsh Islands Restoration Projects in
Jamaica Bay**

Dear Col. Caldwell,

We write to express interest from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation ("NYSDEC") and the New York City Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to act as funding partners and to commit up to \$9 million for projects restoring the critical marsh island habitat in Jamaica Bay. NYSDEC and DEP have long supported and partnered on the USACE's efforts to restore wetlands in the Hudson-Raritan Estuary, including recently contributing \$4 million to restore Yellow Bar Hassock, Rulers Bar, Black Wall as well as contributing \$5.25M for Elders East and West marsh islands in 2006 and 2010 respectively.

We understand that the USACE is undertaking planning and conceptual work for several marsh island projects under the Hudson Raritan Estuary (HRE) Program, including Elders Point, Pumpkin Patch, and Duck Point. These projects will call for the placement and grading of dredged sand to reestablish the marsh footprint. Similar to past projects, this work could be conducted by the USACE, but a non-federal sponsor must cover the differential costs associated with redirecting the dredged sand to a site other than the identified federal standard option (i.e. Historic Area Remediation Site).

We are interested in acting as the non-federal sponsors and contributing up to \$9.0 million from various funding sources for one or more marsh island projects. Annually the USACE dredges approximately 250,000 cubic yards of sand from the Sandy Hook Federal Navigation Channel. Other years, the USACE has several sand dredging projects in its pipeline. It is our understanding

from the Regional Dredge Team that in 2018 the USACE may dredge, pending funding and approvals, approximately 900,000 cubic yards of sand from Sandy Hook, Ambrose, Rockaway Inlet, and East Rockaway federal navigation channels. These sand projects could be beneficially used to advance several restoration projects identified in the USACE's Comprehensive Restoration Plan and the Jamaica Bay Watershed Protection Plan (JBWPP) while also maintaining cost-effective dredge material management solutions.

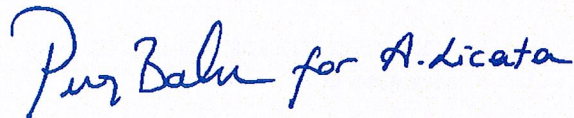
In addition to contributing funds, we are interested in exploring a range of cost sharing programs and establishing a funding agreement or other type of mechanism with the USACE that would facilitate a programmatic approach to matching dredged sand from one or more navigational projects with placement at one or more marsh islands in Jamaica Bay. Based on preliminary discussions with USACE staff, a programmatic approach could streamline many of the long-lead items routinely associated with a traditional project-by-project basis.

We look forward to working with you and USACE staff on these important restoration projects and furthering our work to beneficially reuse dredged material. If you or your staff have any questions, please reach out to Katie Axt, NYSDEC Dredge Team Leader, at 718-482-4076 or katie.axt@dec.ny.gov.

Sincerely,



Venetia Lannon
Regional Director, NYSDEC



Angela Licata
Deputy Commissioner, NYCDEP

cc: S. Zahn, Deputy Regional Director, DEC Region 2
K. Mintzer, General Counsel, DEC Region 2
K. Axt, Dredge Team Leader, DEC Region 2
G. Nam, Counsel, DEC Region 2
N. Lussier, Director of Management and Budget Services, DEC
J. Seebode, Deputy District Engineer, USACE
T. Creamer, Chief, Operations, USACE
P. Weppler, Chief, Environmental Analysis Branch, USACE
E. Simon, Assistant District Counsel, USACE
M. Eckels, Counsel, DEP
P. Balci, Director, BEPA, DEP
J. McLaughlin, Director, Ecological Services, NYCDEP



WAYNE HASENBALG
President and Chief Executive Officer
Direct: 201-460-4155
whasenbalg@njsea.com

January 31, 2017

Mr. Clifford S. Jones
Chief, Planning Division
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
26 Federal Plaza
New York, NY 10278-0090

Dear Mr. Jones:

The New Jersey Sports & Exposition Authority (NJSEA; formerly the New Jersey Meadowlands Commission) is the local sponsor with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers New York District (District) for the Hudson Raritan Estuary (HRE)-Hackensack Meadowlands Ecosystem Restoration Feasibility Study.

From a policy perspective, NJSEA supports the many recommendations for restoration of sites outlined in the *Report Synopsis for the Hudson Raritan Estuary Ecosystem Restoration Feasibility Study*. NJSEA specifically supports the advancement of the restoration projects at Meadowlark Marsh and Metromedia Tract within the Hackensack Meadowlands. NJSEA plans to contribute to future construction pending appropriations, other budgetary considerations and participation of other co-sponsors. NJSEA will reevaluate its level of participation at the time these projects are ready to move forward. As of the date of this correspondence, NJSEA has not appropriated any funds for the projects.

We value our long-standing partnership and stress the importance of restoring the NY/NJ Harbor Estuary and the need for future construction authorization for the restoration actions recommended in the Hudson Raritan Estuary Ecosystem Restoration Feasibility Study. We look forward to continuing to work with the District on these important ecosystem restoration projects and furthering our collective vision for a World Class Harbor Estuary. If you or your staff have any questions, please contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Wayne Hasenbalg", is written over the typed name.

Wayne Hasenbalg

February 26, 2017



Mr. Clifford S. Jones
Chief, Planning Division
US Army Corps of Engineers
26 Federal Plaza
New York, NY 10278-0090

Dear Mr. Jones:

The New York Harbor Foundation (NYHF) is the local sponsor with the US Army Corps of Engineers New York District (District) for the Hudson Raritan Estuary Program, specifically the Upper Bay site along the Brooklyn Shoreline, also known as the Bush Terminals Park and the Governors Island site. NYHF, primarily through the work of its Billion Oyster Project (BOP), has a recent history working together with the District on in-water restoration research pilot projects.

NYF is currently engaged in a pilot study at the Bush Terminals Park site. In addition to the installation and monitoring of live oysters and reef structures this work has involved community outreach and education. The site has great potential for further restoration.

NYHF supports the recommendations proposed in the Draft Integrated HRE Feasibility Report and Environmental Assessment (FR/EA). NYHF is committed to restoring a sustainable oyster population to the Harbor. Towards this end, NYHF is aligned with the goals of the Comprehensive Restoration Plan, particularly the habitat goals for oyster reef habitat. NYHF is currently engaged in oyster restoration and research in the Upper Bay, Raritan Bay, Bronx River, Jamaica Bay and Hudson River.

NYHF values its past collaborations and ongoing partnership with the District and hopes to continue work in these important ecosystem restoration projects and furthering our collective vision of an abundant, safe and diverse Harbor. If you or your staff have any questions, please contact Pete Malinowski at pmalinowski@nyharbor.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Pete Malinowski", is written over a light blue circular stamp.

Pete Malinowski
BOP Director
New York Harbor Foundation



February 14, 2017

Colonel David A. Caldwell
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New York District
26 Federal Plaza
New York, NY 10278-0090

Dear Colonel Caldwell:

NY/NJ Baykeeper is committed to the restoration of the NY-NJ Harbor Estuary and implementing the restoration goals of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE), New York District's Hudson-Raritan Estuary Ecosystem Restoration Feasibility Study. Since 1989, NY/NJ Baykeeper has worked to protect, preserve and restore the NY-NJ Harbor Estuary, including the restoration of oysters to the region.

NY/NJ Baykeeper confirms our commitment to ACOE to partner on the construction of the restoration project at Naval Weapons Station Earle in Raritan Bay ("restoration project"). NY/NJ Baykeeper will work to advance the following restoration initiatives, as described in the Report:

- 7.6 acres of new restoration will be constructed adjacent to the existing restoration site
- Restoration techniques will include spat on shell, cages, reef balls, and oyster castles

NY/NJ Baykeeper understands that the ACOE will undertake the restoration project when funds are appropriated by Congress and allocated to the New York District. NY/NJ Baykeeper is aware that this letter constitutes an express of intent and not a contractual obligation and that the sponsor or the ACOE may opt to discontinue the restoration project development process before entering into an agreement to construct the restoration project.

If you need additional information, please contact Meredith Comi, Restoration Director, at 732-888-9870 or debbie@nynjbaykeeper.org. Thank you for all your work on this endeavor and we look forward to continuing to work with you on the restoration of the NY-NJ Harbor Estuary.

Sincerely,

Deborah A. Mans
Executive Director & Baykeeper