Hudson-Raritan Estuary Ecosystem Restoration Feasibility Study

the WATERS we SHARE

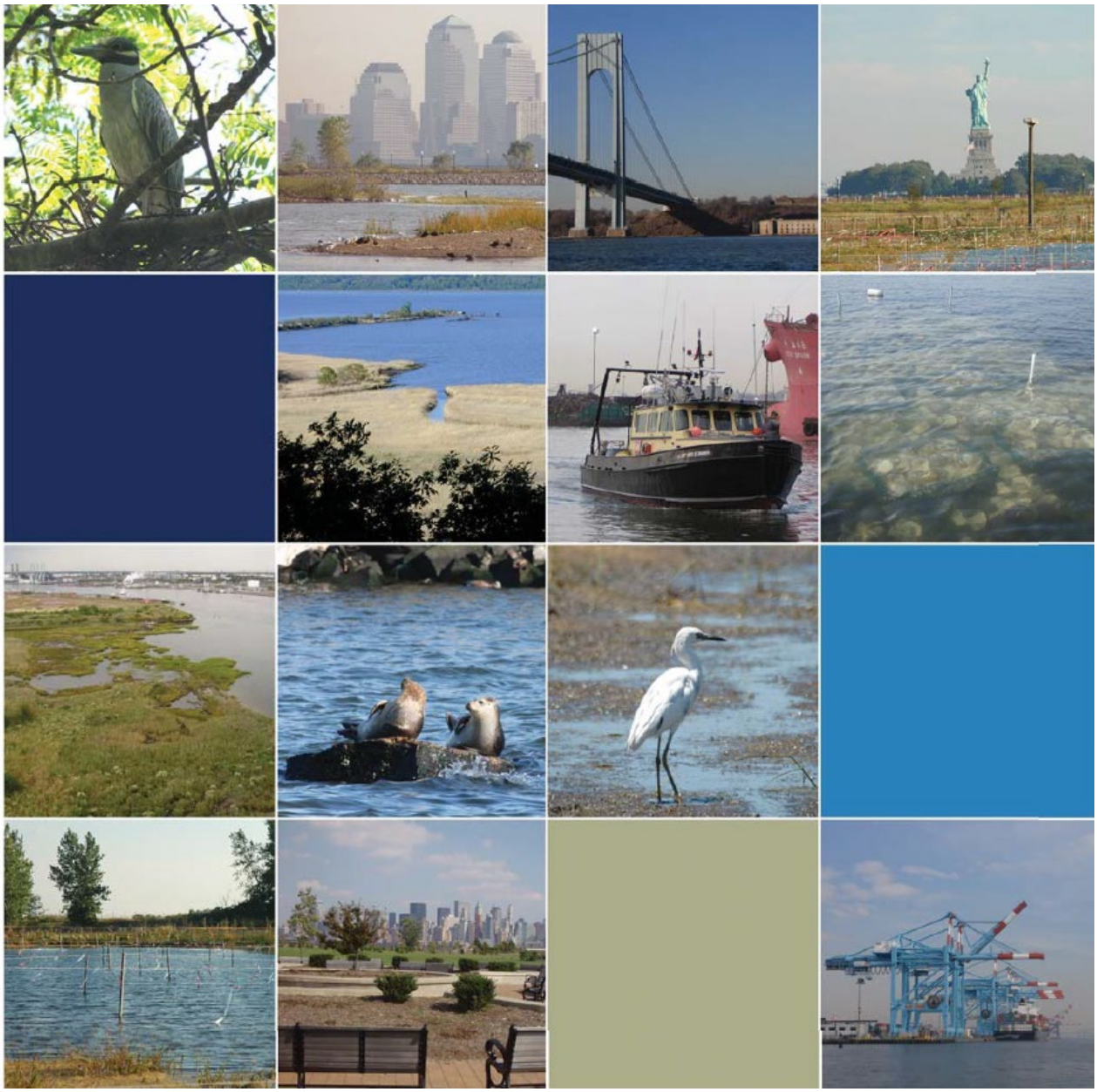
Appendix A
Local Sponsor Support Letters

Final Integrated Feasibility Report & Environmental Assessment

April 2020

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

Final Integrated Feasibility Report & Environmental Assessment

February 2020

Sponsor Letters of Support

United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Gateway National Recreation Area
210 New York Avenue
Staten Island, NY 10305

IN REPLY REFER TO :

A00(NER/GATE)

November 5, 2018

Colonel Thomas D. Asbery
Commander and District Engineer
Department of the Army
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
New York District
Jacob K. Javits Federal Building
26 Federal Plaza
New York, NY 10279-0090

Colonel Asbery:

The National Park Service (NPS) supports the recommendations proposed in the Integrated Hudson-Raritan Estuary (HRE) Ecosystem Restoration Feasibility Study and Environmental Assessment (FE/EA). This study builds upon previous planning and partnerships to maximize resources and ecosystem benefits among many restoration partners. The HRE is one of the largest estuarine systems in the eastern United States, covering more than 1600 square miles in a metropolitan area that has undergone centuries of industrial and residential development that has contributed to the degradation of wetlands, stream corridors, and upland and benthic habitats. Gateway National Recreation Area (GATE) encompasses more than 40 square miles of the HRE and nearly all of Jamaica Bay.

While GATE is situated within the HRE study area and the restoration goals of the HRE are compatible with the NPS mission, restoration of this larger ecosystem is not within the mission or authority of NPS. NPS policies direct parks to preserve park resources and values and restore natural ecosystem functions and physical and biological processes within our parks. NPS policies also recognize that a park is not a biogeographic island and direct management within the context of larger ecosystems through collaboration with land and resource managers. The GATE 2014 General Management Plan identifies that NPS will continue to cultivate and leverage partnerships to accomplish management of the park and, in particular, restoration of Jamaica Bay. GATE enabling legislation (16 U.S. Code 460-cc) specifically directs NPS to conserve and protect the islands, waters and wildlife of Jamaica Bay. In addition, GATE enabling legislation maintains the authority of the Secretary of the Army to undertake and contribute to water resource developments that are consistent with the purpose of the GATE enabling legislation.

Restoration of the HRE is within the USACE mission; however the estuarine-wide goals of the HRE cannot be achieved if Jamaica Bay is excluded. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers New York District (USACE), New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC), New York City Department of Environmental Protection (NYCDEP) and the NPS have a successful history of partnering to beneficially use USACE dredge sediment for ecosystem restoration. The HRE FE/EA provides an opportunity to continue this collaboration as well as the continued investment of City and State funds to achieve common goals on federal public trust lands through the USACE cost-share formulation. As identified by letters of support in Appendix A of the FE/EA, restoration of the Jamaica Bay component of the Hudson-Raritan Estuarine system is of high priority for NYSDEC and NYCDEP. These non-federal cost-share partners are poised to fund 35% of the cost of the HRE Jamaica Bay projects on NPS property because they, like USACE and NPS, recognize that restoration of marsh island habitat in Jamaica Bay is critical to achieving the water quality, habitat restoration and resilience goals of the HRE.

Without USACE, NYSDEC and NYCDEP support, NPS will not be able to achieve the HRE FE/EA objectives in Jamaica Bay. NPS does not have dedicated funds for ecosystem restoration. GATE must compete with 417 NPS units for natural resource funding. Service-wide within NPS, annual fund availability for all natural resource projects is approximately 12 million dollars.

We look forward to continuing our partnership with USACE on this and other projects. If you have any questions, please contact me by email at jen_nersesian@nps.gov or by telephone (718-354-4665).

Sincerely,

Jennifer T. Nersesian
Superintendent

Cc:
Joe Seebode, USACE
Cliff Jones, USACE
Steve Zahn, NYS DEC
Angela Licata, NYC DEP
Joshua Laird, NPS

NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

Regional Director, Region 2
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February 7, 2020

Colonel Thomas Asbery
Commander and District Engineer
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers - New York District
26 Federal Plaza, Room 17-205
New York, NY 10278-0090

Colonel Asbery,

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) is pleased to restate support for the ecosystem restoration activities within the Hudson-Raritan Estuary (HRE) program. We have been proud to work alongside the Corps and other regional partners in the development of the HRE Comprehensive Restoration Plan (CRP) and we look forward to advancing to project implementation in the new future.

NYSDEC strongly supports the HRE Final Feasibility Report and Environmental Assessment (FR/EA). While NYSDEC is generally supportive of the full portfolio of CRP projects presented in the FR/EA, we particularly support the following projects located in the Jamaica Bay area: Dead Horse Bay, Duck Point Marsh, Elders Point Center, Pumpkin Patch East & West and Stony Creek Marsh.

NYSDEC also renews its commitment to provide monetary support for project implementation, subject to funding availability. Based on the project costs presented in the FR/EA, it is expected that coordination with other regional partners as co-sponsors will be necessary to meet the local cost-share requirements for any given project.

NYSDEC awaits the Corps' submittal of the respective New York State projects' Water Quality Certification (WQC) applications. Based on NYSDEC's review of the Integrated FR/EA, the Department does not foresee any problems that would preclude the issuance of WQCs. NYSDEC will initiate the formal review process of each project's WQC, which may include the determination of any environmental construction windows, once the Corps' application is submitted. Please note that until this review process is completed and a WQC is issued, there is no authorization for the Corps to move forward in the construction of these Projects.

NYSDEC looks forward to building on the many restoration successes that have been realized through our long-standing partnership with the Army Corps. Advancing the HRE program will lay the foundation for even greater successes in the future.

Respectfully Yours,

Stephen M. Zahn
Regional Director

NEW YORK STATE | Department of Environmental Conservation

State of New Jersey
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
NATURAL & HISTORIC RESOURCES
OFFICE OF NATURAL RESOURCE RESTORATION
MAIL CODE 501-04
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PHILIP D. MURPHY
Governor

SHEILA Y. OLIVER
Lt. Governor

CATHERINE R. McCABE
Commissioner

January 21, 2020

Colonel Thomas Asbery
Commander and District Engineer
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers - New York District
26 Federal Plaza, Room 17-205
New York, NY 10278-0090

Dear Colonel Asbery,

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. NJDEP supports the recommendations proposed in the Final HRE Feasibility Report and Environmental Assessment. NJDEP specifically supports the advancement of the restoration projects for construction at Essex County Branch Brook Park, Oak Island Yards and Naval Weapons Station Earle.

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 Final HRE Feasibility Report and Environmental Assessment Study. NJDEP may be interested in becoming the local sponsor for future construction pending management approval and appropriations. We look forward to continuing to work with the District on these important ecosystem restoration projects. If you require additional information, please contact David Bean at 609-984-3865 or David.Bean@dep.nj.gov.

Sincerely,

John Sacco
Assistant Director, Parks and Forestry
Division of Natural and Historic Resources

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NYC Parks

Jennifer Greenfeld
Assistant Commissioner
Forestry, Horticulture,
& Natural Resources

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E Jennifer.greenfeld@parks.nyc.gov

City of New York
Parks & Recreation

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New York, NY 10029
www.nyc.gov/parks

January 24, 2020

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 (NYC Parks) has had a long history collaborating 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.

NYC Parks strongly supports the recommendations for restoration of sites within New York City that were outlined in the Final Feasibility Report and Environmental Assessment (FR/EA). Parks specifically supports the advancement of restoration projects within Jamaica Bay (Fresh Creek), Bronx River (Bronx Zoo and Dam, Shoelace Park, and Stone Mill Dam), and Bush Terminal Park.

NYC Parks 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 Jennifer.Greenfeld@parks.nyc.gov.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Greenfeld

We Bring the World to New Jersey

January 30, 2020

Colonel Thomas Asbery
Commander and District Engineer
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers - New York District
26 Federal Plaza, Room 17-205
New York, NY 10278-0090

Dear Colonel Asbery:

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

The NJSEA supports the recommendations for ecological restoration of the District sites highlighted within the Study, particularly the ecological restoration of the Meadowlark Marsh and the Metromedia Tract located within the Hackensack Meadowlands. When the District receives funding for the restoration of Meadowlark and Metromedia, NJSEA plans to contribute to these efforts by providing the lands owned by NJSEA on which these sites are largely located, and contributing to the future construction pending appropriations, other budgetary considerations, and participation of other co-sponsors. NJSEA will re-evaluate its level of participation when the District receives funding and is ready to move forward. As of the date of this correspondence, NJSEA has not appropriated any funds for these projects.

NJSEA values our long-standing partnership with the District 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 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 Estuary. If you or your staff has any questions, please contact me.

Sincerely,

Vincent Prieto
President & CEO, NJSEA

One DeKorte Park Plaza · P.O. Box 640 · Lyndhurst · New Jersey 07071

Westchestergov.com

George Latimer
County Executive

Department of Planning

Norma V. Drummond
Commissioner

January 30, 2020

Colonel Thomas Asbery
Commander and District Engineer
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers - New York District
26 Federal Plaza, Room 17-205
New York, NY 10278-0090

Subject: **BRONX RIVER ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION FEASIBILITY STUDY and HUDSON-RARITAN ESTUARY ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION FEASIBILITY STUDY**

Dear Colonel Asbery:

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

The County understands that two of the restoration recommendations made in the Bronx River Ecosystem Restoration Feasibility Study for Westchester County are included in the single, integrated Hudson-Raritan Estuary Ecosystem Restoration Feasibility Study. 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 its recommended project sites to help improve the ecological value of 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 through the recommended Bronxville Lake and Garth Woods-Harney Road projects in Westchester County.

The Westchester County Department of Planning specifically supports the advancement of two of the restoration projects named in the Bronx River Ecosystem Restoration Feasibility Study within Westchester County. These are titled "Bronxville Lake" and "Harney Road-Garth Woods". 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.

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148 Martine Avenue
White Plains, New York 10601 Telephone: (914) 995-4400 Fax: (914) 995-9093 Website: westchestergov.com

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,

Norma V. Drummond
Commissioner

cc: Hon. George Latimer, Westchester County Executive
Joan McDonald, Director of Operations
Blanca Lopez, Adviser to the County Executive
Aviva Meyer, Assistant to the County Executive
Kathleen O'Connor, Commissioner of Parks, Recreation and Conservation
David Kvinge, Director of Environmental Planning
Robert Doscher, Principal Environmental Planner

January 24, 2020

Colonel Thomas Asbery
Commander and District Engineer
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers - New York District
26 Federal Plaza, Room 17-205
New York, NY 10278-0090

Dear Colonel Asbery:

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 collaborate on the construction of the restoration project at Naval Weapons Station Earle in Raritan Bay. NY/NJ Baykeeper will work to advance the following restoration initiatives, as described in the Report:

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

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 (Baykeeper) 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 me at 732-888-9870 or meredith@nynjbaykeeper.org. Thank you for 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,

Meredith Comi

Meredith Comi
Restoration Program Director

Headquarters: 30 Washington Street, Matawan, NJ 07747
Phone: 732.888.9870 Fax: 732.888.9873 www.nynjbaykeeper.org

WATERKEEPER ALLIANCE
FOUNDING MEMBER

February 11, 2020

Colonel Thomas Asbery
Commander and District Engineer
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers - New York District
26 Federal Plaza, Room 17-205
New York, NY 10278-0090

Dear Colonel Asbery:

Billion Oyster Project is committed to the restoration of the NY-NJ Harbor Estuary and implementing the restoration goals of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) - New York District's Hudson- Raritan Estuary Ecosystem Restoration Feasibility Study. Since 2014, Billion Oyster Project has pursued its mission of restoring oyster reefs to New York Harbor through public education initiatives, thereby raising awareness in New York City and its environs of the importance of restoring New York City's greatest natural resource.

Billion Oyster Project confirms our commitment to USACE to collaborate on the construction of the proposed restoration project at Bush Terminal Park, Sunset Park, Brooklyn. Billion Oyster Project will work to advance the restoration initiatives contemplated by the Study, namely, the restoration of approximately 32 acres of oyster reef habitat using a variety of techniques including spat on shell, oyster castles and gabion structures. This project represents a substantial step forward towards the realization of Billion Oyster Project's goal of restoring one billion oysters to New York Harbor by 2035.

Billion Oyster Project understands that USACE will undertake the restoration project when funds are appropriated by Congress and allocated to the New York District. Billion Oyster Project is aware that this letter constitutes an expression of intent, not a contractual commitment, and that any of USACE or Billion Oyster Project or any fiscal sponsor of the restoration project may opt to discontinue the restoration project development process before entering into a definitive agreement to participate in the construction of the restoration project.

We appreciate your work on this ambitious and important restoration initiative, and look forward to collaborating with USACE on this project.

Very truly yours,

Pete Malinowski
Executive Director

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New York, NY 10004

billionoysterproject.org
newyorkharborschool.org

Hudson Raritan Estuary Ecosystem Restoration Feasibility Study

Draft Integrated Feasibility Report & Environmental Assessment

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

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

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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,

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

State of New Jersey

CHRIS CHRISTIE
Governor

KIM GUADAGNO
Lt. Governor

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
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BOB MARTIN
Commissioner

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,

John Sacco
Section Chief

c: Rich Boornazian
Assistant Commissioner

Environmental Protection

Emily Lloyd
Commissioner

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

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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

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

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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

Westchester gov.com

Robert P. Astorino
County Executive

Department of Planning

Edward Buroughs, 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

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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 Buroughs, 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

NEW YORK STATE OF OPPORTUNITY | Department of Environmental Conservation

NYC Environmental Protection

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

Pur Balu for A. Licata

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,

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,

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 Mans

Deborah A. Mans
Executive Director & Baykeeper

52 West Front Street, Keyport, NJ 07735
Phone: 732.888.9870 Fax: 732.888.9873 www.nynjbaykeeper.org

WATERKEEPER ALLIANCE
FOUNDING MEMBER