

Brian M. Arrigo Mayor

August 26, 2020

Commander William Conde
Scott Acone, Programs/Project Management Division
New England District Corps of Engineers
696 Virginia Road
Concord, MA 01742

RE: Boston North Shore Coastal Flood Damage Reduction and Environmental Enhancement Study

Dear Commander Conde:

This statement serves to confirm that the communities of Revere, Malden, Saugus, Lynn and Everett are in full support of a Boston North Shore Coastal Flood Damage Reduction and Environmental Enhancement Study. This study effort is necessary to analyze and model various flood protection and environmental enhancement options to protect the region from increased flood losses and promote environmental restoration of the upper Saugus/Pines River Estuary.

Many storms have flooded our communities over the years, including the 100-year storm of record "Blizzard of 1978." With accelerated sea level rise and tidal surges as recently experienced in the "bomb cyclone" in 2018--which set a new tidal record--our communities are experiencing more frequent storm events with potential flooding of over 5,000 homes (over 8,000 units) and businesses, impacting over 10,000 residents, 20,000 employees, and 400,000 commuters. Major arteries serving Boston's North Shore including US Route 1, 1A and 107, the MBTA Blue Line and the B&M Commuter Rail would be inundated and shut down for several days.

A regional flood protection project is necessary to protect against a Standard Project Northeaster (SPN), the worst storm reasonably likely to occur in this region. Such an event would cause damage greater than four times that of the 1978 Blizzard (100-year storm event) and could result in over \$1.3 billion in regional damage.

August 26 Coastal Flood Damage Study Page 2

The project would also protect against rising sea levels. The SPN storm would cause a tsunami of tidal surges over the shorefronts and into these communities lasting several days. In the SPN floodplain and 100-year floodplain contain approximately 2,600 buildings in Revere, 1,200 buildings in Lynn including the General Electric Jet Engine plant, 900 buildings in Saugus, 300 buildings in Malden, and 100 buildings in Everett. A coastal storm of this magnitude would reach 5 to 14 feet deep in these communities.

The region to be protected is perhaps the most densely populated urban area vulnerable to coastal flooding along the New England coast. Now is the time to initiate a study to protect this region from coastal flooding and sea level rise and prevent sustained damages that would devastate the social and economic well-being of the communities of Revere, Malden, Saugus, Lynn and Everett.

Brian Arrigo, Mayor City of Revere

Gary Christenson, Mayor

D. Maria

City of Malden

Thomas McGee, Mayor

City of Lynn

Carlo DeMaria, Mayor

. Clty of Everett

Scott Crabtree, Esq., Town Manager

Town of Saugus