



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
NEW ENGLAND DISTRICT
696 VIRGINIA ROAD
CONCORD MA 01742-2751

January 27, 2020

Planning Division
Plan Formulation Branch

Honorable William Doyle
Mayor
Saco City Hall
300 Main Street
Saco, ME 04072-1538

Dear Mayor Doyle:

I am writing concerning the Saco River and Camp Ellis Beach Section 111 Shore Damage Mitigation project and the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) longstanding request for the City of Saco, as the project's non-Federal sponsor, to provide a letter of support and commitment to provide the required non-Federal responsibilities for implementation of the project.

In July 2018 the USACE provided the City with a copy of its proposed final report with a request for the City to review that report and provide a letter of support for the recommended Federally implementable plan for addressing the erosion issue at Camp Ellis Beach. That plan was limited by the Congressionally established funding cap for the project set forth in the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 2007 to \$26.9 million including all prior study and design costs.

Subsequent discussions and correspondence, including a vote by the City Council on September 17, 2018 and a series of letters and emails from the City through April 2, 2019 all indicated that the City was not supportive of the recommendation due to the cost that would be placed on the City for completing the initial beachfill over the \$26.9 million, the cost of future beach re-nourishment actions at least every 12 years, and the cost of maintaining the spur jetty. The funding limit and maintenance responsibilities are matters of Federal law and are not within the USACE discretion.

On April 30, 2019 the New England District forwarded a draft final report to USACE Headquarters for review and approval, together with the City's communications. That report recommended that further efforts be suspended as the City had declined to sponsor the project without condition. The City was also provided with a copy of that document. It has now been determined that absent the City's support for the

recommendation as set forth in the report, higher level review would not be appropriate and no report could be transmitted to Congress.

In conclusion, the USACE is terminating further efforts on this project. As study and design costs under this project are 100 percent Federal, the City is not required to cost-share in the work completed to date. Should the City at some future date wish to proceed with the project, or reinitiate studies of the problems at Camp Ellis, we could discuss whether and how best that might be accomplished.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (978) 318-8220, or Mr. John Kennelly, Chief of the Planning Division at (978) 318-8505.

Sincerely,



William M. Conde
Colonel, Corps of Engineers
District Engineer

CF:

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