



CITY OF REVERE

Brian M. Arrigo
Mayor

March 30, 2021

ACOE Chief, Planning Division
Corps of Engineers - New England District
696 Virginia Road
Concord, MA 01742-2751

RE: Saugus River Floodgate Project

Mr. John Kennelly:

The communities of Revere, Saugus, Lynn, Malden, and Everett are writing in support of a feasibility study to progress regional resiliency strategies for climate adaptation and flood mitigation measures that protect our residents and critical infrastructure. The area has been prone to repetitive flooding for decades and recent modeling efforts predict that the already vulnerable conditions are worsened at an accelerated rate considering climate change and sea-level rise data.

In 1987, a regional team gathered for 6 years at an expenditure of \$8.6M for planning and design under the management of the Army Corps of Engineers. The ACOE project was brought to the threshold of construction and suddenly stopped despite overwhelming support from the communities. The then Massachusetts Secretary of Environmental Affairs was opposed to structural solutions to flooding threats. In the face of climate change and sea-level rise there is strong renewed interest in regional collaboration for flood protection in this area.

In summary, the project recommended a regional flood barrier, complimented by a series of dikes and sluice gates, rock revetments, marsh restoration, land acquisition, and beach nourishment introducing significant flood resiliency adaptation measures worthy of revisiting. The region is experiencing more frequent flooding, and the record tide level in 2018 exceeded the Blizzard of 78 's 100-year tide level when 3,100 buildings were flooded. The tide in 2018 overtopped the Route 1A corridor and Revere Beach Boulevard separating thousands of residents from first responders due to road closures. Increased development includes an additional 1,100 buildings in the Town Line Brook area of Revere, Malden, and Everett; and 300 more buildings in the Upper Saugus River area of Saugus were not previously evaluated in the ACOE study, the benefits of advancing a regional flood protection plan is now more pressing than ever.

We must collectively embrace the notion of working together with a true sense of urgency, to convene all five municipalities and state agencies to discuss the current conditions of repetitive flooding and the increased risk to this area as one working unit, abandoning the lines on the map that foster work in silos.

Together we can learn more about the potential benefits of the previously proposed regional floodgate plan and form the best adaptation strategy for protection against sea-level rise and climate change.

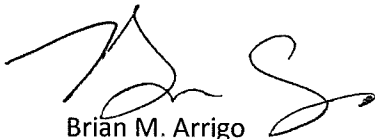
We are in the process of gathering state support for this regional collaboration effort among our vulnerable and environmental justice communities to reduce the dangerous flood risk to our residents and critical public and private infrastructure.

Due to the Region's current and increasing vulnerability to coastal flooding and sea-level rise and the scale of action that may be necessary to reduce it, we have requested that the Corps of Engineers investigate the problem in the Revere, Lynn, Saugus, Malden, and Everett area as part of the North Atlantic Coastal Comprehensive Study. We understand that the Corps of Engineers will initially investigate the problem to determine whether it meets the requirements for federal participation. We understand that feasibility study costs are shared at 50 percent federal and 50 percent non-federal. We also understand that project implementation costs for shore protection projects have cost-sharing of 65 percent federal and 35 percent non-federal.

Please contact Elle Baker, Open Space and Environmental Planner to set up a meeting or to address any of your questions regarding this proposed project.

Thank you for considering this vital project.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Brian M. Arrigo', written over a light blue horizontal line.

Brian M. Arrigo
Mayor

CC:

John Kennelly, ACOE- NE Chief, Planning Division
Scott Crabtree, Saugus Town Manager
McGee, Mayor of Lynn
Gary Christenson, Mayor of Malden
Carlo DeMaria, Mayor of Everett