



Town of Saugus

Board of Selectmen

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Debra Panetta - Chairman

Jeffrey Cicolini, Vice Chair

Selectman Michael Serino

Selectman Anthony Cogliano

Selectman Corinne Riley

February 7, 2024

Dear Honorable Senator Edward Markey, Honorable Senator Elizabeth Warren, Honorable Senator Brendan P. Crighton, Honorable Congressman Seth Moulton, Honorable State Representative Donald Wong, and Honorable State Representative Jessica Giannino:

On February 6th, 2024, the Saugus Board of Selectmen, at their regularly scheduled meeting, unanimously voted to approve and send this letter to our state and federal delegation requesting that funding for the **Saugus River Coastal Storm Risk Management Feasibility Study** be allocated as soon as possible.

In 2022, Senator Edward Markey sponsored legislation for a regional investigation for coastal flood protection and environmental enhancement, which he and Representative Katherine Clark did in the Water Resources Development Act of 2022. This legislation was a result of five communities, Saugus, Revere, Lynn, Malden, and Everett, all jointly advocating for this study to take place. President Biden signed this legislation as part of the **National Defense Authorization Act** on December 23, 2022. However, there was no funding allocated for this feasibility study.

We want to remind you that on January 13th, 2024, Saugus, Revere, Lynn and other surrounding communities experienced some of the worst coastal flooding to-date. In fact, in 2024 the 4th and 6th highest flood waters on record have occurred. The devastation experienced by our residents and property owners was both extreme and sobering. Saugus officials, homeowners, property owners, and businesses clearly recognize that future flooding events will in fact become more frequent and more destructive.

Therefore, it is imperative that funding immediately occur so that this study can happen which would allow for a robust public participation process and ultimately a proposal to construct floodgates at the mouth of the Saugus River. The **Saugus River Coastal Storm Risk Management Feasibility Study** process would develop, evaluate, and update alternatives and impacts. Public involvement is required in order to evaluate alternatives and environmental concerns as well as to renew support from the Commonwealth and affected communities. This support and an approved Feasibility Report and EIS/EIR are required before the design process can resume. It is our understanding that the cost of this study would be between one and three million dollars. This cost would be shared between the federal and state government and the five local communities that are impacted.

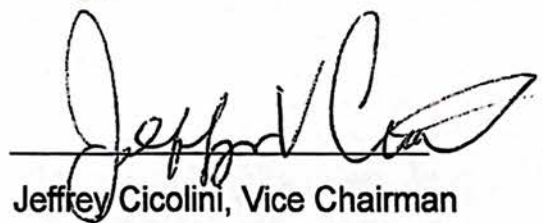
Saugus is prepared to raise and appropriate its share of the cost for this study. We now need your advocacy at the state level and with your respective city councils for a funding commitment. We need to immediately demonstrate to the Federal Government our commitment to cost sharing so that the study can commence.

We look forward to working with each of you to begin this process. Please call or e-mail our office should you have any questions. Thank you for your consideration on this matter of critical importance.

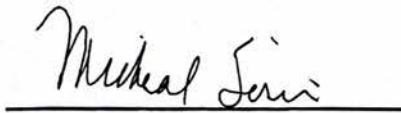
Respectfully Submitted,



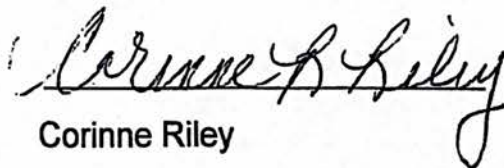
Debra Panetta, Chairman



Jeffrey Cicolini, Vice Chairman



Michael Serino



Corinne Riley



Anthony Cogliano

cc: Town Manager, Scott Crabtree; Pct. 10 Town Meeting Members; Board of Health Conservation Commission.