



INCORPORATED VILLAGE OF OCEAN BEACH

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JAMES S. MALLOTT *Mayor*
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CHRISTOPHER F. NORRIS, *Trustee*
BRIAN C. POWER, *Trustee*

STEVEN W. BRAUTIGAM, *Clerk/Treasurer*
KEVIN J. SCHELLING, *Superintendent of Public Works*

October 7, 2016

BY EMAIL (Robert.J.Smith@usace.army.mil)

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
New York District Planning Division-Environmental Branch
26 Federal Plaza
New York, New York 10278
Attn: Robert Smith

Re: Village of Ocean Beach
FIMP and the Fire Island Sewer Treatment Plant

Dear Mr. Smith:

I write you on behalf of the Incorporated Village of Ocean Beach (the "Village"), its Board of Trustees, and its residents to express our support for the Fire Island Islet to Montauk Point Project ("FIMP"), and further, to request the assistance of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in upgrading and expanding the Village's sewer treatment plant and collection system.

For the reasons outlined below, the Village of Ocean Beach hereby requests that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers exercise its authority under FIMP to assume control and operation of the Ocean Beach Sewer Treatment Plant and collection system as a utility within the FIMP corridor and to undertake the upgrades and expansion that are needed to make it an efficient and viable treatment and collection system in the twenty-first century.

The Ocean Beach community greatly appreciates the effort that went into the Army Corps of Engineers' recent publication of the Fire Island to Montauk Point Reformulation Study as well as its efforts in connection with the Fire Island Islet to Moriches Inlet ("FIMI") Stabilization Project. These projects, in conjunction with several other projects undertaken by the Army Corps of Engineers, are essential to the restoration and preservation of the barrier islands, marshlands and waterways that make up Long Island's iconic south shore.

However, as you are undoubtedly aware, surface and groundwater contamination pose an equally significant threat to the long-term environmental condition of the FIMP project area as does sea-level rise and climate change. Pollution caused by contaminated surface run off, septic

infiltration and sewer overflow are becoming increasingly common as treatment and collection systems deteriorate and fall into disrepair.

The Ocean Beach Sewer Treatment Plant and collection system, located in the Village of Ocean Beach, is a prime example of a system in dire need of attention. The system, first constructed in 1921, requires extensive repairs throughout the Village and is not equipped to meet modern sewage treatment and effluent standards. The system, as currently configured, does not service approximately 2,050 properties to the east and west of Ocean Beach, forcing those properties to continue relying on on-site treatment systems, such as cesspools and septic systems. Finally, the advanced age and condition of the system make it particularly susceptible to failure in the event of another catastrophic storm event, like Hurricane Sandy.

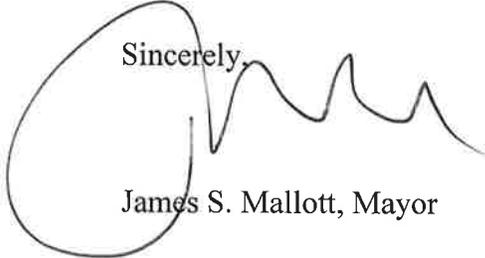
For these reasons, Ocean Beach has been exploring ways to upgrade and expand the system to combat these issues. Studies commissioned by the Village indicate that completion of certain proposed upgrades to the system would improve groundwater and surface water quality and prevent as much as 218 pounds of nitrogen from entering the Great South Bay *each day*.

To date, the Village has acquired approximately \$12 Million in funding for repair and expansion of its collection system (consisting of a \$3 Million grant and \$9 Million tax-free loan) and approximately \$6 Million in funding from FEMA for plant upgrades. Unfortunately, the Village likely does not have the resources to undertake and manage a project of the size that will be required to complete the upgrade of the system and its logical expansion into Ocean Beach's neighboring communities (jurisdictions that are outside of the Village's custody and control). Coordination across multiple Federal and state agencies and municipalities will be required to come up with the funds and to execute the project.

Therefore, for the foregoing reasons, the Village of Ocean Beach requests that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers exercise its authority under FIMP to assume control and operation of the Ocean Beach Sewer Treatment Plant and collection system as a utility within the FIMP corridor and to undertake the upgrades and expansion that are needed to make it an efficient and viable treatment and collection system.

We look forward to discussing this matter with you further.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'James S. Mallott', is written over a large, light-colored circular stamp or watermark.

James S. Mallott, Mayor

cc: Mark Lulka, Project Manager (Mark.f.Lulka@usace.army.mil)
Angie Carpenter, Supervisor; Charles Schumer, Congressman, Thomas F. Barraga, Legislator;
William J. Lindsay, III, Legislator; DuWayne Gregory, Legislator; Maria Silsdorf, O. B. Association;
Thomas Ruskin, Seaview Assoc.; Mario Posillico, Adm.; John C. Zaccaro, Jr., Mayor-Saltaire;
Steven Bellone, Suffolk Cty. Exec.; Peter Scully, DEC; Regional Chief; Andrew R. Garbarino,
Assemblyman; Rick Schaeffer, Supervisor; Chris Soller, Supt., FINS; Phil Boyle, Senator;
Thomas D. Croci, Senator; Gilbert Anderson, Commissioner, Suffolk County;
Suzi Goldhirsch, Fire Island Association.