



The Family Resort

Borough of Seaside Park

BOROUGH HALL

732-793-3700

1701 North Ocean Avenue, Seaside Park, New Jersey 08752
www.seasideparknj.org

FAX 732-793-3737

May 2, 2024

Congressman Chris Smith
New Jersey District 4
33 Washington Street
Toms River, NJ 08753

Sent via US Mail & Email to: jo.schloeder@mail.house.gov

Re: Letter of Support for the Borough of Seaside Park Bayfront Flooding Mitigation/Living Shoreline Wave Attenuation Project Funding through the FY2025 Community Project Funding Program

Dear Congressman Chris Smith:

As the Mayor of the Borough of Seaside Park we are excited to announce that we will be applying for the FY2025 Community Project Funding Program for the Bayfront Flooding Mitigation/Living Shoreline Wave Attenuation Project. The Borough of Seaside Park has worked closely with the American Littoral Society, Stockton University, and Remington & Vernick Engineers to prepare a design that will not only protect the Boroughs shoreline but incorporate a living shoreline component that will enhance wildlife habitat in the area.

The existing shoreline along N. Bayview Avenue has eroded severely over the past decade, which has allowed hundreds of homes and businesses to be exposed to the harsh wind and wave energy produced by the Barnegat Bay. The project includes the proposed installation of a living shoreline, which will include a vegetated beach dune system along with an oyster reef breakwater extending from I Street to Brighton Avenue. N. Bayview Avenue is a planned County evacuation route for Seaside Park, and the frequent flooding creates issues to maintain access of this route. The flooding levels increase with severe winter storms or Nor'easters. These events occur each year between Mid-October to Mid-May. Due to the increasing number of storm events, it is more and more apparent that the Borough must ensure that the homes, critical facilities and natural shoreline are protected from the high winds.

I would like to take this opportunity to share my full support of this project. Not only will this project benefit the residents of the Borough of Seaside Park, but it will help set a precedent for Neighboring waterfront communities in Ocean County.

Yours truly,

Mayor John A. Peterson



**NEW JERSEY STATE LEGISLATURE
LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT OFFICES**

JAMES W. HOLZAPFEL
SENATOR

10TH DISTRICT
MONMOUTH AND OCEAN COUNTY
852 HIGHWAY 70
BRICK, NJ 08724
(732) 840-9028
FAX: (732) 840-9757

GREGORY P. MCGUCKIN
ASSEMBLYMAN

PAUL M. KANITRA
ASSEMBLYMAN

May 2, 2024

Congressman Chris Smith
New Jersey District 4
33 Washington Street
Toms River, NJ 08753

Re: Letter of Support for the Borough of Seaside Park Bayfront Flooding Mitigation/Living Shoreline Wave Attenuation Project Funding through the FY2025 Community Project Funding Program

Dear Congressman Chris Smith:

We were pleased to learn of the Borough of Seaside Parks application to the FY2025 Community Project Funding Program for the Bayfront Flooding Mitigation/Living Shoreline Wave Attenuation Project. We would like to take this opportunity to share our full support of the aforementioned project.

This project is a great candidate for this grant because of its ability to dissipate wave energy while incorporating a living shoreline and dune system along the Boroughs Bayfront to protect the nearby residences and businesses.

In addition, the proposed tide flex check valves will help reduce tidal flooding in this area. Given sea level rise trends over the past 80 years, this situation has gotten progressively worse with flooding events on monthly to a three times monthly basis.

The Borough of Seaside Park Bayfront Flooding Mitigation/Living Shoreline Wave Attenuation Project is for the betterment, health, and safety of the Boroughs residents and residents of all neighboring municipalities. This project will help repair the damaged shoreline along N. Bayview Avenue and limit the amount of damage caused to nearby infrastructure during significant storm events.

As Ocean County Legislators, we strongly support the Borough of Seaside Park in its efforts to seek financial assistance for this extremely important project.

Sincerely,

James W. Holzapfel
Senator, 10th District

Gregory P. McGuckin
Assemblyman, 10th District

Paul Kanitra
Assemblyman, 10th District

John N. Ernst, P.E., P.P.
Ocean County Engineer

Mark F. Jehnke, P.E.
Assistant County Engineer

Thomas E. Hartman, Jr., P.E.
Chief Engineer

Lukasz Praski, P.E.
Chief Engineer

Lynn A. LaMunyon, P.E., PTOE
Traffic Engineer



OFFICE OF THE OCEAN COUNTY ENGINEER

129 Hooper Avenue • P.O. Box 2191
Toms River, New Jersey 08754-2191

Voice (732) 929-2130

Telefax (732) 506-5182

Road Opening Permit (732) 929-2124

Traffic (732) 349-8165

May 2, 2024

Congressman Chris Smith
New Jersey District 4
33 Washington Street
Toms River, NJ 08753

Sent via US Mail & Email to: jo.schloeder@mail.house.gov

Re: Letter of Support for the Borough of Seaside Park Bayfront Flooding Mitigation/Living Shoreline Wave Attenuation Project Funding through the FY2025 Community Project Funding Program

Dear Congressman Chris Smith:

On behalf of the Ocean County Board of Commissioners, I would like to take this opportunity to share my full support of the aforementioned project. This project will benefit residents and businesses in the Borough of Seaside Park and will set a precedent for other nearby waterfront municipalities who are experiencing the same issues. Due to the increasing number of storm events, it is more and more apparent that the Borough of Seaside Park and many other waterfront communities must ensure that the homes, critical facilities and natural shoreline are protected from the high winds and wave energy.

The project includes the proposed installation of a living shoreline, which will incorporate a vegetated beach dune system along with an oyster reef breakwater. The proposed living shoreline shall help to enhance vegetation/habitat, dissipate wave action, and stabilize the shoreline along Barnegat Bay in the Borough of Seaside Park. The bay-front wave energy dissipation project will help to break up high velocity waves coming from the bay. These waves are a major contributor to the erosion of the bay-front beaches and the destruction of the bay-front structures and infrastructure, including N. Bayview Avenue which is owned and operated by Ocean County. N. Bayview Avenue is a planned County evacuation route for Seaside Park, and the frequent flooding makes it difficult for motorists to travel this road during high tide events.

The proposed Bayfront Flooding Mitigation/Living Shoreline Wave Attenuation Project will also help invigorate the local economy through the creation of additional jobs during the construction, operation, and future maintenance. For the reasons mentioned above, Ocean County supports the Borough of Seaside Park in its efforts to seek financial assistance for this extremely important project.

Sincerely,


John N. Ernst, P.E., P.P.
Ocean County Engineer

cc: Mark F. Jehnke, Assistant County Engineer



SPECIAL ASSISTANCE/ACCOMMODATIONS available, please call (732) 929-2130.

**BOROUGH OF SEASIDE PARK
RESOLUTION 2020- 204**

RESOLUTION OF THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE BOROUGH OF SEASIDE PARK, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY AUTHORIZING DR. STEWART FARRELL AND STEVEN HAFNER OF THE STOCKTON UNIVERSITY COASTAL RESEARCH CENTER, AS WELL AS ALEK (CAP'T "AL") MODJESKI OF THE AMERICAN LITTORAL SOCIETY TO ACT AS AGENTS FOR THE BOROUGH OF SEASIDE PARK AND OTHERWISE, TO DEVELOP AN EXPANSIVE UNIVERSAL SEASIDE PARK BAY FRONT PLAN, TO INCLUDE A DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION OF LIVING SHORELINE AND OTHER NATURAL SOLUTIONS, AS WELL AS OFF SHORE OYSTER REEFS AND THE ENHANCEMENT AND MODIFICATION OF PRIOR BAY FRONT PLANS AND PROPOSALS, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO MODIFICATION OF A PRIOR SEASIDE PARK GRANT AWARD FROM NJOEM

WHEREAS, the Borough of Seaside is a body politic and corporate in law pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A-60-1 et seq.; and

WHEREAS, shoreline erosion and the loss of marsh habitat is affecting coastal communities throughout the State of New Jersey, and is expected to increase as a result of predicted future sea level rise; and

WHEREAS, natural shorelines and marshes provide important benefits to local communities, which include habitat for flora and fauna, reduced flood risk, improved water quality, improved eco-tourism, and improved property values amongst others; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of Seaside Park owns and maintains its bay front shoreline and beach area along the entire length of the municipality's Bayview Avenue, which area has experienced significant shoreline erosion, flooding, wave damage and loss of marsh habitat; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of Seaside Park seeks to restore its tidal marsh areas, its bay front shoreline and to maintain the goods and services provided by the wetlands, marsh and shoreline area for future generations; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of Seaside Park desires to formulate, plan, design, and implement, a long term plan and vision to address the urgent need for living shoreline efforts, habitat restoration, wave mitigation and flooding alleviation projects; and

WHEREAS, a living shoreline is an effective measure of shoreline stabilization that protects land forms from erosion, while also preserving, enhancing or creating habitat, and is an effective alternative to traditional "hard" shoreline stabilization structures, such as sea walls or bulkheads, which can destroy habitat and sever the connection between the shore and the water; and

WHEREAS, the American Littoral Society is a non-profit coastal conservation organization with extensive experience in habitat restoration, as well as in the design and construction of living shorelines and tidal marsh restoration; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Stewart Farrell and Steven Hafner of the Stockton University Coastal Research Center, also have extensive national experience in habitat restoration, as well as in the design and construction of living shorelines and tidal marsh restoration and have previously been appointed by the Borough of Seaside Park in an on-going effort to explore potential ways to improve, expand, or alter prior proposals and grant applications in order to encompass and develop living shoreline concepts as part of an all-inclusive global vision and plan for the bay front area; and

WHEREAS, the American Littoral Society as well as the Stockton University Coastal Research Center have already effectively partnered and teamed up in providing advice, services and assistance to various environmental groups and municipalities and counties;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Borough Council of the Borough of Seaside Park, County of Ocean, State of New Jersey, as follows:

1. The Mayor and Borough Council of the Borough of Seaside Park do hereby formally acknowledge that the American Littoral Society, through Alek (Cap't "Al") Modjeski, Dr. Stewart Farrell and Steven Hafner, of Stockton University Coastal Research Center, are appropriate agents of the Borough of Seaside Park in dealing with matters related to the design and construction of living shorelines and tidal marsh restoration along the length of the Borough of Seaside Park's bay front, as well as related wave mitigation project designs, including but not limited to oyster reef implementation. In the aforesaid positions, the above referenced individuals, as well as the American Littoral Society and the Stockton University Coastal Research Center, both have the authority to develop project designs, to pursue regulatory permits, to coordinate community outreach, to engage in construction activities, and to work with the Borough of Seaside Park's regular engineer, Remington & Vernick Engineers, in order to enhance, modify, and to build upon, prior proposals, piece meal concepts and grant awards. In these matters, the American Littoral Society, as well as the Stockton University Coastal Research Center, will maintain consultation with the Borough of Seaside Park; and

2. Included in the aforementioned scope of services and consultations, and other work to be provided by the American Littoral

Society and the Stockton University Coastal Research Center, shall be rendering assistance in facilitating whatever "kick-off" meeting or other formalities are necessary in order to formally accept an NJOEM grant previously awarded, and to utilize an appropriate portion of said grant monies, some or all of which may be used in conjunction with a partnership with the County of Ocean, as to the purchase and installation of the most effective types of Tideflex, WASTOP, or other valves to be located at selected Seaside Park bay front locations; and

The aforesaid scope of services and consultation work and design work shall also include initiating, processing and filing a formal application to seek a modification of the prior Seaside Park grant award from NJOEM, to incorporate further enhanced living shoreline concepts and designs, along with wave mitigation projects, including but not limited to, shore oyster reef construction; and

The aforesaid services and authorization shall also include but not be limited to authorization for Dr. Farrell, Steven Hafner and the Stockton University Coastal Research Center, as well as Alek (Cap't "Al") Modjeski and the American Littoral Society's, i consultation with the municipality and its professionals and officials, and thereafter, to initiate a formal request of the DEP, to consider the Borough of Seaside Park's unique circumstances, in order to consider the still present former bay front bulkhead area, and otherwise to modify the 1977 bay shoreline for such living shoreline natural solutions and habitat restoration; and

3. The within scope of services and on-going consultation and work shall further include, but not be limited to, authorization, as the agents for the Borough of Seaside Park, for the Stockton University Coastal Research Center and the American Littoral Society to develop and to submit living

shoreline applications for grant monies potentially available from any and all New Jersey State, Federal and non-governmental funding sources, in order to implement and fund a long term bay front vision for the Borough of Seaside Park; and

4. The aforesaid scope of services and consultation work of the American Littoral Society and the Stockton University Coastal Research Center, shall be undertaken, through the efforts of Dr. Farrell, Steven Hafner, as well as Alek (Cap't "Al") Modjeski.


5. The within scope of services to be rendered and consultation and work to be provided, by Dr. Farrell, Steven Hafner and the Stockton University Coastal Research Center, as well as Alek (Cap't "Al") Modjeski and the American Littoral Society, shall include as well, but not be limited to, providing design concepts and a scope of services for submission of an application for any and all applicable permits, and otherwise, estimates for construction and design costs in order to implement the first phase of oyster reef construction, as well as construction and design work with respect to a modified plan, building upon and enhancing, the prior scope of work incorporated in the Borough of Seaside Park's NJOEM grant.

6. The Deputy Borough Clerk is hereby directed to forward a certified copy of this Resolution to the Dr. Farrell, Steven Hafner, Stockton University Coastal Research Center, and Alek (Cap't "Al") Modjeski of the American Littoral Society.

Record of Vote	Gail Coleman	Frank (Fritz) McHugh	Faith Liguori	Ray Amabile	Matthew DeMichele	William Kraft	Mayor Peterson
Motion	FIRST		SECOND				
Yes	X	X	X	X	X	X	
No							
Abstain		2020-07					
Absent							

I, Sandra F. Martin, RMC, CMR, Deputy Municipal Clerk of the Borough of Seaside Park, DO HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing Resolution was duly adopted by the Seaside Park Borough Council at a meeting held on the 27th day of August, 2020.

Borough of Seaside Park,
In The County of Ocean,
State of New Jersey


SANDRA F. MARTIN, RMC, CMR
DEPUTY MUNICIPAL CLERK