

NY District, US Army Corps of Engineers
Planning Division-Environmental Branch
26 Federal Plaza,
New York, New York 10278-0090

RE Fire Island Inlet to Montauk Point (FIMP)
– Westhampton Beach Groin Shortening
Coastal Storm Risk Reduction Project

Project Biologist Robert.J.Smith@usace.army.mil
Project Manager Mark.f.Lulka@usace.army.mil

Dear Mr Smith and Mr. Lulka:

I am writing to request that the US Army Corps of Engineers and New York State Department of Environmental Conservation reconsider the shortening of the groins in Westhampton and Westhampton Beach and that the project be dropped from the further consideration in the FIMP plan.

My reasons for this position are:

1. The groins have functioned as designed are filled to capacity and are no longer trapping sand. Thus are no longer interrupting the littoral transport of sand to the west. The present situation is highly stable and protective.
2. The Benefit Cost Ratio (BCR) of executing the project is likely less than 1.0 when one calculates the real estate costs including lands, easements and rights of way as well as the construction costs and rock disposal for 13 separate groins.
3. The ongoing cost of environmental change clearly outweighs the benefit of providing a onetime source of sand to the littoral system.
4. There is a plentiful supply of beach compatible sand located offshore that can be used at lower environmental and economic costs.
5. Removing the groins will shrink the existing beach and dune system and lower coastal storm protection.

In short, the marginal benefit and great risk involved in modifying the groins is insufficient to justify upsetting the status quo. The existing situation is extremely stable, environmental productive and provides a high level of flood and erosion protection.

I respectfully request that the groin shortening in Westhampton and Westhampton Beach be removed from consideration under FIMP.

Sincerely

Cc: S. McCormick, P.E., NYSDEC (susan.mccormick@dec.ny.gov)