

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

October 21, 2021

The Honorable Jaime A. Pinkham
Acting Assistant Secretary of the Army
Civil Works
108 Army Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20310-0108

Lieutenant General Scott A. Spellmon
Commanding General and Chief of Engineers
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
441 G Street N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20314-1000

Dear Acting Assistant Secretary Pinkham and Lieutenant General Spellmon:

We write to express our strong support for two ecosystem restoration projects that would provide substantial storm risk management and environmental benefits for the Jamaica Bay communities we represent: 1) the Spring Creek South (Howard Beach) Ecosystem Restoration and Coastal Storm Risk Management Study and 2) the Hudson Raritan Estuary (HRE) - Stony Creek Marsh Island Ecosystem Restoration Project. We respectfully request that both projects be fully funded in your plan for the Disaster Supplemental that President Biden signed into law on September 30.

In 2012, Superstorm Sandy ravaged the Northeastern and Mid-Atlantic United States. This historic storm killed more than 280 people and caused more than \$70 billion in damage, making it one of the costliest natural disasters in American history. While it has been nearly a decade since Superstorm Sandy, many Americans continue to feel its devastating effects.

Today, the Jamaica Bay area remains vulnerable to extreme weather events. We were reminded of this disturbing fact last month, when Hurricane Ida and its remnants caused torrential downpours and significant flooding in low-lying neighborhoods, tragically killing 16 people in New York. The storm demonstrated that our constituents and local businesses remain at risk, and the communities we represent need more assistance.

The Disaster Supplemental, which passed both chambers of Congress and became law late last month, provides \$28.6 billion in disaster relief funding, including \$100 million for “high-priority studies of projects in States with a major disaster declared due to Hurricane Ida pursuant to the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.) in fiscal year 2021.”

The Spring Creek South (Howard Beach) Ecosystem Restoration and Coastal Storm Risk Management Study and the Hudson Raritan Estuary (HRE) - Stony Creek Marsh Island Ecosystem Restoration Project are high priorities for our constituents in New York City who would significantly benefit from the proposed measures. The Spring Creek South study will recommend a comprehensive, integrated solution to provide Howard Beach residents with a resilient and environmentally sustainable shoreline, providing long-needed storm risk

management benefits and restoring critical habitat. The Stony Creek Marsh Island project will restore a total of 62 acres of habitat, including 49 acres of wetland, 3.5 acres of scrub/shrub and 1.4 acres of channel habitats, while providing critical secondary coastal storm risk management benefits to the adjacent communities. These two projects represent significant steps in our efforts to protect vulnerable New Yorkers from the threat of future coastal storms and provide critical ecosystem services to Jamaica Bay and the neighborhoods that surround it.

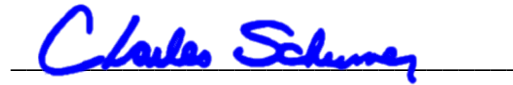
Therefore, we respectfully request that you provide full funding for both projects in your plan for the Disaster Supplemental.

Thank you for your full and fair consideration.

Sincerely,




HAKEEM JEFFRIES
Member of Congress



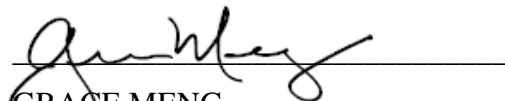
CHARLES E. SCHUMER
United States Senator



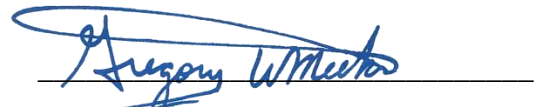
YVETTE D. CLARKE
Member of Congress




KIRSTEN GILLIBRAND
United States Senator




GRACE MENG
Member of Congress



GREGORY W. MEEKS
Member of Congress



JERROLD NADLER
Member of Congress



NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ
Member of Congress