



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
NEW YORK DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
JACOB K. JAVITS FEDERAL BUILDING
NEW YORK, N.Y. 10278-0090

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF
District Commander

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

Downtown Montauk Stabilization Project

- 1. Project Description:** As a consequence of severe coastal erosion during Hurricane Sandy on October 29, 2012, the protective beach was largely eroded leaving the commercial buildings in downtown Montauk, New York vulnerable to additional damages from future storms. This condition increases the potential for devastating storm damage to the shore and shorefront commercial buildings in downtown Montauk. In response to extensive storm damages and increased vulnerability to future events, consistent with the Disaster Relief Appropriations Act of 2013 (Public Law. 113-2; herein P.L. 113-2), and recognizing the urgency to repair and implement immediate storm protection measures, particularly in the Downtown Montauk project area, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New York District (New York District) is proposing to provide coastal storm risk management through construction of a reinforced dune.
 - a. The project includes construction of a reinforced dune within the Downtown Montauk project area. The proposed dune design includes 3,100 ft. of reinforced dune extending from South Emery Street to Atlantic Terrace motel in downtown Montauk and tapers into high dunes at both ends of the project area. The core of the dune consists of 1.7 ton Geotextile Sand Containers (GSCs) with filled dimensions of about 5.5 ft long, 3.5 ft wide and 1.5 ft tall. The alignment closely follows the existing dune (+12 ft NGVD contour). The proposed dune will provide protection to the shorefront commercial and residential buildings in downtown Montauk.
 - b. A total of 71,000 CY of sand is required to construct the reinforced dune. Approximately two-thirds of the sand fill will be used to fill the GSCs or placed in the dune. The remaining one-third will be used to construct the berm cap. About 20,000 CY will be obtained from excavation and re-grading of the existing dune, with the remaining 51,000 CY obtained from upland sand sources.
 - c. This Stabilization Project is a one-time, stand-alone project with its own independent utility. As developed, this project does not limit the options available in the Fire Island to Montauk Point (FIMP) Reformulation Study or pre-suppose the outcome of the Reformulation Study. After the initial construction of the

reinforced dune, the project is expected to erode, and diminish in its protective capacity, eventually returning to a pre-project condition.

- d. The Stabilization Project has been evaluated over a 15 year period. In the absence of a sediment management solution as part of the overall FIMP Reformulation Study, long term erosion will lead to a reduced level of protection.
- e. No property acquisitions or structural relocations are required for the project. However, two types of easements are required for the Stabilization project. Perpetual easements are needed in locations where beachfill and reinforced dune will be placed to allow for construction, operation, maintenance, patrol, repair and replacement of the beach berm and dune. Temporary work area easements are required to allow right-of-way, in, over and across the land for the planned four month construction schedule.

2. Coordination: New York District has coordinated this project with Federal and State resources agencies and the interested public and issued a Notice of Availability of the draft Environmental Assessment (EA) in order to:

- a. Inform agencies and stakeholders of the proposed work and the environmental evaluation contained in the draft EA, and
- b. Provide an opportunity for comments on that evaluation and findings.

3. Environmental Impacts:

- a. Impacts to living natural resources in the Downtown Montauk project area would be associated with direct impacts related to sand placement along the ocean shoreline of downtown Montauk for reinforced dune construction. The Dune Reinforcement Alternative would not directly result in deposition of materials within the marine nearshore habitat, as all sand placement for dune reinforcement would be located landward of MLW.
- b. Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) Compliance: Based on the habitats present in the Downtown Montauk project area, the proximity of the project area to developed areas and agency responses regarding lack of known records of rare or state-listed animals and plants, and significant natural communities the likelihood of protected species occurring in the project area is minimal. Therefore, the Dune Reinforcement Alternative would not have an impact on any listed species.
- c. The proposed action is in compliance with all applicable environmental laws. Environmental approvals/requirements are listed in Table 7 of the EA. Short-term unavoidable effects on wildlife species include the loss of invertebrate species at the placement areas within the marine beach and dune habitats. Long-term

positive effects include restoration of beach berm and slope; maintenance of marine intertidal, beach and dune habitats.

- d. Overall, the environmental impacts of implementing the proposed action are expected to be minor in scope and temporary in duration.

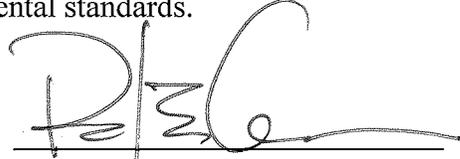
4. Determination: I have determined that this action does not constitute a major Federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment. Therefore, the action does not require the preparation of a detailed statement under Section 102(2) (c) of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.). My determination was made considering the following factors discussed in this EA:

- a. Due to the short project life of the action, no unacceptable adverse cumulative or secondary impacts would result from project implementation.
- b. No additional long term adverse impacts to the environment would be associated with the proposed project.
- c. All work will be done consistent with the attached Programmatic Agreement (PA) between the USACE and NYSHPO

5. Findings: The proposed Downtown Montauk Stabilization Project would result in no significant adverse environmental impacts and is the alternative that represents sound engineering practices and meets environmental standards.

12 NOVEMBER 2014

Date



Paul Owen, P.E.
Colonel, US Army Corps of Engineers
District Engineer