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**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**

CHAIRMAN, CONGRESSIONAL EXECUTIVE  
COMMISSION ON CHINA

CHAIRMAN, GLOBAL HEALTH, GLOBAL  
HUMAN RIGHTS, AND INTERNATIONAL  
ORGANIZATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE

CO-CHAIRMAN, TOM LANTOS HUMAN RIGHTS  
COMMISSION

SENIOR MEMBER, HOUSE FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
COMMITTEE

[www.chrissmith.house.gov](http://www.chrissmith.house.gov)

May 2, 2024

The Honorable Tom Cole  
Chairwoman  
U.S. House Committee on Appropriations  
H-307, U.S. Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Mark Amodei  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Homeland Security  
Committee on Appropriations  
2006 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Ranking Member  
U.S. House Committee on Appropriations  
H-307, U.S. Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Henry Cuellar  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Homeland Security  
Committee on Appropriations  
1036 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Cole, Ranking Member DeLauro, Chairman Amodei, and Ranking Member Cuellar,

I write to respectfully request Community Project Funding in fiscal year 2025 for the Shadow Lake Stormwater Management and Hazard Mitigation Project located in New Jersey's Fourth Congressional District in Middletown, Monmouth County, New Jersey, 07748. Middletown Township is the requestor of this project while the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection will administer the grant.

Shadow Lake is an 80-acre manmade flood mitigation and stormwater collection pond within the Navesink River system, constructed by the Works Progress Administration in 1936. The greater Navesink River is a critical tidal estuary connecting central New Jersey's rivers and streams with Sandy Hook Bay and the Atlantic Ocean. The Shadow Lake Dam runs underneath Hubbard Ave connecting Middletown to Red Bank.

The purpose of this project is: to improve the stormwater management abilities of Shadow Lake, the greater Navesink River, and the surrounding communities by removing silt and materials that have accrued behind the dam since its construction; to replace the weir structure, removing debris and naturally occurring arsenic from the waterway; establish a modern stormwater collection and storage venue, while preventing future erosion from the banks of the river; to better affect flood control solutions and hazard mitigation strategies. This is a critical project to reinvigorate the natural ecosystem of a critical estuary surrounded by densely populated areas, including senior communities.

This project is an appropriate use of taxpayer dollars as completion of the Shadow Lake Stormwater Management and Resource Protection Project will enhance the resiliency of

Navesink River and the surrounding communities to withstand severe weather events, promote ecosystem restoration, enhance erosion control abilities of the local community. The project has a Federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by section 203 of the Stafford Act (42 U.S.C. 5133), as amended by Section 1234, National Public Infrastructure Pre-Disaster Hazard Mitigation, of the Disaster Recovery Reform Act (DRRA) of 2018.

Inclusion of this project will support local and state efforts to protect environmental resources in the form of the estuarine ecosystem of the Navesink River and Sandy Hook Bay and allow for more efficient and resilient stormwater management infrastructure.

Shadow Lake has become heavily silted over the past 30 years, reducing its storage capacity of stormwater runoff, which has caused the lake to fill and overflow the dam on several occasions, threatening downstream roads, bridges, residences, and the Navesink River's delicate environment, water quality, and wildlife habitat. Further, the siltation has allowed the bloom of water chestnuts and other plant life which threatens wildlife by depleting oxygen levels in the water.

In 2011, the Township's consulting engineer prepared full plans and specifications to dredge the lake, however the project became too costly due to the need to truck dredged material to an offsite disposal facility because of the presence of naturally occurring arsenic in the silt. Since that time, the Township of Middletown has made attempts to control vegetative growth and siltation through various methods, but without dredging the invasive silt and sand deposits from the lake floor, this body of water could soon become a stagnant, mosquito-breeding swamp with no significant recreational or stormwater benefits.

To mitigate the hazards of naturally occurring arsenic and silted materials, better control stormwater collection and discharge, to promote environmental restoration, and protect against the effects of extreme weather events I request the inclusion of this project, which has a total cost is \$7,878,178. The requested amount is \$5,908,633.50. The Township has committed to fulfilling its 25% cost share requirement.

In the wake of Superstorm Sandy, Monmouth County has enacted significant measures to mitigate flooding, promote ecosystem restoration, and maintain critical natural open spaces to better manage storm surges and stormwater as the result of future extreme weather events. The inclusion of this project in this bill would support locally undertaken measures to enhance stormwater management and create a more resilient coastal ecosystem.

I certify that neither I nor my immediate family has any financial interest in this project.

Sincerely,

  
CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH  
Member of Congress