TOWN OF OSSINING
VILLAGE OF OSSINING
MUNICIPAL BUILDING
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RESOLUTION IN OPPOSITION TO PROPOSED PLANS FOR
COASTAL STORM RISK MANAGEMENT WITHOUT SUFFICIENT
STUDY OR COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

WHEREAS, from July 9 through July 11, 2018, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
(USACOE) held public meetings for the first and only time regarding its “Coastal
Storm Risk Management” study (CSRM) for New York Harbor and the Hudson Valley;
and

WHEREAS, four of the ACOE’s proposed alternative plans (2, 3A, 3B and 4) involve
outer and inner harbor barriers that almost entirely block either the Hudson River or
major New York Harbor tributaries during storm events and would alter river and
tributary flow patterns at all times; and

WHEREAS, two of the ACOE’s alternatives propose barriers (2 and 3A) that would
entirely close off the harbor and river from the Atlantic during storm events and would
alter river and tributary flow patterns at all times; and

WHEREAS, the proposed barriers could impede the estuary’s tidal flow, contaminant
and sediment transport, and migration of fish, and impede the tidal “respiration” of
the river; and

WHEREAS, over time, the barriers have the potential to 1) significantly restrict
migrations of striped bass, Atlantic sturgeon, herring, shad, eel and other species
essential to the Hudson estuary, 2) prevent the ocean tide from flushing NY Harbor,
and 3) inhibit rainstorm flood waters like those during Irene and Lee in 2011 from
leaving the Hudson.; and

WHEREAS, open tidal exchange is essential to move sediment and flush
contaminants and if tidal exchange is restricted, the harbor could require much more
dredging to maintain shipping channels. Sewage and other contaminants could flush
to the ocean more slowly, resulting in more pollution for our already contaminated
harbor and river; and

WHEREAS, proposed alternative #5 - described as “Perimeter-only” and relying
entirely on shoreline-based floodwalls and levees is the only scenario presented so
far that may protect low-lying communities from storm surge from storms like Irene,
Lee and Sandy, while leaving our rivers to continue to flow naturally; and

WHEREAS, the proposed plans within-water barriers do not account for climate
change and do nothing to help communities adapt to sea level rise; and

WHEREAS, insufficient scientific data is available to fully understand the
consequences of altering Hudson River flow with permanent barriers; and

WHEREAS, the public comment period has been set for only five weeks during peak
summer vacation times when many residents are away and not easily informed
about this major set of proposals; and

WHEREAS, Scenic Hudson, Riverkeeper, and many others have voiced their concern
and opposition to storm risk management approaches that could severely
compromise the health of the Hudson River and its tributaries; and
WHEREAS, the Town of Ossining is a riverfront town that repeatedly acknowledges the importance of the Hudson River to our community, including the views, passive recreational uses, active boating uses, and view corridors enjoyed by thousands; and

BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Board of the Town of Ossining does hereby register its strongest possible opposition to proposed plans 2 and 3A, and asks that they be removed from further consideration; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Ossining does hereby register its support for further studies to ensure that shoreline-based measures such as Alternative 5, described as "Perimeter Only", would in fact protect New York Harbor and the Hudson Valley from flooding; and be it further.

RESOLVED, that further planning to manage the risk of coastal storm damage takes into account the impact of climate change and its impact on sea level rise; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the public comment period be extended by 90 days to allow for full public understanding and response to the US ACOE proposals; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this resolution be distributed to Nancy J. Brighton, Chief, Watershed Section, US ACOE, Senator Chuck Schumer, Senator Kirsten Gillibrand, Congresswoman Nita Lowey, Governor Cuomo, Secretary of State Rosanna Rosado NYS State Senator David Carlucci, and Assemblywoman Sandy Galef.

STATE OF NEW YORK
COUNTY OF WESTCHESTER
TOWN OF OSSINING

I, Victoria Cafarelli, Interim Town Clerk of the Town of Ossining, Westchester County, New York, DO HEREBY CERTIFY, that I have compared the foregoing with the original resolution adopted by the Town Board at a meeting held on the 7th day of August, 2018 and that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the original thereof. I DO FURTHER CERTIFY that Supervisor Dana Levenberg, Councilmembers Elizabeth R. Feldman, and Karen D'Attore were present at such meeting and Councilmembers Northern Wilcher, Jr. and Jackie G. Shaw were absent.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and the seal of the TOWN OF OSSINING THIS 8th day of August, 2018.

Victoria Cafarelli, Interim Town Clerk