



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
MIKE SPANO

August 1, 2018

Bryce Wisemiller, Project Manager
Programs and Project Management Division, Civil Works Programs Branch
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
New York District 26 Federal Plaza, Room 2127
New York, NY 10279

Nancy Brighton, Watershed Section Chief
Planning Division, Environmental Analysis Branch
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
New York District 26 Federal Plaza, Room 2151
New York, NY 10279

Basil Seggos, Commissioner
New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
625 Broadway
Albany, NY 12233-1011

Dear Mr. Wisemiller, Ms. Brighton and Mr. Seggos,

On behalf of the 200,000 residents of the City of Yonkers who live along the Hudson River, I strongly urge the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers ("USACE") and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation ("NYSDEC") to allow for additional public engagement in the New York New Jersey Harbor and Tributaries ("NYNJHAT") Coastal Storm Risk Management Feasibility Study and the six different plans which are being considered to protect against coastal storm damage.

As a city that has been directly impacted by large coastal storms, including Superstorm Sandy, we understand and appreciate the need to become more resilient against future storms that bring damaging coastal flooding. In fact, the City of Yonkers has worked with federal and state agencies to implement local flood mitigation measures that aim to protect our riverfront neighborhoods.

The measures being considered as part of the NYNJHAT Coastal Storm Risk Management Feasibility Study, particularly those which include in-water barriers, would have far reaching impacts that could affect the health of the entire Hudson River Estuary and the many communities that thrive along its shores. I am concerned that despite the significance of the potential impacts and cost to taxpayers for the measures under consideration, there has been a lack of outreach, involvement and information on this project provided to both the public and local municipal leaders.

The expansive feasibility study area encompasses approximately 2,150 square miles, but not a single public meeting has been held in Yonkers, New York's fourth largest city, or anywhere else in Westchester County. Meanwhile, a window of just 40 days for public comment on a complex project which very few people have been informed about is simply unacceptable.

It is imperative that additional public scoping meetings be scheduled, especially in larger population centers along waterways that could be most impacted by the measures under consideration. These meetings should be well advertised and include direct notification to local elected officials within the study area. It is also necessary that the scoping comment period be extended to at least 90 days to allow adequate time for meaningful and informed public input.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mike Spano", is written over the word "Sincerely,".

MIKE SPANO

Mayor