RHODE ISLAND COASTLINE
COASTAL STORM RISK MANAGEMENT
Final Feasibility Study

APPENDIX A: Environmental

January 2023

US Army Corps
of Engineers®
New England District

LIST OF PERTINENT CORRESPONDENCE

Part 1a. Agency and Public Correspondence

New England District – Public Notice – 18 February 2022
New England District – U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 1 Request for Comments – 23 February 2022
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 1 – Response to Request for Comments – 1 April 2022
New England District – U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 1 Response to Comments – 24 May 2022
New England District – National Marine Fisheries Service Request for Comments – 23 February 2022
National Marine Fisheries Service – Response to New England District Request for Comments – 17 March 2022
New England District – Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management Request for Comments – 23 February 2022
New England District – U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Request for Comments – 23 February 2022
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service – Consistency letter for 'Rhode Island Coastline Coastal Storm Risk Management Project' for a No Effect determination for the American burying beetle – 16 March 2022
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service – Official Threatened and Endangered Species List – 16 March 2022
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service – Response to New England District Request for Comments – 17 March 2022
New England District – Town of Barrington, Rhode Island Request for Comments – 23 February 2022
New England District – Town of Bristol, Rhode Island Request for Comments – 23 February 2022
New England District – Town of Cranston, Rhode Island Request for Comments – 23 February 2022
New England District – Town of East Greenwich, Rhode Island Request for Comments – 23 February 2022
New England District – City of East Providence, Rhode Island Request for Comments – 23 February 2022
New England District – Town of Jamestown, Rhode Island Request for Comments – 23 February 2022
New England District – Town of Little Compton, Rhode Island Request for Comments – 23 February 2022
New England District – Town of Middletown, Rhode Island Request for Comments – 23 February 2022
New England District – Town of Narragansett, Rhode Island Request for Comments – 23 February 2022
New England District – The Narragansett Bay Commission Request for Comments – 23 February 2022

New England District – City of Newport, Rhode Island Request for Comments – 23 February 2022
New England District – Town of New Shoreham, Rhode Island Request for Comments – 23 February 2022
New England District – Town of North Kingstown, Rhode Island Request for Comments – 23 February 2022
New England District – City of Portsmouth, Rhode Island Request for Comments – 23 February 2022
New England District – Save the Bay Center Request for Comments – 23 February 2022
New England District – Town of Tiverton, Rhode Island Request for Comments – 23 February 2022
New England District – The Nature Conservancy Request for Comments – 23 February 2022
New England District – Town of Warren, Rhode Island Request for Comments – 23 February 2022
New England District – City of Warwick, Rhode Island Request for Comments – 23 February 2022

Part 1b. Agency Meeting Notes and Materials

New England District – Memorandum for the Record for Middle Bridge Site Visit – 13 January 2020
New England District – Resource Agency Meeting Invitation – 21 January 2021
New England District – Memorandum for the Record for January 2021 Resource Agency Meeting – 29 January 2021
New England District – Memorandum for the Record for February 2021 Resource Agency Meeting – 18 February 2021
New England District – Memorandum for the Record for April 2021 Resource Agency Meeting – 15 April 2021
New England District – June 2021 Resource Agency Meeting Slides – June 2021

Part 2. Coastal Zone Management Determination Correspondence

New England District – Rhode Island Coastal Resources Management Council Concurrence Request – 23 February 2022
Rhode Island Coastal Resources Management Council – Consistency Determination – 8 March 2022

Part 1a. Agency and Public Correspondence

US Army Corps
of Engineers ®
New England District

696 Virginia Road
Concord, MA 01742-2751

Public Notice

In Reply Refer to: Janet Cote
nae-pd-pn@usace.army.mil
Planning Division
Date: February 18, 2022
Comment Period Closes: March 21, 2022

30 DAY PUBLIC NOTICE
RHODE ISLAND COASTLINE
COASTAL STORM RISK MANAGEMENT PROJECT

Interested parties are hereby notified that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), New England District has completed the Rhode Island Coastline Coastal Storm Risk Management (CSRM) Draft Integrated Feasibility Report and Environmental Assessment (IFR/EA) subject to the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (Public Law (P.L.) 91-190). The study addresses CSRM opportunities and feasibility along the shoreline and coastal tributaries of southeastern Rhode Island from Narragansett Bay to the Massachusetts border. This study is authorized by a resolution adopted by the Senate Public Works Committee dated September 12, 1969, a resolution adopted by the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works dated August 2, 1995, and by P.L. 84-71. Attachment 1 lists the pertinent laws, regulations, and directives.

Project Description: Scoping meetings were held with the non-Federal Sponsor (NFS) and with representatives from municipalities located within the study area early on the scoping of the study in order to better understand the region. The NFS, with the assistance of stakeholders, identified eleven key focused study areas within the regional study area. These areas included Barrington/Warren, Block Island, Bristol, Jamestown, Narragansett, Newport Downtown, Newport/Middletown Reservoirs, North Kingstown, Portsmouth, Providence, and Warwick/Cranston. Focus areas for the study were identified based on elevation data, structure density, and discussions with town and state officials regarding high damage-prone areas and history of coastal storm damages. Using information from these meetings, the USACE concentrated on developing alternative solutions for the focused study areas. Additionally, nonstructural measures were considered for the entire study area (i.e., the shoreline from Point Judith to the Massachusetts border). Multiple screening iterations of the alternatives were conducted, and a Tentatively Selected Plan has been identified.

The Tentatively Selected Plan (TSP) for the project consists of elevating the first floors of 323 single family residences in the study area (Attachment 2). The elevation design height was determined separately for each structure based on the 1 percent annual exceedance probability water levels within the study area + wave contribution + 1 foot + sea level change. Elevation can be performed using fill material, on extended foundation walls, on piers, post, piles, and columns. Elevation is also a very successful technique for slab-on-grade structures.

In addition, 210 non-residential structures will be floodproofed (Attachment 2). Floodproofing was considered for non-residential structures and large multi-family structures not in a designated VE Zone and without a basement. VE-zones are areas subject to inundation by the 1-percent-annual-chance flood event with additional hazards due to storm-induced velocity wave action. Floodproofing measures consist of dry floodproofing or wet floodproofing. Dry floodproofing makes a structure watertight below the level that needs flood protection to prevent floodwaters from entering. An example of a dry floodproofing measure is to apply a waterproof veneer, such as a layer of brick backed by a waterproof membrane, directly to the outside surface of an existing structure. Wet floodproofing allows floodwaters to enter an enclosed area of a structure without damaging the structure or its contents. All construction materials and finishing materials are water resistant and all utilities elevated above the design flood elevation in the areas of structures proposed for wet floodproofing.

Purpose of Work: The Rhode Island Coastline CSRM study was conducted because the study area experiences frequent flooding from high tides, spring tides, and coastal storms; is considered at high risk of coastal storm flooding with an associated threat to life safety; and is susceptible to relative sea level change. The study's purpose is to identify a plan to reduce the risk of coastal storm damage along a large portion of the Rhode Island coastline while contributing to the resilience of communities, important infrastructure, and the natural environment. The study area includes significant critical infrastructure at risk of damage from future flooding and coastal storms including police, fire, and emergency support service facilities; schools; energy production facilities; water and wastewater facilities; and nursing homes and assisted living facilities in addition to communities and businesses. These areas experience frequent flooding from high tides, spring tides, and coastal storms; are considered at high risk of coastal storm flooding with an associated threat to life safety; and are susceptible to relative sea level change.

Alternatives: The feasibility study plan formulation process considered a range of structural and nonstructural measures to manage the risk of coastal storm damage in the study area. Through an iterative planning process, potential CSRM measures were identified, and alternatives were formulated, evaluated, and compared against each other in order to establish a TSP. Screening of alternatives identified structural (floodwalls and closure structures) and nonstructural alternatives (wet/dry flood proofing and elevation of residential structures) that would reduce coastal storm risk for the study area.

Additional Information: Additional information may be obtained from the Planning Division of the USACE, Project Manager, Ms. Janet Cote, or the Project Ecologist, Ms. Grace Moses at the address shown above. These individuals may also be reached by phone or email, Janet Cote at 978-318-8728 or email at Janet.Cote@usace.army.mil, and Grace Moses at 978-318-8717 or email at C.Grace.Moses@usace.army.mil.

Coordination: The proposed work has, or will be coordinated with the following agencies:

Federal:
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
National Marine Fisheries Service

State of Rhode Island:
Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management
Rhode Island Coastal Resources Management Council
Rhode Island Historical Preservation and Heritage Commission

Tribal Nations:
Narragansett Indian Tribe
Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah)
Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe

Local:
Town of Little Compton
Town of Aquidneck Island (Middletown)
City of Newport
Town of Jamestown
Town of Narragansett
Town of North Kingstown
Town of Tiverton
Town of Portsmouth
Town of Bristol
Town of Warren
Town of Barrington
Town of New Shoreham
Town of East Greenwich
City of Warwick
City of Cranston
City of East Providence

Other:
ProvPort
Newport Department of Utilities
Narragansett Bay Commission
Save the Bay
The Nature Conservancy, Rhode Island Chapter

Environmental Impacts: A Draft IFR/EA was prepared for the Rhode Island Coastline CSRM Study and is available for review at the website link provided below. A preliminary determination was made that an Environmental Impact Statement is not required under the provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969. This determination will be reviewed in light of facts submitted in response to this notice.

Other Information:

a. Local Sponsor: The non-Federal sponsor for this study is the Rhode Island Coastal Resource Management Council (RICRMC).

b. Floodplain Management: In accordance with Executive Order 11988, the USACE has determined that the proposed work will not contribute to negative impacts or damages caused by floods.

c. Endangered Species: It is our preliminary determination that the project is not likely to adversely affect threatened or endangered species. USACE is in consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to ensure that the proposed activity will not significantly affect any species or critical habitat designated as endangered or threatened pursuant to the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (87 Stat. 844).

d. Cultural Resources: We cannot fully determine how the project may affect historic properties prior to finalization of this feasibility study. Therefore, we are developing a Programmatic Agreement (PA) that outlines the process to identify and evaluate historic properties and avoid, minimize, and where possible, mitigate any adverse impacts in accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) and implementing regulations 36 CFR 800. The PA will allow us to complete the necessary historic and archaeological surveys during the follow-on Preconstruction, Engineering, and Design phase of the project, once the nonstructural measures and identified properties have been confirmed. The PA will be submitted to the Rhode Island State Historic Preservation Officer, along with any other consulting parties, for review and concurrence. We are also in coordination with the Narragansett Indian Tribe, Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe, Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah), and the historical commissions or societies of each community in accordance with the NHPA.

e. Federal Consistency with Coastal Zone Management: We have made the preliminary determination that the project will be conducted in a manner consistent to the maximum extent practicable with all applicable Rhode Island Coastal Zone Management Policies. The USACE will submit a Consistency Determination to the RI CRMC and request their concurrence.

f. Additional Requirements: No in-water work is proposed. As such, a Water Quality Certificate (Section 401 of the Clean Water Act of 1977), Section 404(b)(1) evaluation (Section 404 of the Clean Water Act), and an Essential Fish Habitat review pursuant to the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act are not required.

Availability of the Draft Integrated Report: A copy of the report can be obtained via the website below or upon request by contacting the Project Manager, Janet Cote at 978-318-8728.

https://www.nae.usace.army.mil/Missions/Projects-Topics/Rhode-Island-Coastline-Coastal-Storm-Risk-Management-Project/

Any person who has an interest that may be affected by the proposed project may request a public hearing. The request must be submitted in writing to the District Engineer within the comment period of this notice and must clearly set forth the interest and the manner in which the interest may be affected.

Please bring this notice to the attention of anyone you know to be interested in this project. Comments are invited from all concerned parties and should be directed to the District Engineer at 696 Virginia Road, Concord, MA 01742, ATTN: Planning Division (Ms. Janet Cote), within 30 days of this notice.

09-February-2022
Date

John A. Atilano II
Colonel, Corps of Engineers
District Engineer

Attachments

Attachment 1

PERTINENT LAWS, REGULATIONS, AND DIRECTIVES

Clean Air Act, as amended (42 U.S.C. 7401 et seq.)

Clean Water Act, as amended (33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.)

Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. 1451)

Endangered Species Act of 1973 as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.)

Executive Order 11988, Floodplain Management, 24 May 1977

Executive Order 11990, Protection of Wetlands, 24 May 1977

Executive Order 12898, Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations, 11 February 1994

Executive Order 13007, Accommodations of Sacred Sites, May 24, 1996.

Executive Order 13045, Protection of Children from Environmental Health Risks and Safety Risks, 21 April 1997

Federal Water Project Recreation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 460L-12 et seq.)

Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956 (16 U.S.C. 742a, et seq.)

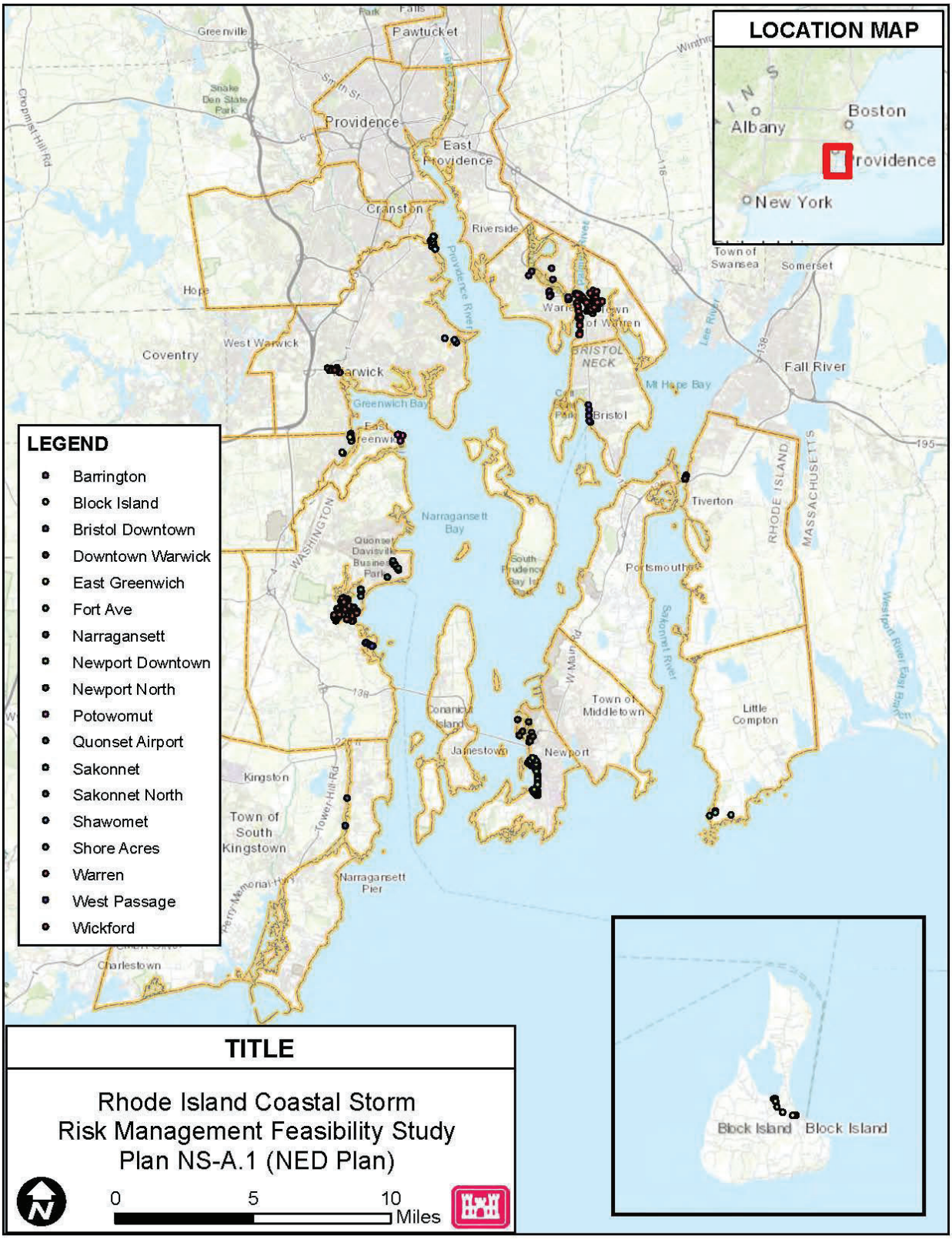
Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (16 U.S.C. 661-667e)

National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.)

National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (54 U.S.C. 100101 et seq.)

White House Memorandum, Government-to-Government Relations with Indian Tribes, April 29, 1994.

Attachment 2: TSP Elevation and Floodproofing Locations



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
NEW ENGLAND DISTRICT
696 VIRGINIA ROAD
CONCORD MA 01742-2751

February 23, 2022

Planning Division

Mr. Timothy Timmermann
Office of Environmental Review
EPA New England-Region 1
5 Post Office Square, Suite 100
Mail Code OEP 06-3
Boston, MA 02109-3912

Dear Mr. Timmermann,

I am writing to request your comments on the Rhode Island Coastline Coastal Storm Risk Management (CSRM) project. The CSRM study area includes more than 457 miles of coastline within all or part of 19 municipalities in the State of Rhode Island (Figure 1). The project Draft Integrated Feasibility Report and the Environmental Assessment (IFR/EA) is available at the link below. The Draft IFR/EA and its appendices include maps of the proposed project area, a project description, and resource characterizations of the project area.

The Rhode Island Coastline CSRM project plan formulation considered a range of structural and nonstructural measures to reduce the risk of storm damage in the study area. Potential coastal storm risk management measures were identified, evaluated, and compared through an iterative planning process and in consultation with the Rhode Island Coastal Resources Management Council, which is the non-Federal sponsor for the project. The Tentatively Selected Plan (TSP) for the project consists of elevating the first floors of 323 single family residences. The elevation design height was determined separately for each structure based on the probability of flooding and sea level change. Methods for elevating individual structures will vary and may consist of addition of fill material, extending foundation walls, piers, post, piles, and columns.

In addition, 210 non-residential structures will be floodproofed. Floodproofing was considered for non-residential structures and large multi-family structures not in a designated VE Zone and without a basement. VE-zones are areas subject to inundation by the 1-percent annual chance flood event with additional hazards due to storm-induced velocity wave action. Floodproofing measures consist of dry floodproofing or wet floodproofing. Dry floodproofing makes a structure watertight below the level that needs flood protection to prevent floodwaters from entering. An example of a dry floodproofing measure is to apply a waterproof veneer, such as a layer of brick backed by a waterproof membrane, directly to the outside surface of an existing structure. Wet floodproofing allows floodwaters to enter an enclosed area of a structure without

damaging the structure or its contents. All construction materials and finishing materials are water resistant and all utilities elevated above the design flood elevation in the areas of structures proposed for wet floodproofing. Figure 2 shows the locations identified for elevating or floodproofing within the study area.

The Draft IFR/EA was released for public review on February 18, 2022, and may be accessed in its entirety on the following website:

https://www.nae.usace.army.mil/Missions/Projects-Topics/Rhode-Island-Coastline-Coastal-Storm-Risk-Management-Project/

We are requesting that you review this project information relative to all applicable EPA authorities including but not limited to Section 176c and 309 of the Clean Air Act. Please submit any comments within 30 days of the date of this letter. If you or your staff have any questions or require additional information, please feel free to contact Grace Moses, the environmental team member, at (978) 318-8717 or by email at C.Grace.Moses@usace.army.mil, or Janet Cote, the project manager, at (978) 318-8728 or by email at Janet.Cote@usace.army.mil.

Sincerely,

KENNELLY.JOHN.R.1228532939 Digitally signed by KENNELLY.JOHN.R.1228532939 Date: 2022.02.23 09:56:12 -05'00'

John Kennelly
Chief, Planning Division

Enclosures

Copies Furnished (via email):

Jackie LeClair: leclair.jackie@epa.gov
Jeannie Brochi: brochi.jean@epa.gov
Erica Sachs: sachs.erica@epa.gov
Rachel Croy: croy.rachel@epa.gov

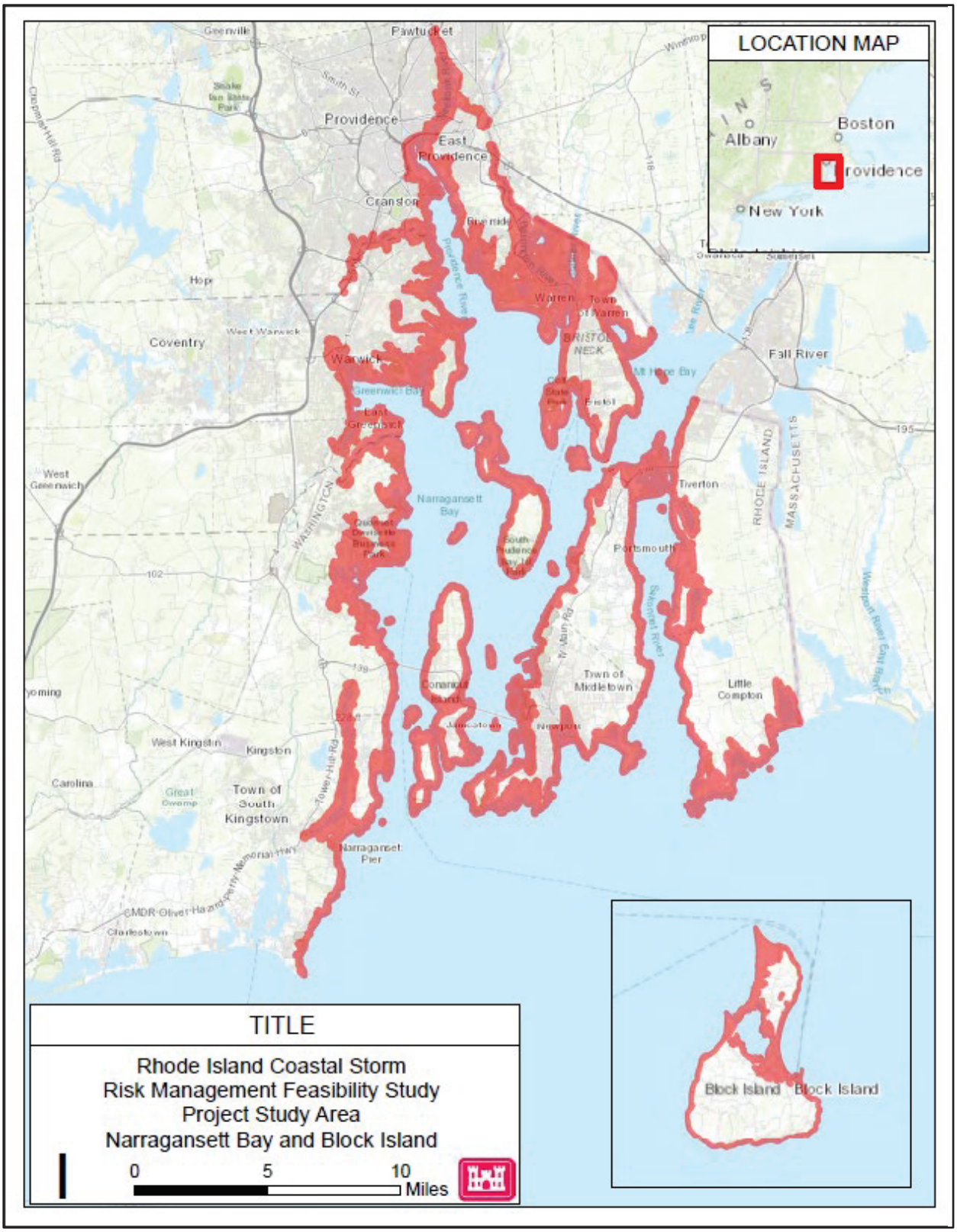


Figure 1 – Rhode Island Coastline CSRM Study Area

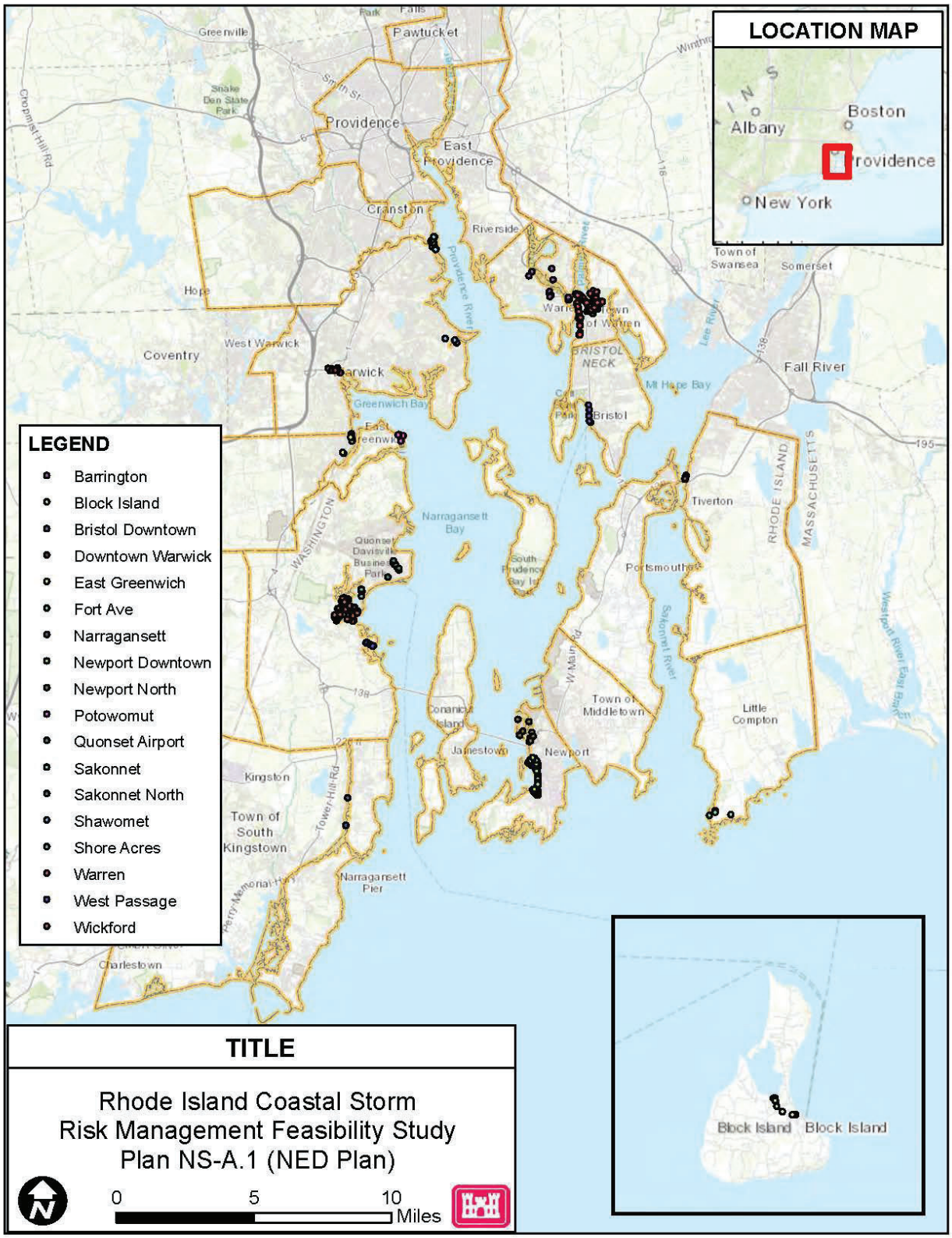


Figure 2 – Locations of the Structures Recommended for Elevation or Floodproofing in the Tentatively Selected Plan

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION I
5 POST OFFICE SQUARE SUITE 100
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02109-3912

April 1, 2022

Grace Moses
Department of the Army U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
New England District
696 Virginia Road
Concord MA 01742-2751

RE: Rhode Island Coastline Coastal Storm Risk Management Project

Dear Ms. Moses:

In accordance with our responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Section 309 of the Clean Air Act, we reviewed the Environmental Assessment (EA) prepared by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) for the Rhode Island Coastline Coastal Storm Risk Management Project. The EA considers the impacts of alternatives to reduce coastal storm damage risks along portions of the Rhode Island coast while increasing the resilience of communities, homes, critical infrastructure, and natural systems. The EA considered structural and non-structural measures to reduce risk and ultimately selected non-structural flood and water proofing approaches as the tentatively selected plan (TSP).

We reviewed the EA and found the discussion of measures to make structures and infrastructure on the RI coastline less vulnerable to impacts from flooding risk comprehensive. We support the TSP identified in the EA but recommend that the Corps provide additional information (as specified below) to better explain how environmental justice considerations were incorporated into project decision-making. This letter is intended as a follow-up to our productive discussion earlier this week related to the consideration of environmental justice for the project. We look forward to continued coordination, as necessary, as you refine the environmental analysis for the project. Our recommendations are provided below:

- We recommend that the discussion in the EA be expanded to more fully explain why communities identified as "socially vulnerable" (through application of the CDC/ATSDR tool) were included or not included in the TSP for action. The EA evaluates two alternatives with overall positive cost benefit ratios (NS-A—the TSP, and NS-B) however alternative NS-A appears to provide fewer benefits to socially vulnerable communities. We believe the application of the CDC/ATSDR tool is helpful in this instance but more could be done in the analysis to explain the output of the tool as it relates to identifying communities with environmental justice concerns. The Corps may want to consider referring to EPA's EJ Screen mapping tool and the environmental justice layer in RIDEM's Environmental Resource GIS Map to identify areas with

environmental justice concerns not captured through the CDC/ATSDR social vulnerability index mapping tool.

- During our discussion this week we learned that one of the Corps goals is to address properties that are subject to "repetitive and significant damage." We encourage you to expand the discussion of how this metric was applied to select the TSP and areas/communities that would receive flood risk reduction benefits. We reiterate our recommendation that the Corps use plain language to communicate how decisions are made regarding which areas receive project benefits and which areas are excluded. We recommend that Corps consider creating and distributing a brief plain language information sheet describing the purpose and goals of the storm risk management project and translating the information sheet into languages understood in impacted communities. We also encourage the Corps to supplement the EA to include a more complete discussion of how the proposed work is designed to advance the goals of the Justice 40 Initiative (consistent with the Corps 15 March 2022 interim guidance on Justice 40 that you shared with us during our recent meeting).

- We support the Corps plans to develop a separate future study of flood risk for the Port of Providence area. We recommend that the Corps provide a target date for starting that study.

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on the EA and for taking the time to discuss our concerns during our recent meeting. Please contact me with any questions at (617) 918-1025 or timmermann.timothy@epa.gov.

Sincerely,

TIMOTHY TIMMERMANN

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Timothy Timmermann
Director, Office of Environmental Review

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
NEW ENGLAND DISTRICT
696 VIRGINIA ROAD
CONCORD MA 01742-2751

May 24, 2022

Planning Division

Mr. Timothy Timmermann
Office of Environmental Review
EPA New England-Region 1
5 Post Office Square, Suite 100
Mail Code OEP 06-3
Boston, MA 02109-3912

Dear Mr. Timmermann,

I am writing in response to your correspondence dated April 1, 2022, in which you outlined the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) comments on our proposal to implement nonstructural measures for residential and non-residential structures within the Rhode Island Coastline (RIC) Coastal Storm Risk Management project area. Your letter and a previous discussion between our agencies outlined ways in which the report could more fully describe our consideration of environmental justice (EJ) in the project. The report has been revised to reflect the following:

For this project, Nonstructural Plan B (NS-B) was specifically formulated to include socially vulnerable populations within the RIC project area using the CDC's Social Vulnerability Index (SVI) tool. The areas captured in the SVI tool significantly overlap with those identified by RIDEM as EJ communities (Attachment 1).

In formulating Plan NS-B, the study team analyzed four community groups in the baseline inventory that are located in areas identified as socially vulnerable (Oakland Beach, Port of Providence 1, Quonset Airport, and Fort Ave). The TSP currently includes two of the four community groups (Quonset Airport and Fort Ave), and the Oakland Beach community group has been added to the final recommended plan. The Oakland Beach group returned a Benefit to Cost Ratio (BCR) less than 1.0, but we believe inclusion of this group is warranted due to the benefits that would be provided to a socially vulnerable community and including this group supports EO 14008 and the Administration's Justice40 Initiative. The fourth community group in an EJ area (Port of Providence 1) will not be included in the proposed plan for two reasons. First, the structures included in this group are all associated with the Port of Providence and are commercial, non-residential buildings. Second, the feasibility report recommends that the Port of Providence be the focus of a separate feasibility study effort.

Additionally, the team re-evaluated the three community groups that were developed from the initial structure inventory and that are not included in Plan NS-A but were in Plan NS-B (Port of Providence 2, Newport NE, and Quonset Airport 2). We determined that the extremely low BCRs for these groups were not due to property values, but instead were due to minimal flooding in comparison to other structures in the analysis.

Implementation of the proposed project would positively affect areas identified as SV and EJ by minimizing their risk of loss of life and property due to flooding events, while nonresidential floodproofing would reduce property damage.

We look forward to continued collaboration with EPA and will alert your agency when the Port of Providence supplemental study is set to begin. If you have any questions or require additional information, please feel free to contact Grace Moses, the environmental team member at (978) 318-8717 or by email at C.Grace.Moses@usace.army.mil or Janet Cote, the project manager, at (978) 318-8728 or by email at Janet.Cote@usace.army.mil .

Sincerely,

KENNELLY.JOHN.R.1228532939
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Date: 2022.05.24 09:26:53 -04'00'

John Kennelly
Chief, Planning Division

Enclosures

Copies Furnished (via email):

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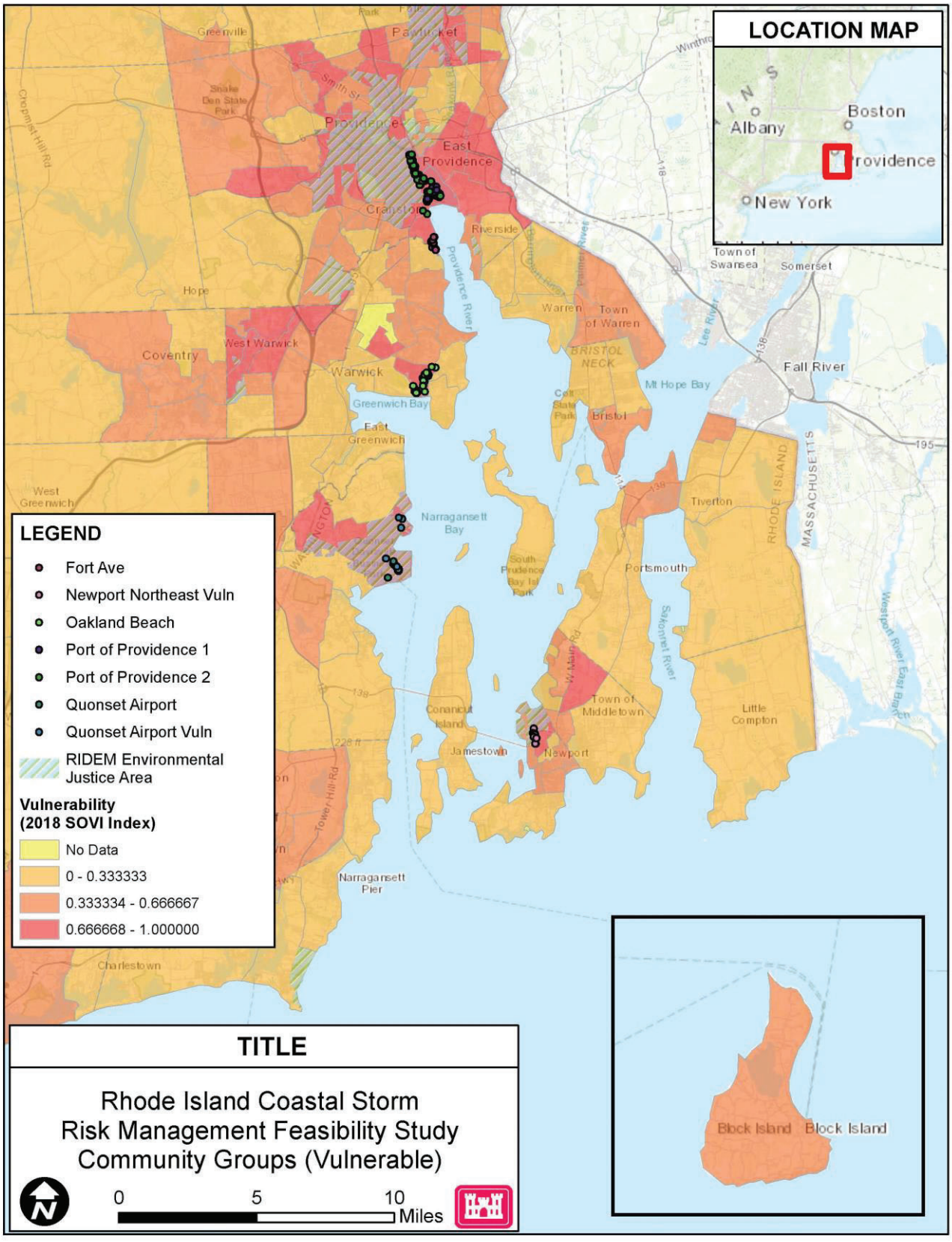
Jackie LeClair: leclair.jackie@epa.gov
Jeannie Brochi: brochi.jean@epa.gov
Erica Sachs: sachs.erica@epa.gov
Rachel Croy: croy.rachel@epa.gov
Paul Wintrob: wintrob.paul@epa.gov

Attachment 1. Community groups located in the CDC's socially vulnerable areas as compared to RIDEM's Environmental Justice areas.



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
NEW ENGLAND DISTRICT
696 VIRGINIA ROAD
CONCORD MA 01742-2751

February 23, 2022

Planning Division

Mr. Michael Pentony, Regional Administrator
Greater Atlantic Region Fisheries Office
National Marine Fisheries Service
55 Great Republic Drive
Gloucester, MA 01930-2276

Dear Mr. Pentony:

I am writing to request your comments in accordance with the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (FWCA) on the Rhode Island Coastline Coastal Storm Risk Management (CSRM) project. The CSRM study area includes more than 457 miles of coastline within all or part of 19 municipalities in the State of Rhode Island (Figure 1). The project Draft Integrated Feasibility Report and the Environmental Assessment (IFR/EA) is available at the link below. The Draft IFR/EA and its appendices include maps of the proposed project area, a project description, and resource characterizations of the project area.

The Rhode Island Coastline CSRM project plan formulation considered a range of structural and nonstructural measures to reduce the risk of storm damage in the study area. Potential coastal storm risk management measures were identified, evaluated, and compared through an iterative planning process and in consultation with the Rhode Island Coastal Resources Management Council, which is the non-Federal sponsor for the project. The Tentatively Selected Plan (TSP) for the project consists of elevating the first floors of 323 single family residences. The elevation design height was determined separately for each structure based on the probability of flooding and sea level change. Methods for elevating individual structures will vary and may consist of addition of fill material, extending foundation walls, piers, post, piles, and columns.

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damaging the structure or its contents. All construction materials and finishing materials are water resistant and all utilities elevated above the design flood elevation in the areas of structures proposed for wet floodproofing. Figure 2 shows the locations identified for elevating or floodproofing within the study area.

The Draft IFR/EA was released for public review on February 18, 2022, and may be accessed in its entirety on the following website:

https://www.nae.usace.army.mil/Missions/Projects-Topics/Rhode-Island-Coastline-Coastal-Storm-Risk-Management-Project/

Please provide any comments under the FWCA within 30 days of the date this letter. All proposed work will occur above Mean High Water; therefore, an Essential Fish Habitat Assessment has not been prepared for this project. If you or your staff have any questions or require additional information, please feel free to contact Grace Moses, the environmental team member, at (978) 318-8717 or by email at C.Grace.Moses@usace.army.mil, or Janet Cote, the project manager, at (978) 318-8728 or by email at Janet.Cote@usace.army.mil.

Sincerely,

KENNELLY.JOHN.R.1228532939
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Date: 2022.02.23 10:05:36 -05'00'

John Kennelly
Chief, Planning Division

Enclosures

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Roosevelt Mesa: roosevelt.mesa@noaa.gov
Sabrina Pereira: sabrina.pereira@noaa.gov

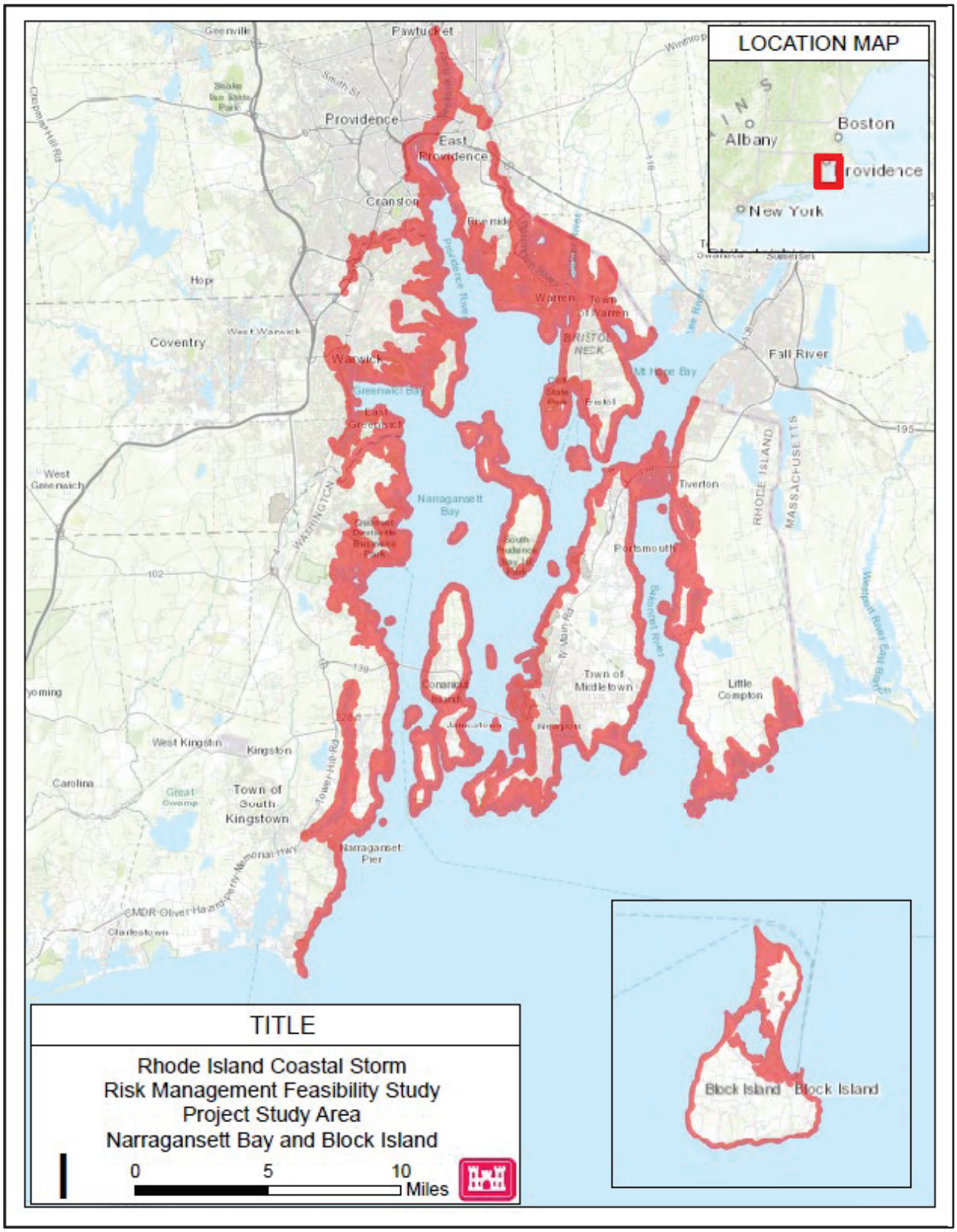


Figure 1 – Rhode Island Coastline CSRM Study Area

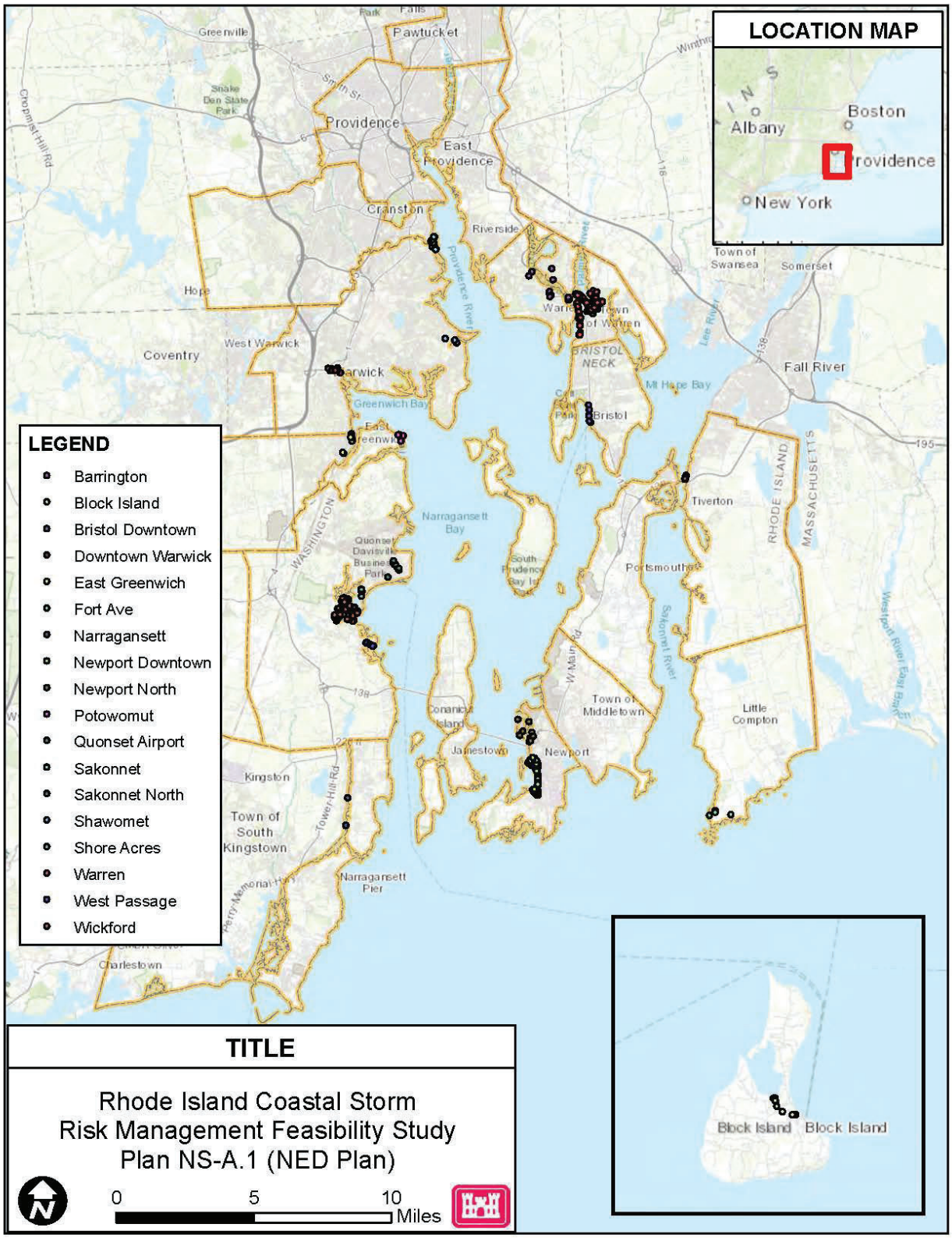


Figure 2 – Locations of the Structures Recommended for Elevation or Floodproofing in the Tentatively Selected Plan

From: Sabrina Pereira - NOAA Federal
To: Moses, Catherine Grace (Grace) CIV USARMY CENAE (USA)
Cc: Roosevelt Mesa - NOAA Affiliate
Subject: Re: [Non-DoD Source] Re: Rhode Island Coastline Feasibility Report Release
Date: Thursday, March 17, 2022 12:01:17 PM

Hi Grace,

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment on the RI Coastline Feasibility Study. At this time we do not have any comments to offer on the study, as there currently is no in-water work or other construction proposed that could impact NOAA trust resources. If this should change as the study progresses, please let us know so that we may review it under the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act and/or the Magnuson Stevens Act for Essential Fish Habitat, as appropriate.

Thank you again for coordinating with us, and we look forward to continued updates on this important project.

Best wishes,
Sabrina Pereira
Marine Resources Management Specialist
Habitat and Ecosystem Services Division
NOAA/ National Marine Fisheries Service
Gloucester, MA
Pronouns: she/her/hers
(978)-675-2178
Sabrina.pereira@noaa.gov

On Thu, Feb 24, 2022 at 2:41 PM Moses, Catherine Grace (Grace) CIV USARMY CENAE (USA) <C.Grace.Moses@usace.army.mil> wrote:

> Hi Roosevelt,
>
> Thank you, I hope you're well too! I was getting excited about the spring-like weather and now we're maybe getting a foot of snow tomorrow ☹
>
> What you stated is correct. The work we're proposing is elevating or floodproofing houses and no work or equipment mobilization, storage, or staging will occur below MHW. Therefore, I made a no effect determination for ESA and saw no need for an EFH assessment.
>
> Thank you,
>
> Grace

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
NEW ENGLAND DISTRICT
696 VIRGINIA ROAD
CONCORD MA 01742-2751

February 23, 2022

Planning Division

Mr. Terrance Gray, Director
Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management
235 Promenade Street
Providence, RI 02908

Dear Mr. Gray:

I am writing to request your comments on the Rhode Island Coastline Coastal Storm Risk Management (CSRM) project. The CSRM study area includes more than 457 miles of coastline within all or part of 19 municipalities in the State of Rhode Island (Figure 1). The project Draft Integrated Feasibility Report and the Environmental Assessment (IFR/EA) is available at the link below. The Draft IFR/EA and its appendices include maps of the proposed project area, a project description, and resource characterizations of the project area.

The Rhode Island Coastline CSRM project plan formulation considered a range of structural and nonstructural measures to reduce the risk of storm damage in the study area. Potential coastal storm risk management measures were identified, evaluated, and compared through an iterative planning process and in consultation with the Rhode Island Coastal Resources Management Council, which is the non-Federal sponsor for the project. The Tentatively Selected Plan (TSP) for the project consists of elevating the first floors of 323 single family residences. The elevation design height was determined separately for each structure based on the probability of flooding and sea level change. Methods for elevating individual structures will vary and may consist of addition of fill material, extending foundation walls, piers, post, piles, and columns.

In addition, 210 non-residential structures will be floodproofed. Floodproofing was considered for non-residential structures and large multi-family structures not in a designated VE Zone and without a basement. VE-zones are areas subject to inundation by the 1-percent annual chance flood event with additional hazards due to storm-induced velocity wave action. Floodproofing measures consist of dry floodproofing or wet floodproofing. Dry floodproofing makes a structure watertight below the level that needs flood protection to prevent floodwaters from entering. An example of a dry floodproofing measure is to apply a waterproof veneer, such as a layer of brick backed by a waterproof membrane, directly to the outside surface of an existing structure. Wet floodproofing allows floodwaters to enter an enclosed area of a structure without damaging the structure or its contents. All construction materials and finishing materials are water resistant and all utilities elevated above the design flood elevation in the areas

of structures proposed for wet floodproofing. Figure 2 shows the locations identified for elevating or floodproofing within the study area.

The Draft IFR/EA was released for public review on February 18, 2022, and may be accessed in its entirety on the following website:

https://www.nae.usace.army.mil/Missions/Projects-Topics/Rhode-Island-Coastline-Coastal-Storm-Risk-Management-Project/

Please submit any comments within 30 days of the date of this letter. If you or your staff have any questions or require additional information, please feel free to contact Grace Moses, the environmental team member, at (978) 318-8717 or by email at C.Grace.Moses@usace.army.mil, or Janet Cote, the project manager, at (978) 318-8728 or by email at Janet.Cote@usace.army.mil.

Sincerely,

KENNELLY.JOHN.R.1228532939
Digitally signed by KENNELLY.JOHN.R.1228532939
Date: 2022.02.23 10:11:12 -05'00'

John Kennelly
Chief, Planning Division

Enclosures

Copies Furnished (via email):

Suzanne Amerault: Suzanne.Amerault@dem.ri.gov
Elizabeth Stone (Bureau of Environmental Protection): Elizabeth.Stone@dem.ri.gov
Phillip Edwards (Division of Fish and Wildlife) Phillip.Edwards@dem.ri.gov
Jason McNamee (Bureau of Natural Resources) Jason.McNamee@dem.ri.gov
Megan DiPrete (Planning and Development): Megan.DiPrete@dem.ri.gov

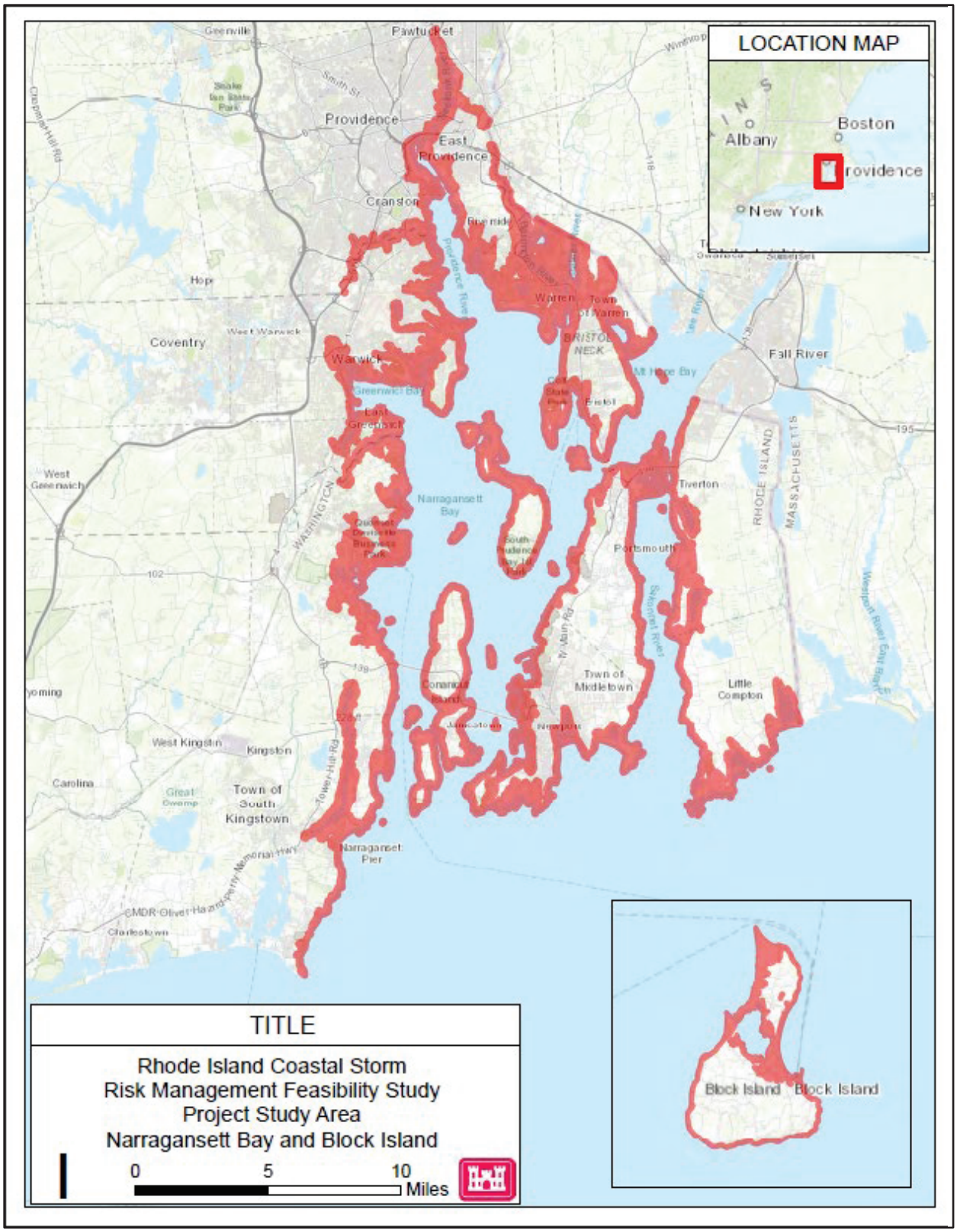


Figure 1 – Rhode Island Coastline CSRM Study Area

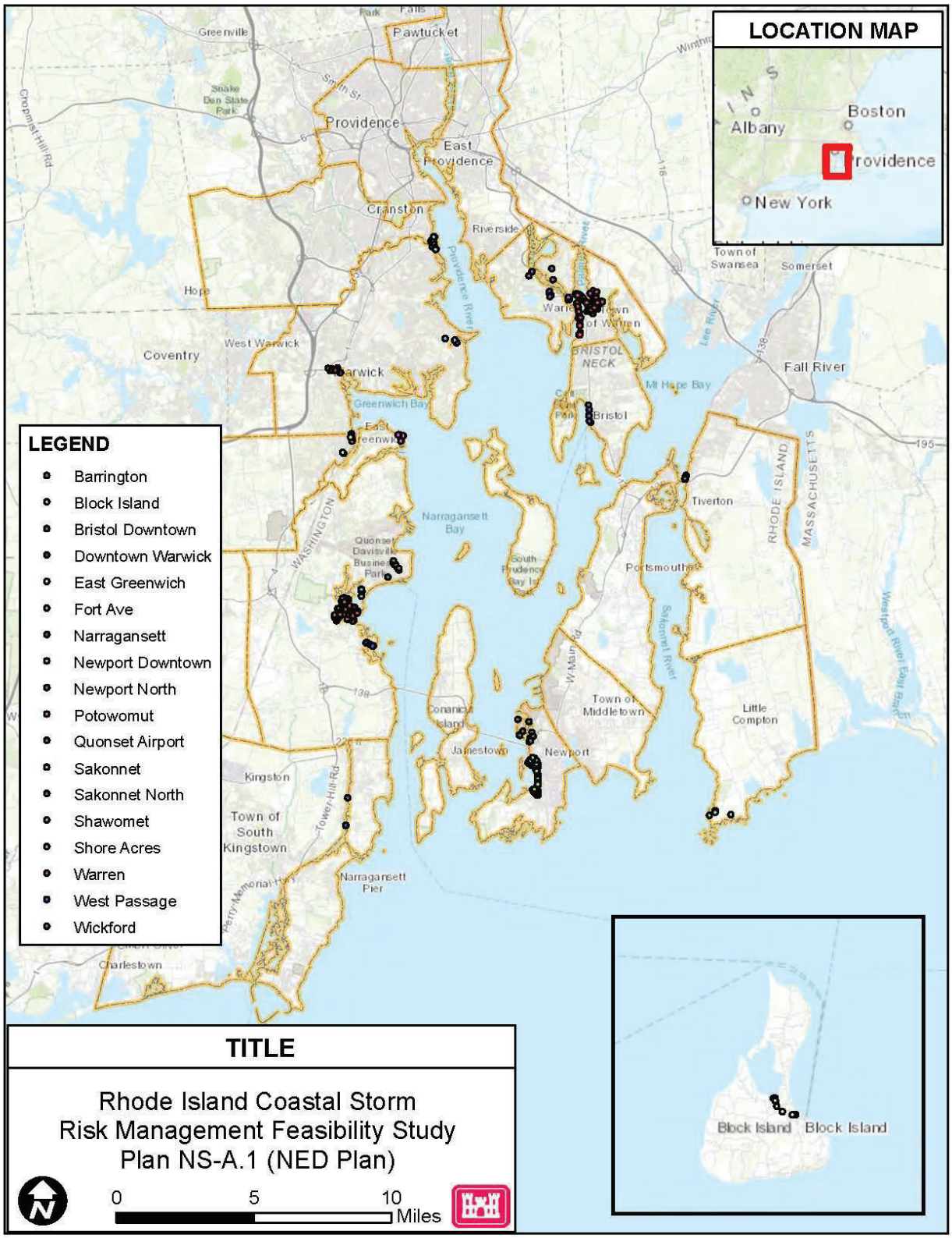


Figure 2 – Locations of the Structures Recommended for Elevation or Floodproofing in the Tentatively Selected Plan

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
NEW ENGLAND DISTRICT
696 VIRGINIA ROAD
CONCORD MA 01742-2751

February 23, 2022

Planning Division

Dr. Audrey Mayer, Ph.D.
Supervisor, New England Field Office
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
70 Commercial Street, Suite 300
Concord, NH 03301

Dear Dr. Mayer:

I am writing to request a Final Coordination Act Report (FCAR) pursuant to the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act and to request your concurrence with our findings under the Endangered Species Act for the Rhode Island Coastline Coastal Storm Risk Management (CSRM) project. The CSRM study area includes more than 457 miles of coastline within all or part of 19 municipalities in the State of Rhode Island (Figure 1). The project Draft Integrated Feasibility Report and the Environmental Assessment (IFR/EA) is available at the link below. The Draft IFR/EA and its appendices include maps of the proposed project area, a project description, and resource characterizations of the project area.

The Rhode Island Coastline CSRM project plan formulation considered a range of structural and nonstructural measures to reduce the risk of storm damage in the study area. Potential coastal storm risk management measures were identified, evaluated, and compared through an iterative planning process and in consultation with the Rhode Island Coastal Resources Management Council, which is the non-Federal sponsor for the project. The Tentatively Selected Plan (TSP) for the project consists of elevating the first floors of 323 single family residences. The elevation design height was determined separately for each structure based on the probability of flooding and sea level change. Methods for elevating individual structures will vary and may consist of addition of fill material, extending foundation walls, piers, post, piles, and columns.

In addition, 210 non-residential structures will be floodproofed. Floodproofing was considered for non-residential structures and large multi-family structures not in a designated VE Zone and without a basement. VE-zones are areas subject to inundation by the 1-percent annual chance flood event with additional hazards due to storm-induced velocity wave action. Floodproofing measures consist of dry floodproofing or wet floodproofing. Dry floodproofing makes a structure watertight below the level that needs flood protection to prevent floodwaters from entering. An example of a dry floodproofing measure is to apply a waterproof veneer, such as a layer of brick backed by a waterproof membrane, directly to the outside surface of an existing structure. Wet

floodproofing allows floodwaters to enter an enclosed area of a structure without damaging the structure or its contents. All construction materials and finishing materials are water resistant and all utilities elevated above the design flood elevation in the areas of structures proposed for wet floodproofing. Figure 2 shows the locations identified for elevating or floodproofing within the study area.

The Draft IFR/EA was released for public review on February 18, 2022, and may be accessed in its entirety on the following website to assist you in the preparation of the FCAR. Sections 2.3.1.3 and 4.1.3 of the Draft IFR/EA relate to Federal threatened and endangered species.

https://www.nae.usace.army.mil/Missions/Projects-Topics/Rhode-Island-Coastline-Coastal-Storm-Risk-Management-Project/

I would appreciate your FCAR and/or any final comments on the project within 30 days of your receipt of this letter. If you or your staff have any questions or require additional information, please feel free to contact Grace Moses, the environmental team member, at (978) 318-8717 or by email at C.Grace.Moses@usace.army.mil, or Janet Cote, the project manager, at (978) 318-8728 or by email at Janet.Cote@usace.army.mil.

Sincerely,

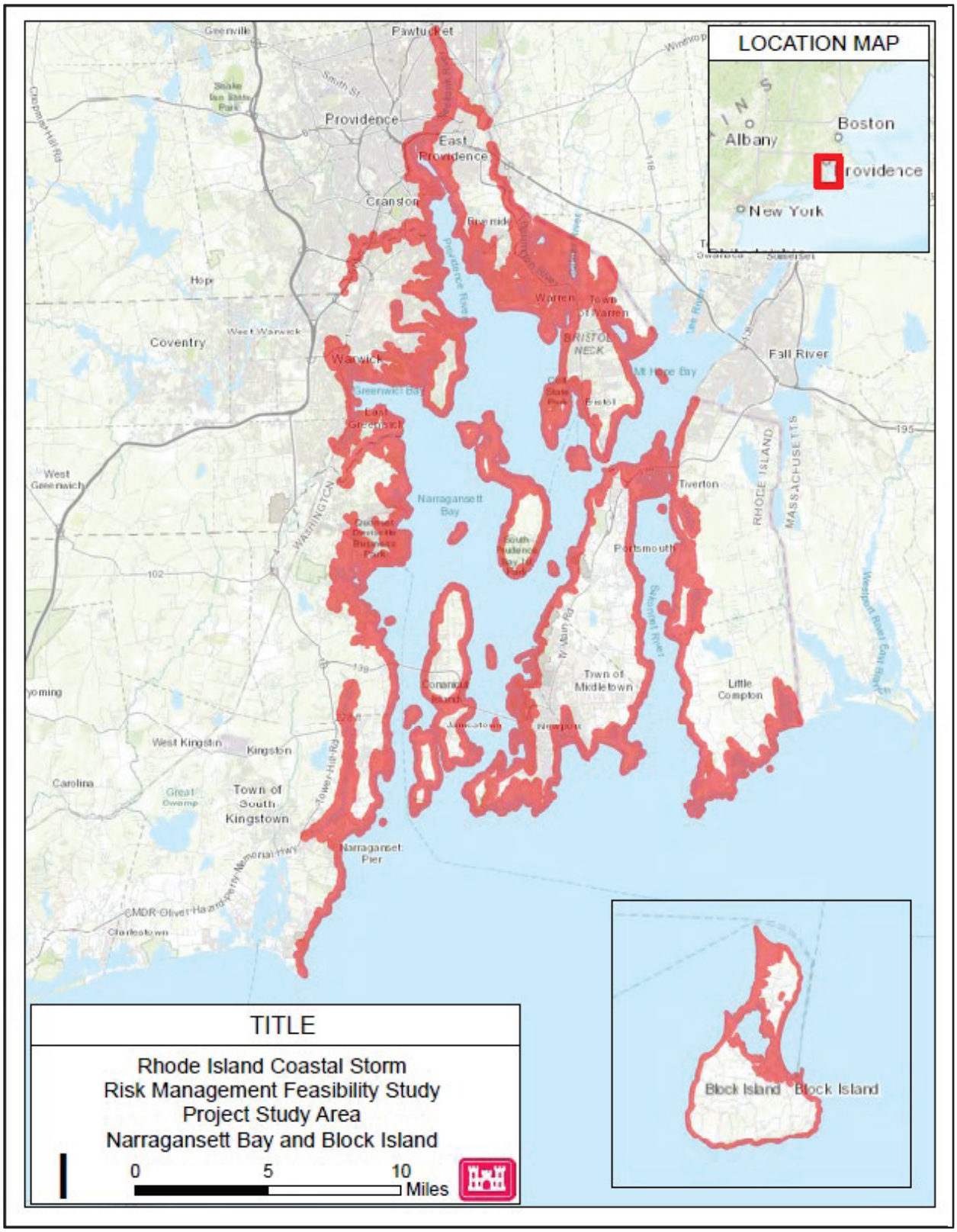
KENNELLY.JOHN.R.1228532939 Digitally signed by KENNELLY.JOHN.R.1228532939 Date: 2022.02.23 10:15:58 -05'00'

John Kennelly
Chief, Planning Division

Enclosures

Copies Furnished (via email):

Charlie Vandemoer: charlie_vandemoer@fws.gov
Suzanne Payton: suzanne_paton@fws.gov
Cynthia Corsair: cynthia_corsair@fws.gov
New England USFWS inbox: newengland@fws.gov



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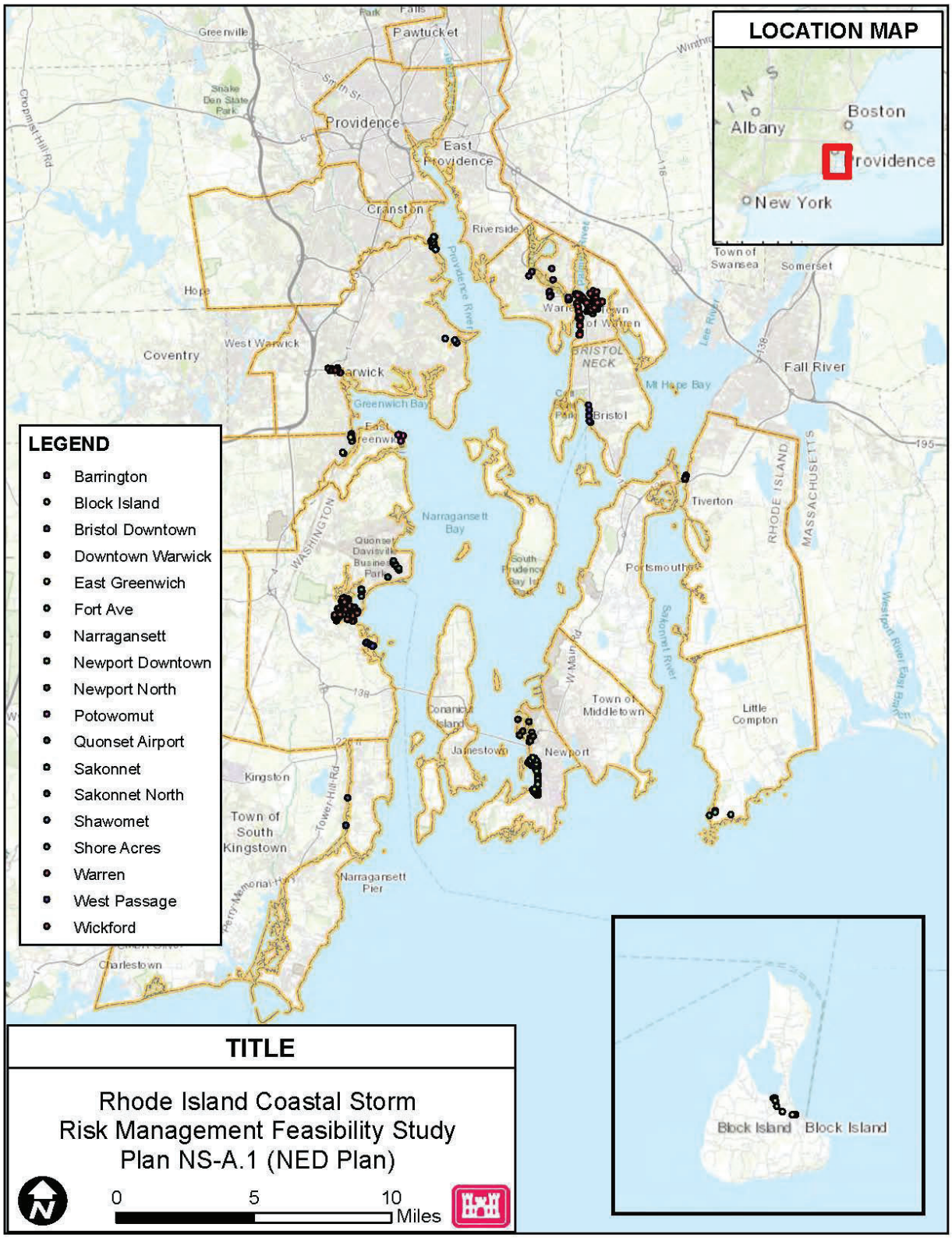


Figure 2 – Locations of the Structures Recommended for Elevation or Floodproofing in the Tentatively Selected Plan

United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
New England Ecological Services Field Office
70 Commercial Street, Suite 300
Concord, NH 03301-5094
Phone: (603) 223-2541 Fax: (603) 223-0104
http://www.fws.gov/newengland

In Reply Refer To: March 16, 2022
Project code: 2022-0020511
Project Name: Rhode Island Coastline Coastal Storm Risk Management Project

Subject: Consistency letter for 'Rhode Island Coastline Coastal Storm Risk Management Project' project for a No Effect determination for the American burying beetle

Dear Catherine Moses:

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) received on **March 16, 2022** your effect determination(s) for the 'Rhode Island Coastline Coastal Storm Risk Management Project' (the Action) using the American burying beetle (*Nicrophorus americanus*) determination key within the Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) system.

The Service developed this system in accordance with the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA) (87 Stat.884, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.)
Based on your consideration of the Action and the assistance in the Service's American burying beetle determination key, you have determined that your proposed action will have No Effect on the American burying beetle.

Your agency has met consultation requirements for these species by informing the Service of your "no effect" determination. No further consultation for this project is required for the American burying beetle. This consistency letter confirms you may rely on effect determinations you reached by considering the American burying beetle DKey to satisfy agency consultation requirements under Section 7(a) (2) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (87 Stat. 884, as amended 16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.; ESA).

Coordination with your local Ecological Services Office is complete for the American burying beetle. If your project may affect additional listed species, please contact your local Ecological Services Field Office for assistance with those species. Thank you for considering Federally-listed species during your project planning.

This letter covers only the American burying beetle. It **does not** apply to the following ESA-protected species that also may occur in the Action area:

- Monarch Butterfly *Danaus plexippus* Candidate

- Northern Long-eared Bat *Myotis septentrionalis* Threatened
- Piping Plover *Charadrius melodus* Threatened
- Red Knot *Calidris canutus rufa* Threatened
- Roseate Tern *Sterna dougallii dougallii* Endangered

If your project may affect additional listed species, you must evaluate additional DKeys for other species, or submit a request for consultation for the additional species to your local Ecological Services Field Office.

The Service recommends that your agency contact the Service or re-evaluate the project in IPaC if: 1) the scope or location of the proposed project is changed significantly, 2) new information reveals that the action may affect listed species or designated critical habitat; 3) the action is modified in a manner that causes effects to listed species or designated critical habitat; or 4) a new species is listed or critical habitat designated. If any of the above conditions occurs, additional consultation should take place before project changes are final or resources committed.

Action Description
You provided to IPaC the following name and description for the subject Action.

1. Name

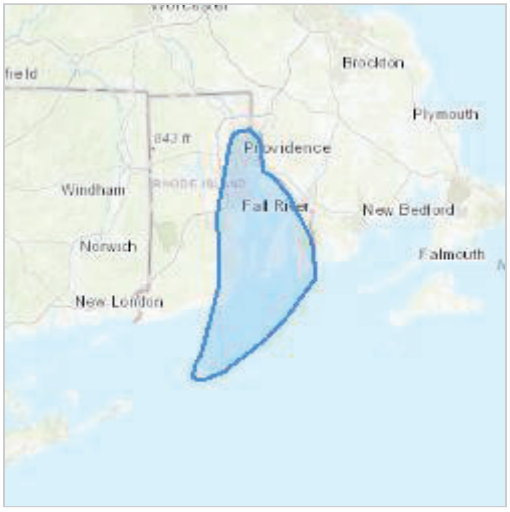
Rhode Island Coastline Coastal Storm Risk Management Project

2. Description

The following description was provided for the project 'Rhode Island Coastline Coastal Storm Risk Management Project':

> USACE is proposing to elevate or floodproof 533 structures in the study area which the drawn map covers. The work will take place within the existing footprints of buildings; no new development is proposed. The timing of the project is dependent on funding and approvals.

Approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps: https://www.google.com/maps/@41.522618550000004,-71.31907807358753,14z



Qualification Interview

1. Is the action authorized, funded, or being carried out by a Federal agency?

   Yes

2. Have you determined that the proposed action will have “no effect” on the American burying beetle? (If you are unsure select "No")

   Yes

Project Questionnaire

Please select the activity that best matches your proposed action.

1. Soil disturbance related to urban expansion or construction of structures

If you chose 13 above, please describe below. If you did not choose 13 above, please type "0".

Soils in the footprints of existing structures will be disturbed when the structures are elevated or floodproofed.

IPaC User Contact Information

Agency: Army Corps of Engineers
Name: Catherine Moses
Address: 696 Virginia Rd
City: Concord
State: MA
Zip: 01742
Email c.grace.moses@usace.army.mil
Phone: 9783188717

United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
New England Ecological Services Field Office
70 Commercial Street, Suite 300
Concord, NH 03301-5094
Phone: (603) 223-2541 Fax: (603) 223-0104
http://www.fws.gov/newengland

In Reply Refer To: March 16, 2022
Project Code: 2022-0020511
Project Name: Rhode Island Coastline Coastal Storm Risk Management Project

Subject: List of threatened and endangered species that may occur in your proposed project location or may be affected by your proposed project

To Whom It May Concern:

Please review this letter each time you request an Official Species List, we will continue to update it with additional information and links to websites may change.

About Official Species Lists

The purpose of the Act is to provide a means whereby threatened and endangered species and the ecosystems upon which they depend may be conserved. Federal and non-Federal project proponents have responsibilities under the Act to consider effects on listed species.

The enclosed species list identifies threatened, endangered, proposed, and candidate species, as well as proposed and final designated critical habitat, that may occur within the boundary of your proposed project and/or may be affected by your proposed project. The species list fulfills the requirements of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) under section 7(c) of the Endangered Species Act (Act) of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.).

New information based on updated surveys, changes in the abundance and distribution of species, changed habitat conditions, or other factors could change this list. Please note that under 50 CFR 402.12(e) of the regulations implementing section 7 of the Act, the accuracy of this species list should be verified after 90 days. The Service recommends that verification be completed by visiting the ECOS-IPaC website at regular intervals during project planning and implementation for updates to species lists and information. An updated list may be requested by returning to an existing project's page in IPaC.

Endangered Species Act Project Review

Please visit the "**New England Field Office Endangered Species Project Review and Consultation**" website for step-by-step instructions on how to consider effects on listed

species and prepare and submit a project review package if necessary:

https://www.fws.gov/newengland/endangeredspecies/project-review/index.html

NOTE Please do not use the **Consultation Package Builder** tool in IPaC except in specific situations following coordination with our office. Please follow the project review guidance on our website instead and reference your **Project Code** in all correspondence.

Additional Info About Section 7 of the Act
Under section 7(a)(2) of the Act and its implementing regulations (50 CFR 402 et seq.), Federal agencies are required to determine whether projects may affect threatened and endangered species and/or designated critical habitat. If a Federal agency, or its non-Federal representative, determines that listed species and/or designated critical habitat may be affected by the proposed project, the agency is required to consult with the Service pursuant to 50 CFR 402. In addition, the Federal agency also may need to consider proposed species and proposed critical habitat in the consultation. 50 CFR 402.14(c)(1) specifies the information required for consultation under the Act regardless of the format of the evaluation. More information on the regulations and procedures for section 7 consultation, including the role of permit or license applicants, can be found in the "Endangered Species Consultation Handbook" at:

http://www.fws.gov/endangered/esa-library/pdf/TOC-GLOS.PDF

In addition to consultation requirements under Section 7(a)(2) of the ESA, please note that under sections 7(a)(1) of the Act and its implementing regulations (50 CFR 402 et seq.), Federal agencies are required to utilize their authorities to carry out programs for the conservation of threatened and endangered species. Please contact NEFO if you would like more information.

Candidate species that appear on the enclosed species list have no current protections under the ESA. The species' occurrence on an official species list does not convey a requirement to consider impacts to this species as you would a proposed, threatened, or endangered species. The ESA does not provide for interagency consultations on candidate species under section 7, however, the Service recommends that all project proponents incorporate measures into projects to benefit candidate species and their habitats wherever possible.

Migratory Birds

In addition to responsibilities to protect threatened and endangered species under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), there are additional responsibilities under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (BGEPA) to protect native birds from project-related impacts. Any activity, intentional or unintentional, resulting in take of migratory birds, including eagles, is prohibited unless otherwise permitted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (50 C.F.R. Sec. 10.12 and 16 U.S.C. Sec. 668(a)). For more information regarding these Acts see:

https://www.fws.gov/birds/policies-and-regulations.php

Please feel free to contact us at **newengland@fws.gov** with your **Project Code** in the subject line if you need more information or assistance regarding the potential impacts to federally proposed, listed, and candidate species and federally designated and proposed critical habitat.

Attachment(s): Official Species List

Attachment(s):

- Official Species List

Official Species List

This list is provided pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, and fulfills the requirement for Federal agencies to "request of the Secretary of the Interior information whether any species which is listed or proposed to be listed may be present in the area of a proposed action".

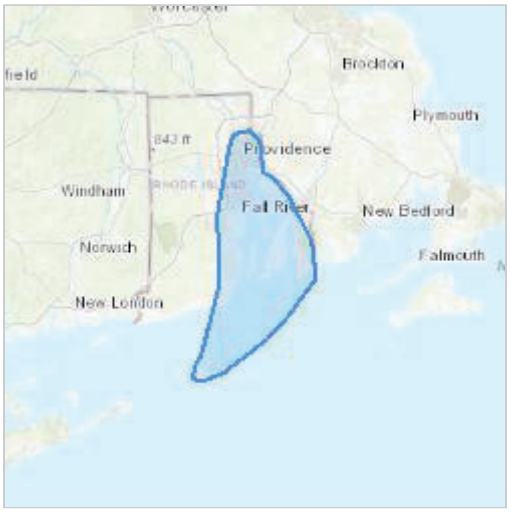
This species list is provided by:

New England Ecological Services Field Office
70 Commercial Street, Suite 300
Concord, NH 03301-5094
(603) 223-2541

Project Summary

Project Code: 2022-0020511
Event Code: None
Project Name: Rhode Island Coastline Coastal Storm Risk Management Project
Project Type: Flooding
Project Description: USACE is proposing to elevate or floodproof 533 structures in the study area which the drawn map covers. The work will take place within the existing footprints of buildings; no new development is proposed. The timing of the project is dependent on funding and approvals.
Project Location:

Approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps: https://www.google.com/maps/@41.522618550000004,-71.31907807358753,14z



Counties: Massachusetts and Rhode Island

Endangered Species Act Species

There is a total of 6 threatened, endangered, or candidate species on this species list.

Species on this list should be considered in an effects analysis for your project and could include species that exist in another geographic area. For example, certain fish may appear on the species list because a project could affect downstream species.

IPaC does not display listed species or critical habitats under the sole jurisdiction of NOAA Fisheries[1], as USFWS does not have the authority to speak on behalf of NOAA and the Department of Commerce.

See the "Critical habitats" section below for those critical habitats that lie wholly or partially within your project area under this office's jurisdiction. Please contact the designated FWS office if you have questions.

---

1. NOAA Fisheries, also known as the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), is an office of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration within the Department of Commerce.

Mammals

NAME	STATUS
Northern Long-eared Bat *Myotis septentrionalis* No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9045	Threatened

Birds

NAME	STATUS
Piping Plover *Charadrius melodus* Population: [Atlantic Coast and Northern Great Plains populations] - Wherever found, except those areas where listed as endangered. There is **final** critical habitat for this species. The location of the critical habitat is not available. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/6039	Threatened
Red Knot *Calidris canutus rufa* There is **proposed** critical habitat for this species. The location of the critical habitat is not available. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1864	Threatened
Roseate Tern *Sterna dougallii dougallii* Population: Northeast U.S. nesting population No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/2083	Endangered

Insects

NAME	STATUS
American Burying Beetle *Nicrophorus americanus*	Threatened
Population: Wherever found, except where listed as an experimental population No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/66	
Monarch Butterfly *Danaus plexippus*	Candidate
No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9743	

Critical habitats

THERE ARE NO CRITICAL HABITATS WITHIN YOUR PROJECT AREA UNDER THIS OFFICE'S JURISDICTION.

IPaC User Contact Information

Agency: Army Corps of Engineers
Name: Catherine Moses
Address: 696 Virginia Rd
City: Concord
State: MA
Zip: 01742
Email c.grace.moses@usace.army.mil
Phone: 9783188717

From: vonOettingen, Susi
To: Moses, Catherine Grace (Grace) CIV USARMY CENAE (USA)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Re: [EXTERNAL] Rhode Island Coastline Feasibility Report Release
Date: Thursday, March 17, 2022 8:05:23 AM

No, no comments. Thanks. I keep forgetting about FWCA!

Susi

****

Susi von Oettingen
Endangered Species Biologist
New England Field Office
70 Commercial Street, Suite 300
Concord, NH 03301
603-748-8357 (mobile)
https://www.fws.gov/newengland/index.html

From: Moses, Catherine Grace (Grace) CIV USARMY CENAE (USA) <C.Grace.Moses@usace.army.mil>
Sent: Wednesday, March 16, 2022 11:55 AM
To: vonOettingen, Susi <susi_vonoettingen@fws.gov>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Rhode Island Coastline Feasibility Report Release

Great, thanks, Susi. I'll run the IPaC today. Do you have any comments under the FWCA?

Thanks again,
Grace

From: vonOettingen, Susi <susi_vonoettingen@fws.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, March 16, 2022 11:38 AM
To: Moses, Catherine Grace (Grace) CIV USARMY CENAE (USA) <C.Grace.Moses@usace.army.mil>
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Re: [EXTERNAL] Rhode Island Coastline Feasibility Report Release

Hi Grace,

Thanks for the clarification and answering my questions.

I think you have documented the "no effect" determinations enough for your admin record.

With respect to the NLEB, I suggest if you want to be covered "just in case" that you complete the dKey in IPaC and get the form letter stating the project is in compliance. No need to draft a letter of concurrence for NLAA, especially if you don't know if any trees will be cut, or if so the time of year or if emergence surveys would be done. I would get that letter as soon as

possible and complete the consultation process.

Susi

****

Susi von Oettingen
Endangered Species Biologist
New England Field Office
70 Commercial Street, Suite 300
Concord, NH 03301
603-748-8357 (mobile)
https://www.fws.gov/newengland/index.html

From: Moses, Catherine Grace (Grace) CIV USARMY CENAE (USA) <C.Grace.Moses@usace.army.mil>
Sent: Tuesday, March 15, 2022 10:47 AM
To: vonOettingen, Susi <susi_vonoettingen@fws.gov>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Rhode Island Coastline Feasibility Report Release

Hi Susi,

Apologies on the very delayed response. Your email went to my junk folder for some reason, and I'm glad I checked there as I normally never do!

I caught that error in the T&E section after the report went out. The updated effects section now states:

Endangered roseate terns and threatened NLEBs, piping plovers, rufa red knots, and American burying beetles are identified as potentially present within the project area. The project area does not support suitable habitat for these species. The proposed project involves modifications to buildings within the existing footprint of the structure. Therefore, USACE has made a no effect determination for roseate terns, red knots, piping plovers, and American burying beetles.

No known maternity roost trees exist within Rhode Island (C. Brown, personal communication, March 4, 2021), but because no surveys have been conducted to determine the presence/absence of the NLEB in the project area, it is assumed that the NLEB could be present and may utilize mature trees and the surrounding forest habitat for roosting. No trees are expected to be removed as part of project activities, but if it is necessary, then the proposed action is not likely to adversely affect the threatened NLEB for the following reasons in accordance with the January 14, 2016, USFWS final 4(d) rule (50 CFR §17.40(o)):

- No purposeful take will occur except to protect human life and property and;
- In order to avoid incidental take of NLEBs, no trees within 0.25 miles of a known hibernaculum will be cut and;

> No known occupied maternity roost trees or trees within a 150-foot radius from a maternity roost tree will be cut or destroyed during the pup season (June 1 through July 31).

For the NLEB determination, since we're not sure if any trees will need removal at this stage, should I make an NLAA determination and then circle back when we have a clearer picture of the work (i.e. what trees, if any, require removal)? We won't know that until after the EA is finalized and the project receives design and construction funding. I can run another IPaC now and send you the report. I don't see any project numbers in my files, admittedly, they were done in early 2021 so they're a bit dusty.

I'd be happy to chat if you'd rather go over this on the phone. I can give you a call whenever you're available.

Thank you,
Grace

From: vonOettingen, Susi <susi_vonoettingen@fws.gov>
Sent: Friday, February 25, 2022 1:04 PM
To: Moses, Catherine Grace (Grace) CIV USARMY CENAE (USA) <C.Grace.Moses@usace.army.mil>
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Fw: [EXTERNAL] Rhode Island Coastline Feasibility Report Release

Hi,

I was forwarded the letter for response. I have a few questions regarding the request.

First - what specifically is the request? Concurrence with not likely? We do not concur with no effect determinations (roseate tern) and do not need to do anything if a verification letter for the northern long-eared bat was generated.

However, the document also identifies piping plover and red knot (from IPaC), but section 4.1.3 only mentions the bat and roseate tern:

Endangered roseate terns and threatened NLEBs are identified as potentially present within the project area. The project area does not support suitable breeding habitat or feeding habitat for roseate terns. The proposed project involves modifications to buildings within the existing footprint of the structure. Therefore, no effect on roseate tern is anticipated.

No known maternity roost trees exist within Rhode Island (C. Brown, personal communication, March 4, 2021), but because no surveys have been conducted to determine the presence/absence of the NLEB in the project area, it is assumed that the NLEB could be present and may utilize mature trees and the surrounding forest habitat for roosting. No trees

are expected to be removed as part of project activities, but if it is necessary then the proposed action is not likely to adversely affect the threatened NLEB for the following reasons in accordance with the January 14, 2016, USFWS final 4(d) rule (50 CFR §17.40(o)):

• No purposeful take will occur except to protect human life and property and;
• In order to avoid incidental take of NLEBs, no trees within 0.25 miles of a known hibernaculum will be cut and;
• No known occupied maternity roost trees or trees within a 150-foot radius from a maternity roost tree will be cut or destroyed during the pup season (June 1 through July 31).

And I'm not sure what the sentence below means with respect to the letter's request.

Consultation with the USFWS is on-going to ensure that all reasonable measures are taken to avoid, minimize, and/or mitigate any adverse impacts to Federally listed species.

Finally, I see you went through IPaC to generate a species list. Our system is in the process of getting revamped and for some reason we cannot find the Project number/code that should have been generated along with the species list and verification letter (I believe you generated one, correct? That should be done).

If you want to chat about my questions, I should have time next week.

Thanks, hope you're not getting snowed in!

Susi

****

Susi von Oettingen
Endangered Species Biologist
New England Field Office
70 Commercial Street, Suite 300
Concord, NH 03301
603-748-8357 (mobile)
https://www.fws.gov/newengland/index.html

From: New England FO, FW5 <newengland@fws.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, February 23, 2022 1:20 PM
To: Simmons, David <david_simmons@fws.gov>; vonOettingen, Susi <susi_vonoettingen@fws.gov>
Subject: Fw: [EXTERNAL] Rhode Island Coastline Feasibility Report Release

I didn't find any IPaC-generated items for this in either TAILS or ECOSphere, so, if I read our

recent meeting minutes correctly, I'm sending this along to you so you can reach out to the Corps to have them proceed through IPaC for the next step in the process. If I'm incorrect, please let me know.

J.

Jeannine Dube
Secretary
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
New England Field Office
70 Commercial Street, Suite 300
Concord, NH 03301
603-227-6411

From: Moses, Catherine Grace (Grace) CIV USARMY CENAE (USA) <C.Grace.Moses@usace.army.mil>
Sent: Wednesday, February 23, 2022 11:21 AM
To: Mayer, Audrey <audrey_mayer@fws.gov>; Vandemoer, Charlie <charlie_vandemoer@fws.gov>; Paton, Suzanne <suzanne_paton@fws.gov>; Corsair, Cynthia L <Cynthia_Corsair@fws.gov>; New England FO, FW5 <newengland@fws.gov>
Cc: Cote, Janet CIV USARMY CENAE (USA) <Janet.Cote@usace.army.mil>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Rhode Island Coastline Feasibility Report Release

Hello,

The attached letter requests your agency's comments on the Rhode Island Coastline Coastal Storm Risk Management project. The letter contains a description of the project proposal and a link to the Draft Integrated Feasibility Report and Environmental Assessment.

No hardcopy of the letter will be mailed.

Thank you,

Grace Moses
Chief, Environmental and Cultural Resources Section
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
New England District
978-318-8717

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
NEW ENGLAND DISTRICT
696 VIRGINIA ROAD
CONCORD MA 01742-2751

February 23, 2022

Planning Division

Mr. Philip Hervey, Town Manager
Town Hall
283 County Road
Barrington, RI 02806-2406

Dear Mr. Hervey:

I am writing to request your comments on the Rhode Island Coastline Coastal Storm Risk Management (CSRM) project. The CSRM study area includes more than 457 miles of coastline within all or part of 19 municipalities in the State of Rhode Island (Figure 1). The project Draft Integrated Feasibility Report and the Environmental Assessment (IFR/EA) is available at the link below. The Draft IFR/EA and its appendices include maps of the proposed project area, a project description, and resource characterizations of the project area.

The Rhode Island Coastline CSRM project plan formulation considered a range of structural and nonstructural measures to reduce the risk of storm damage in the study area. Potential coastal storm risk management measures were identified, evaluated, and compared through an iterative planning process and in consultation with the Rhode Island Coastal Resources Management Council, which is the non-Federal sponsor for the project. The Tentatively Selected Plan (TSP) for the project consists of elevating the first floors of 323 single family residences. The elevation design height was determined separately for each structure based on the probability of flooding and sea level change. Methods for elevating individual structures will vary and may consist of addition of fill material, extending foundation walls, piers, post, piles, and columns.

In addition, 210 non-residential structures will be floodproofed. Floodproofing was considered for non-residential structures and large multi-family structures not in a designated VE Zone and without a basement. VE-zones are areas subject to inundation by the 1-percent annual chance flood event with additional hazards due to storm-induced velocity wave action. Floodproofing measures consist of dry floodproofing or wet floodproofing. Dry floodproofing makes a structure watertight below the level that needs flood protection to prevent floodwaters from entering. An example of a dry floodproofing measure is to apply a waterproof veneer, such as a layer of brick backed by a waterproof membrane, directly to the outside surface of an existing structure. Wet floodproofing allows floodwaters to enter an enclosed area of a structure without damaging the structure or its contents. All construction materials and finishing materials are water resistant and all utilities elevated above the design flood elevation in the areas

of structures proposed for wet floodproofing. Figure 2 shows the locations identified for elevating or floodproofing within the study area.

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Please submit any comments within 30 days of the date of this letter. If you or your staff have any questions or require additional information, please feel free to contact Grace Moses, the environmental team member, at (978) 318-8717 or by email at C.Grace.Moses@usace.army.mil, or Janet Cote, the project manager, at (978) 318-8728 or by email at Janet.Cote@usace.army.mil.

Sincerely,

KENNELLY.JOHN.R.1228532939

Digitally signed by KENNELLY.JOHN.R.1228532939
Date: 2022.02.23 10:27:59 -05'00'

John Kennelly
Chief, Planning Division

Enclosures

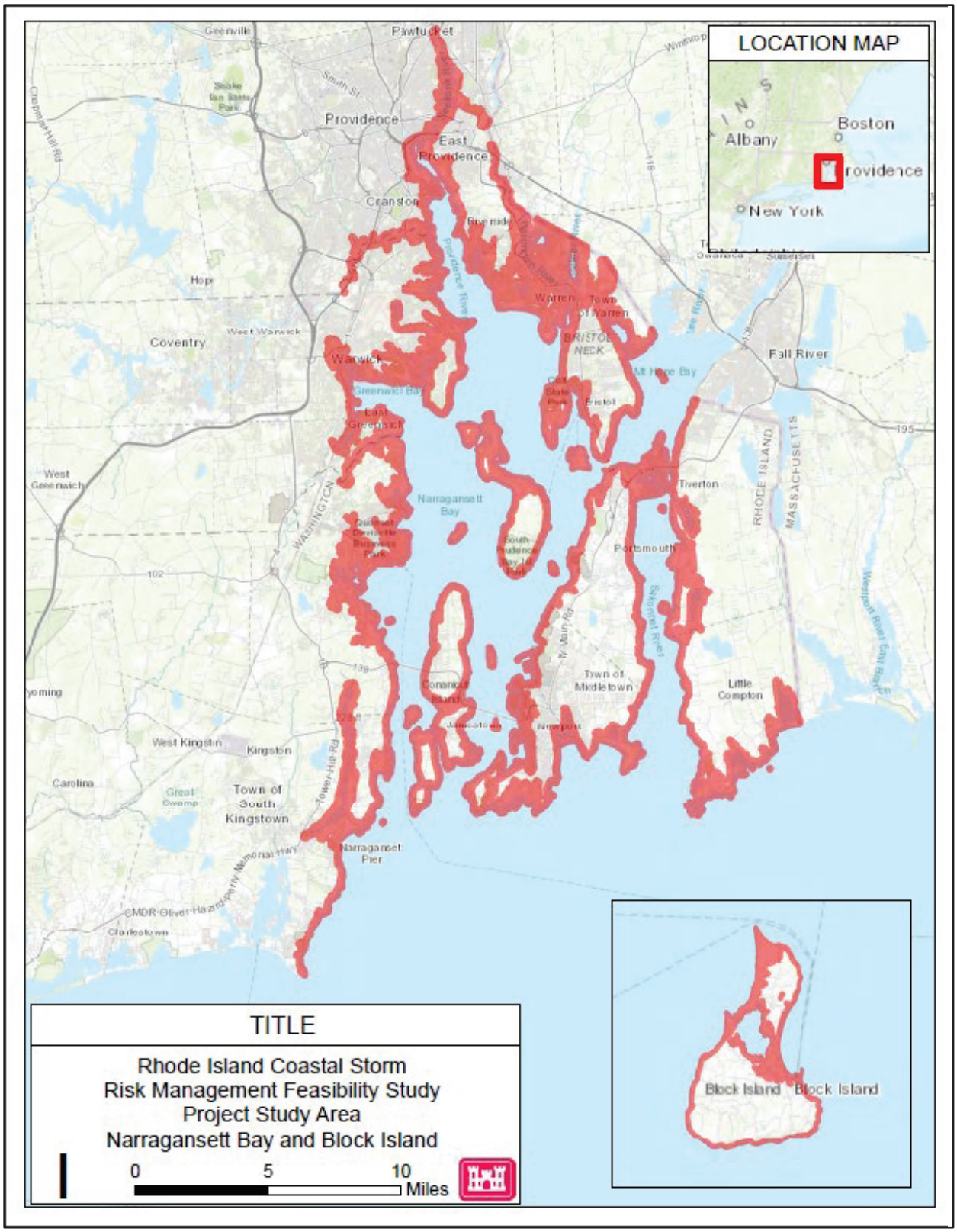

Figure 1 – Rhode Island Coastline CSRM Study Area

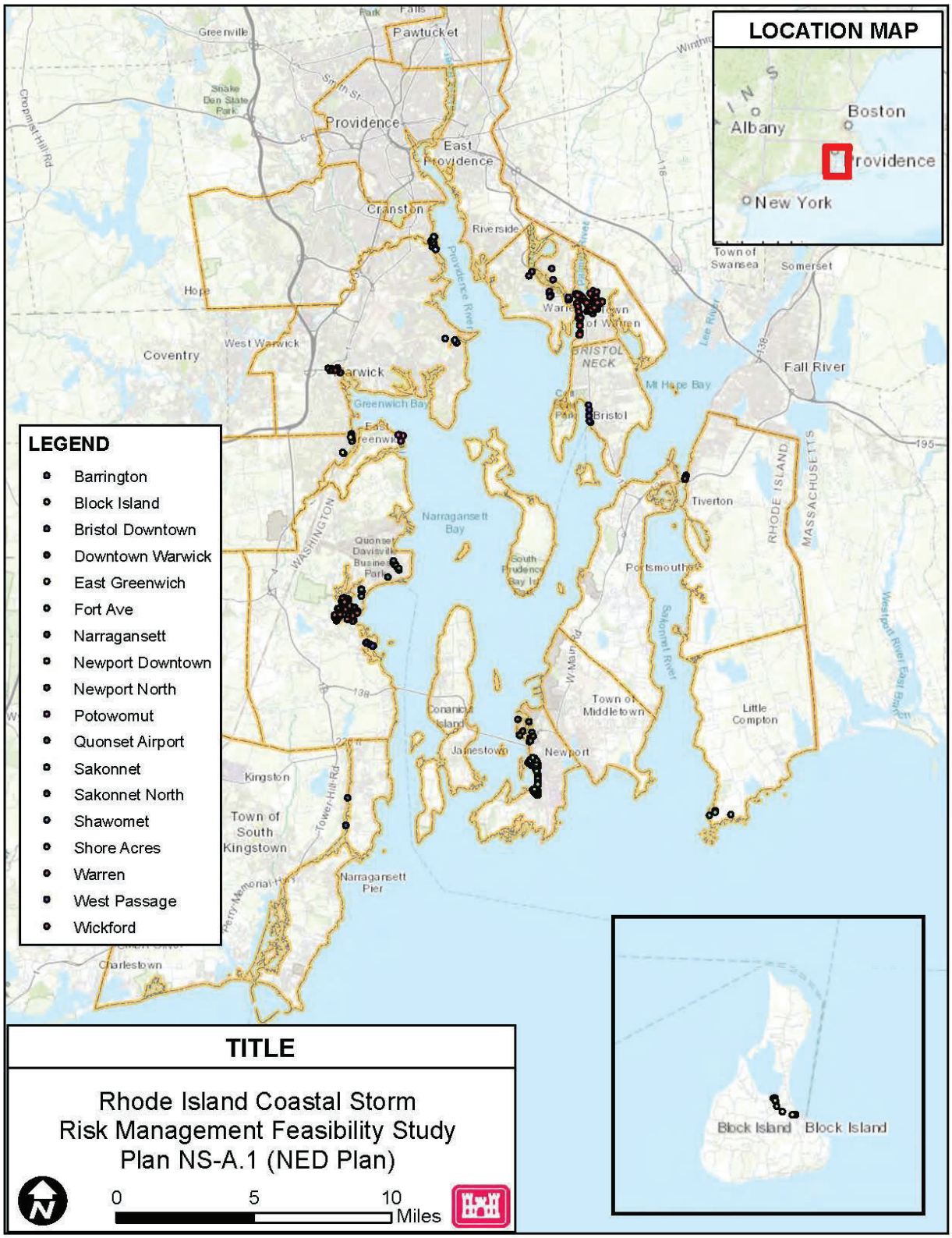

Figure 2 – Locations of the Structures Recommended for Elevation or Floodproofing in the Tentatively Selected Plan

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
NEW ENGLAND DISTRICT
696 VIRGINIA ROAD
CONCORD MA 01742-2751

February 23, 2022

Planning Division

Mr. James Tierney, Town Manager
Town Hall
10 Court Street
Bristol, RI 02809

Dear Mr. Tierney:

I am writing to request your comments on the Rhode Island Coastline Coastal Storm Risk Management (CSRM) project. The CSRM study area includes more than 457 miles of coastline within all or part of 19 municipalities in the State of Rhode Island (Figure 1). The project Draft Integrated Feasibility Report and the Environmental Assessment (IFR/EA) is available at the link below. The Draft IFR/EA and its appendices include maps of the proposed project area, a project description, and resource characterizations of the project area.

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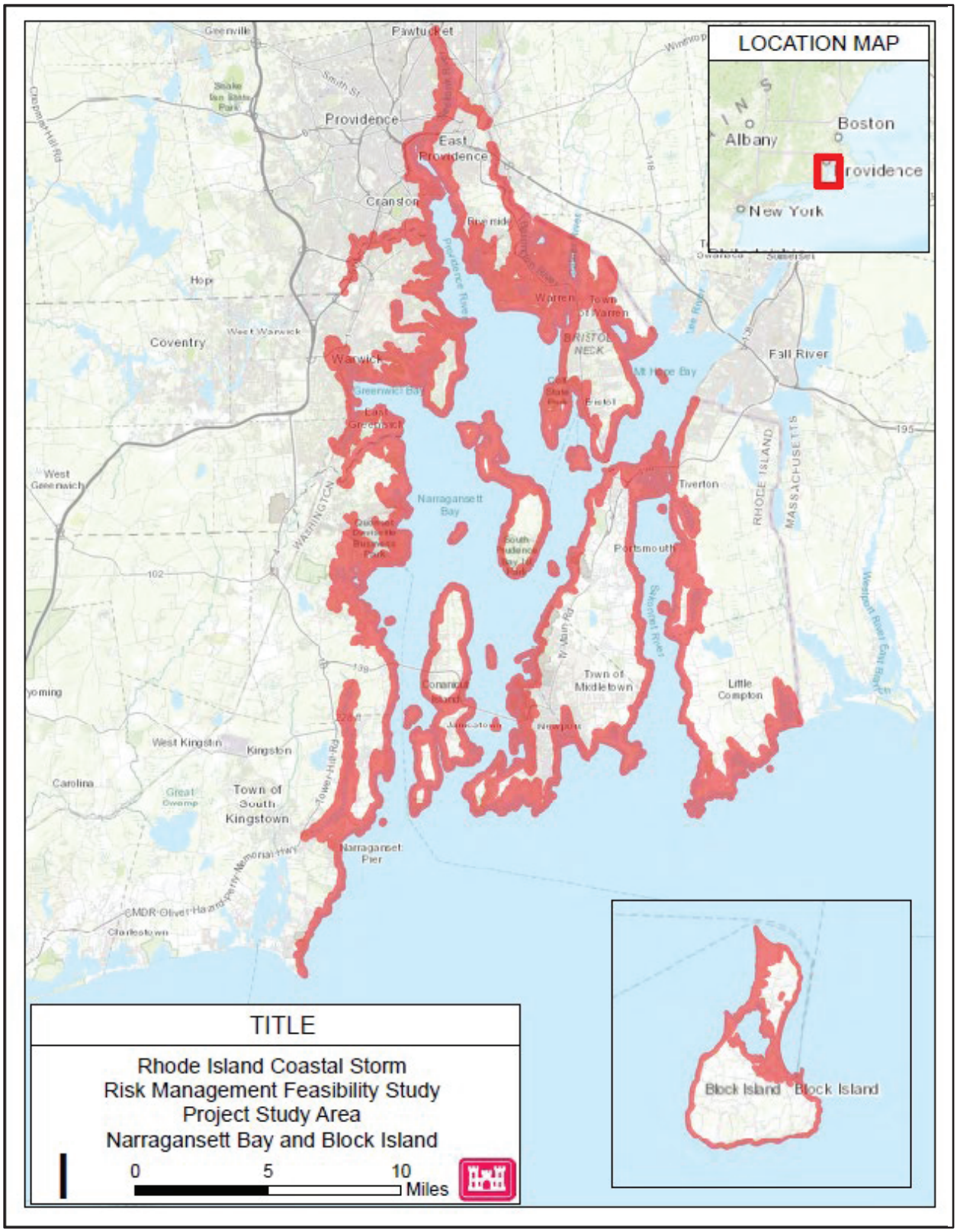
Sincerely,

KENNELLY.JOHN.R.1228532939 Digitally signed by KENNELLY.JOHN.R.1228532939 Date: 2022.02.23 09:49:24 -05'00'

John Kennelly
Chief, Planning Division

Enclosures



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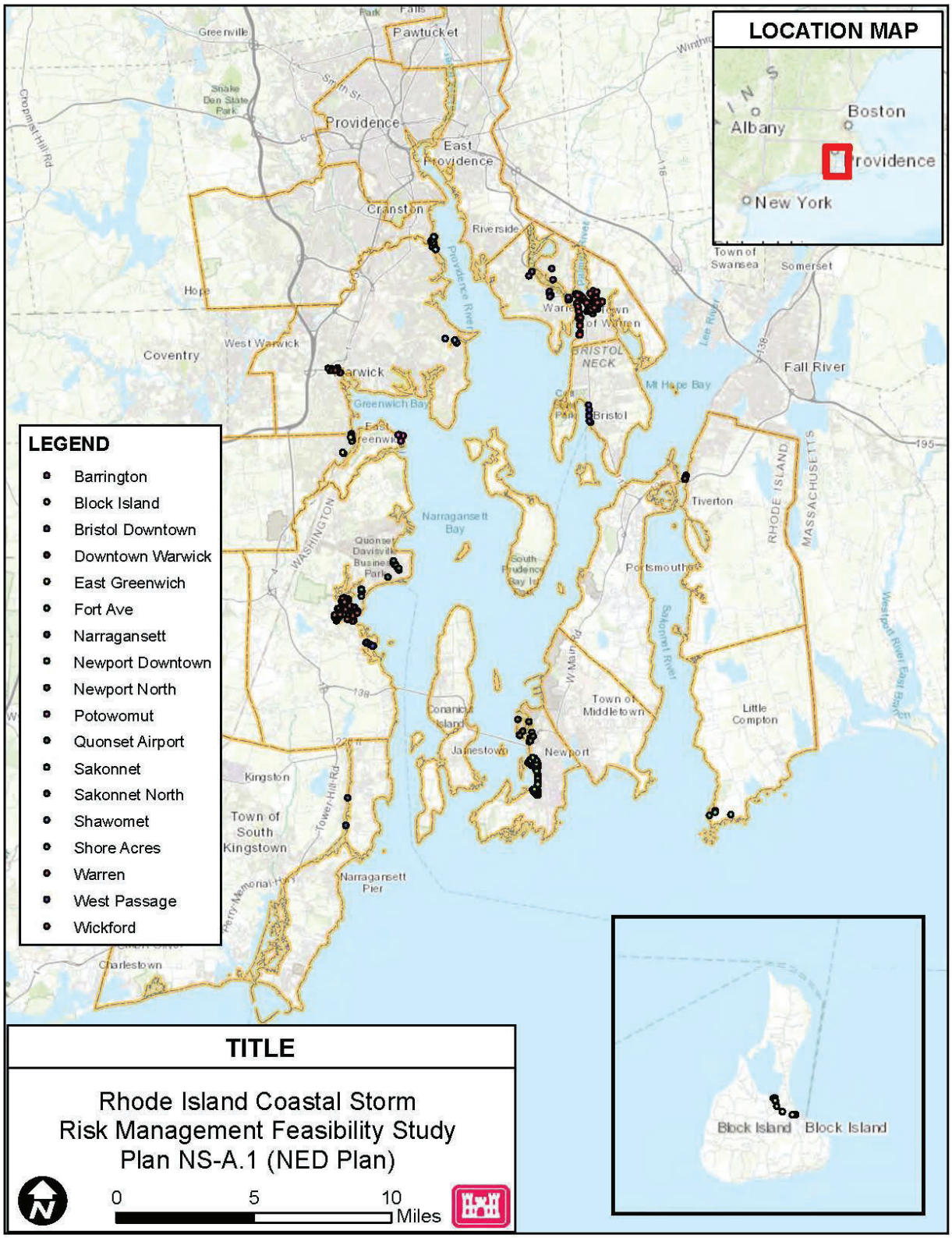

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
NEW ENGLAND DISTRICT
696 VIRGINIA ROAD
CONCORD MA 01742-2751

February 23, 2022

Planning Division

Mr. Kenneth Hopkins**,** Mayor
City Hall
869 Park Avenue
Cranston, Rhode Island 02910

Dear Mr. Hopkins:

I am writing to request your comments on the Rhode Island Coastline Coastal Storm Risk Management (CSRM) project. The CSRM study area includes more than 457 miles of coastline within all or part of 19 municipalities in the State of Rhode Island (Figure 1). The project Draft Integrated Feasibility Report and the Environmental Assessment (IFR/EA) is available at the link below. The Draft IFR/EA and its appendices include maps of the proposed project area, a project description, and resource characterizations of the project area.

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Sincerely,

KENNELLY.JOHN.R.1228532939

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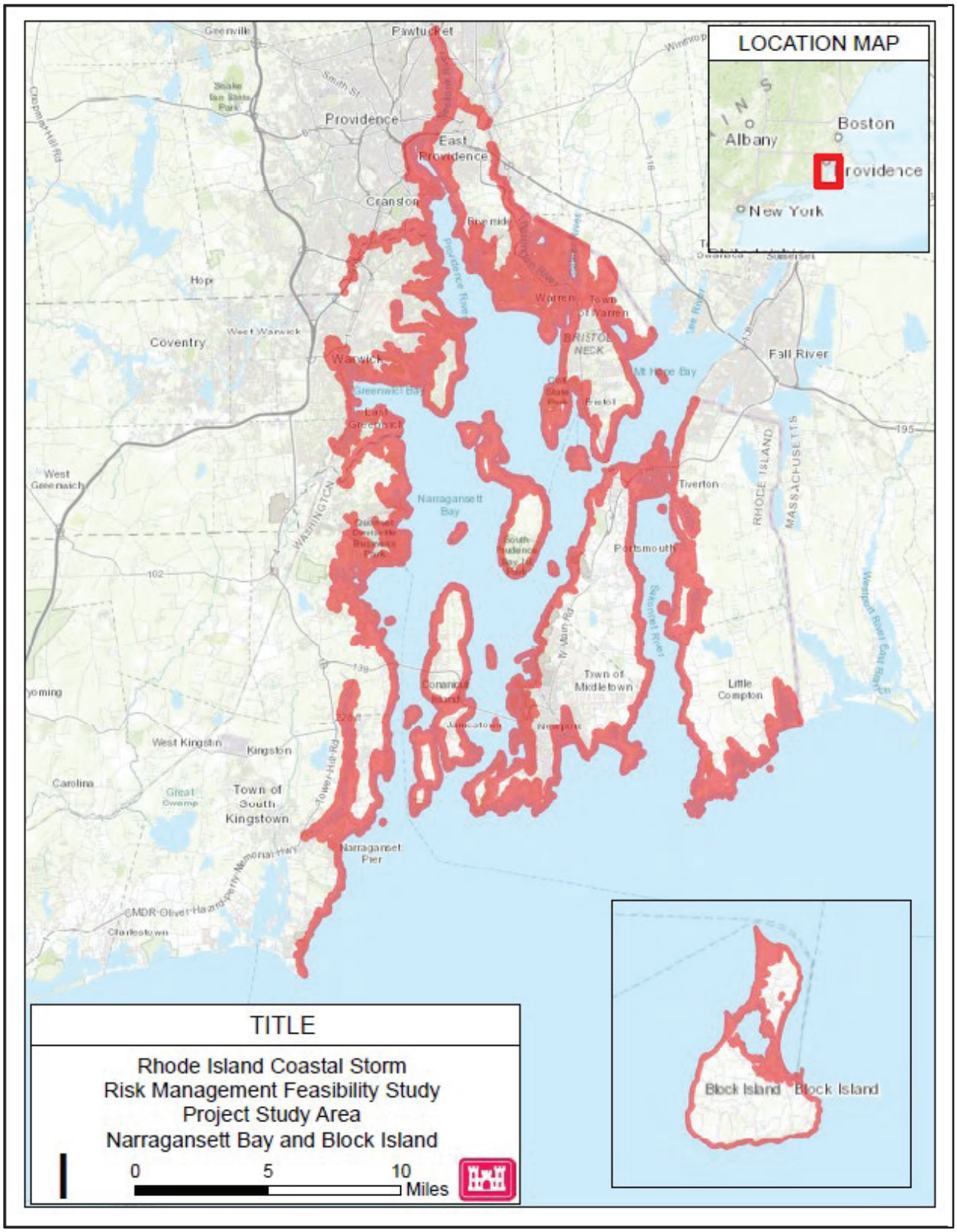
Date: 2022.02.23 09:51:55 -05'00'

John Kennelly
Chief, Planning Division

Enclosures



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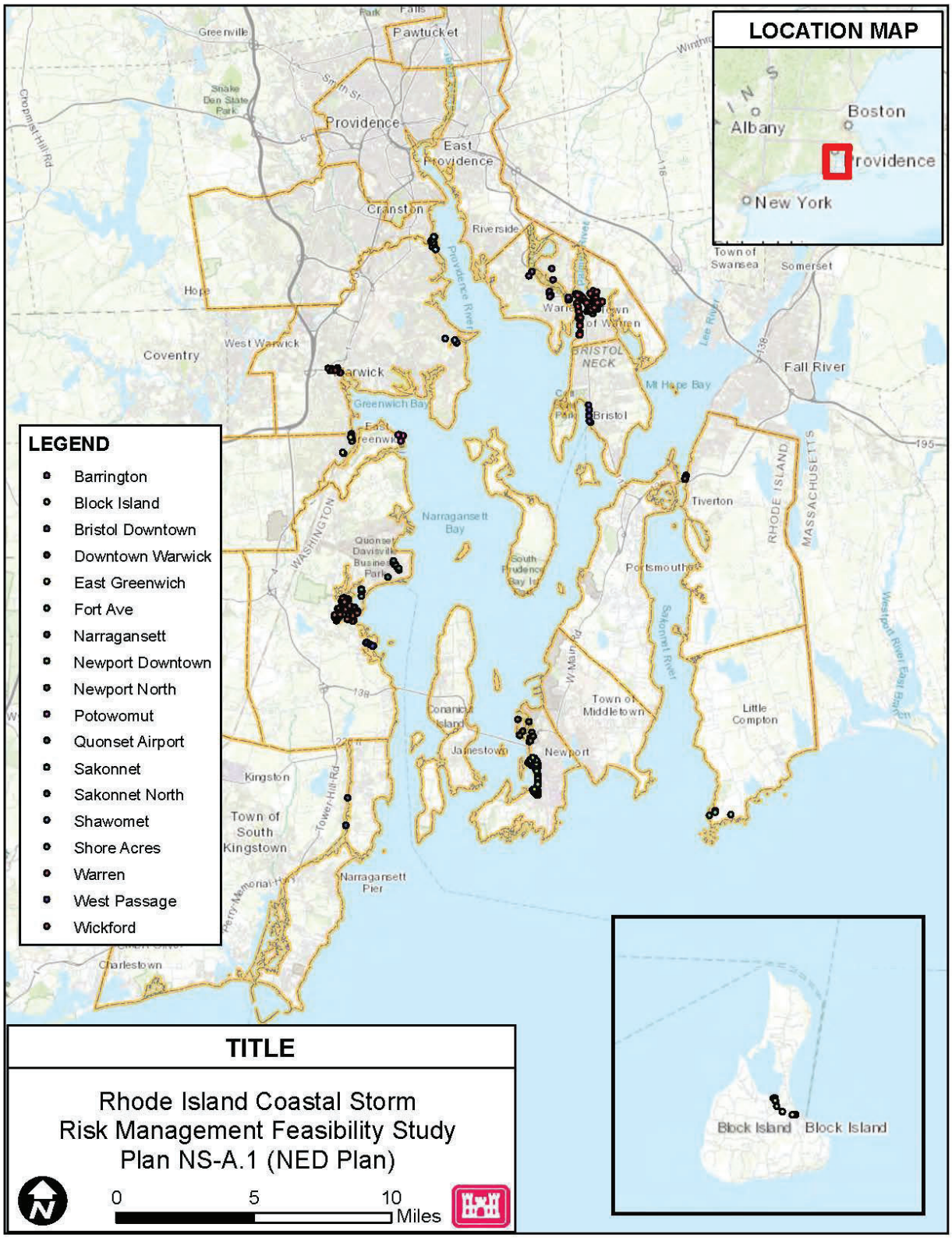

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
NEW ENGLAND DISTRICT
696 VIRGINIA ROAD
CONCORD MA 01742-2751

February 23, 2022

Planning Division

Mr. Andrew Nota, Town Manager
Town Hall
125 Main Street
East Greenwich, RI 02818

Dear Mr. Nota:

I am writing to request your comments on the Rhode Island Coastline Coastal Storm Risk Management (CSRM) project. The CSRM study area includes more than 457 miles of coastline within all or part of 19 municipalities in the State of Rhode Island (Figure 1). The project Draft Integrated Feasibility Report and the Environmental Assessment (IFR/EA) is available at the link below. The Draft IFR/EA and its appendices include maps of the proposed project area, a project description, and resource characterizations of the project area.

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Sincerely,

KENNELLY.JOHN.R.1228532939
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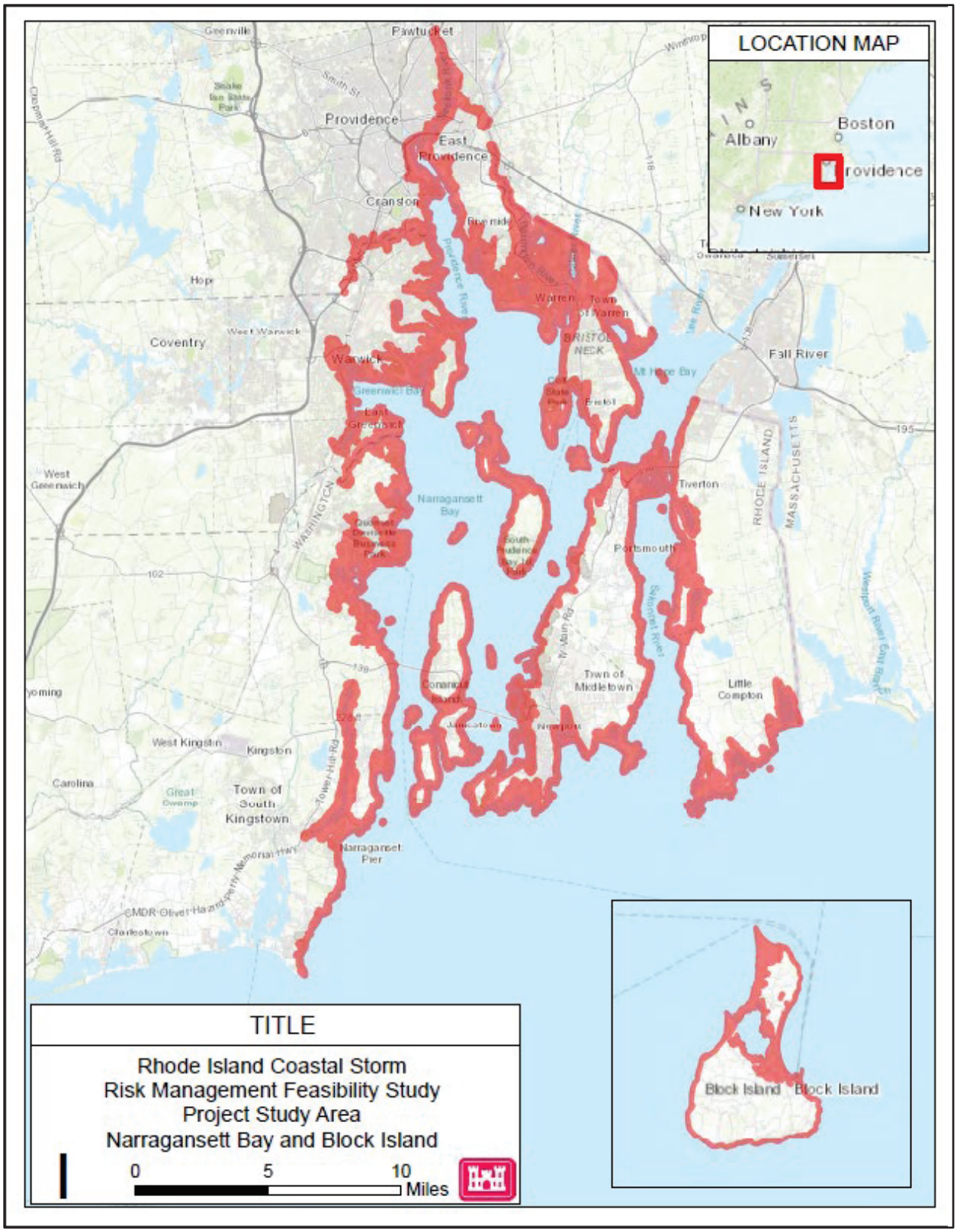
Date: 2022.02.23 09:54:13 -05'00'

John Kennelly
Chief, Planning Division

Enclosures



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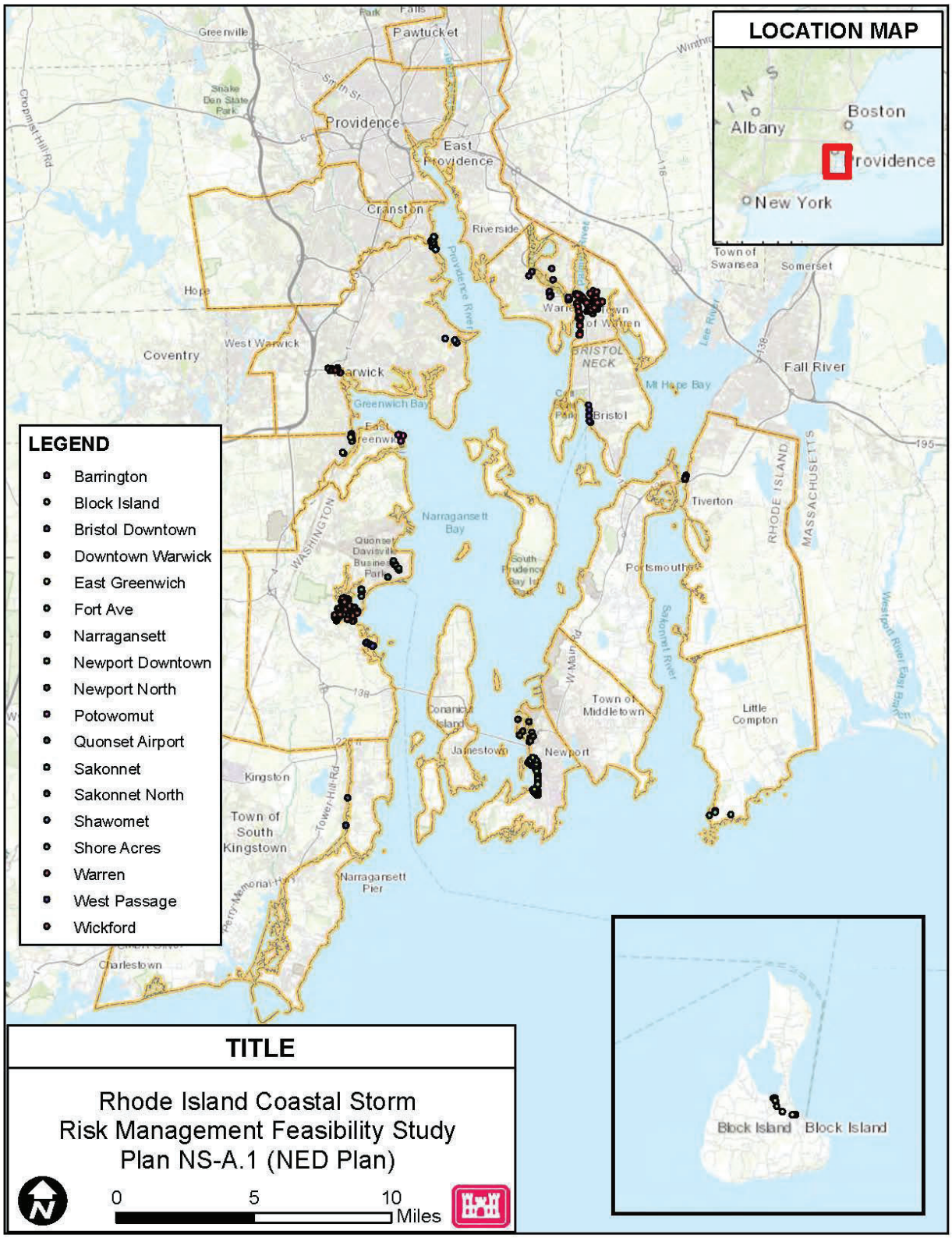

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
NEW ENGLAND DISTRICT
696 VIRGINIA ROAD
CONCORD MA 01742-2751

February 23, 2022

Planning Division

Mr. Roberto DaSilva, Mayor
City Hall
145 Taunton Ave.
East Providence, RI 02914

Dear Mr. DaSilva:

I am writing to request your comments on the Rhode Island Coastline Coastal Storm Risk Management (CSRM) project. The CSRM study area includes more than 457 miles of coastline within all or part of 19 municipalities in the State of Rhode Island (Figure 1). The project Draft Integrated Feasibility Report and the Environmental Assessment (IFR/EA) is available at the link below. The Draft IFR/EA and its appendices include maps of the proposed project area, a project description, and resource characterizations of the project area.

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Sincerely,

KENNELLY.JOHN.R.1228532939
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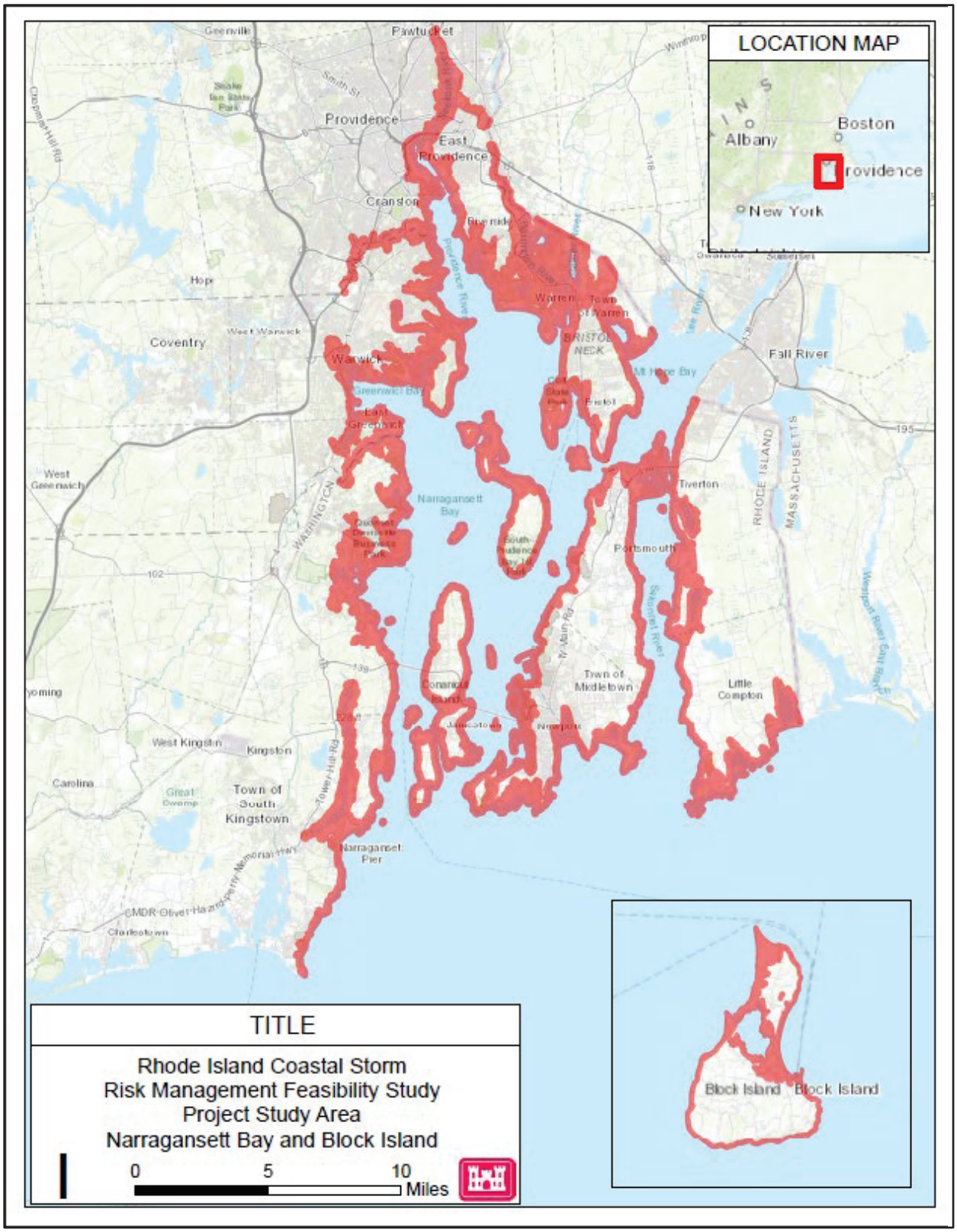
Date: 2022.02.23 09:55:22 -05'00'

John Kennelly
Chief, Planning Division

Enclosures



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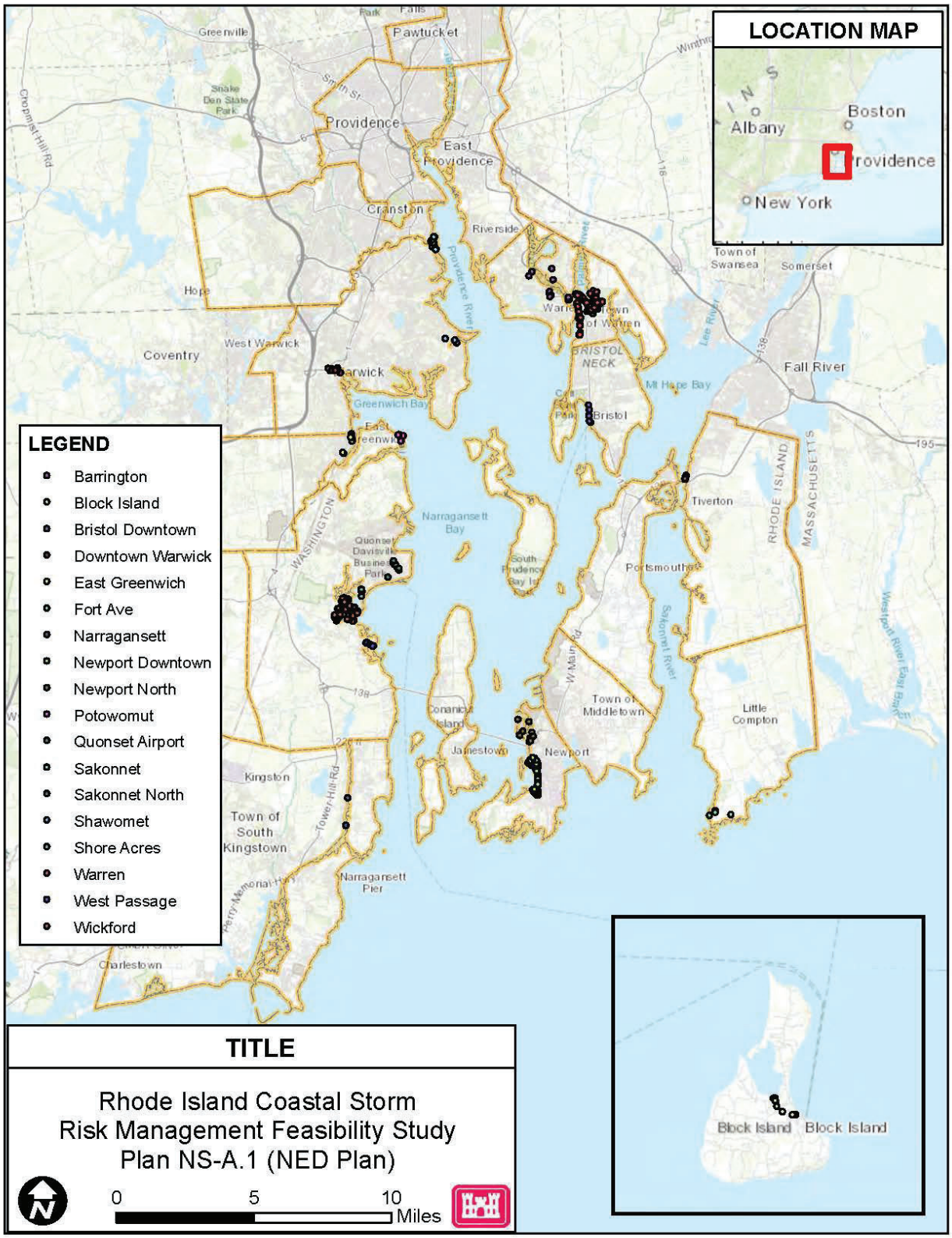

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
NEW ENGLAND DISTRICT
696 VIRGINIA ROAD
CONCORD MA 01742-2751

February 23, 2022

Planning Division

Mr. Jamie Hainsworth, Town Administrator
Town Hall
93 Narragansett Ave
Jamestown, RI 02835

Dear Mr. Hainsworth:

I am writing to request your comments on the Rhode Island Coastline Coastal Storm Risk Management (CSRM) project. The CSRM study area includes more than 457 miles of coastline within all or part of 19 municipalities in the State of Rhode Island (Figure 1). The project Draft Integrated Feasibility Report and the Environmental Assessment (IFR/EA) is available at the link below. The Draft IFR/EA and its appendices include maps of the proposed project area, a project description, and resource characterizations of the project area.

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Sincerely,

KENNELLY.JOHN.R.1228532939 Digitally signed by KENNELLY.JOHN.R.1228532939 Date: 2022.02.23 09:57:09 -05'00'

John Kennelly
Chief, Planning Division

Enclosures

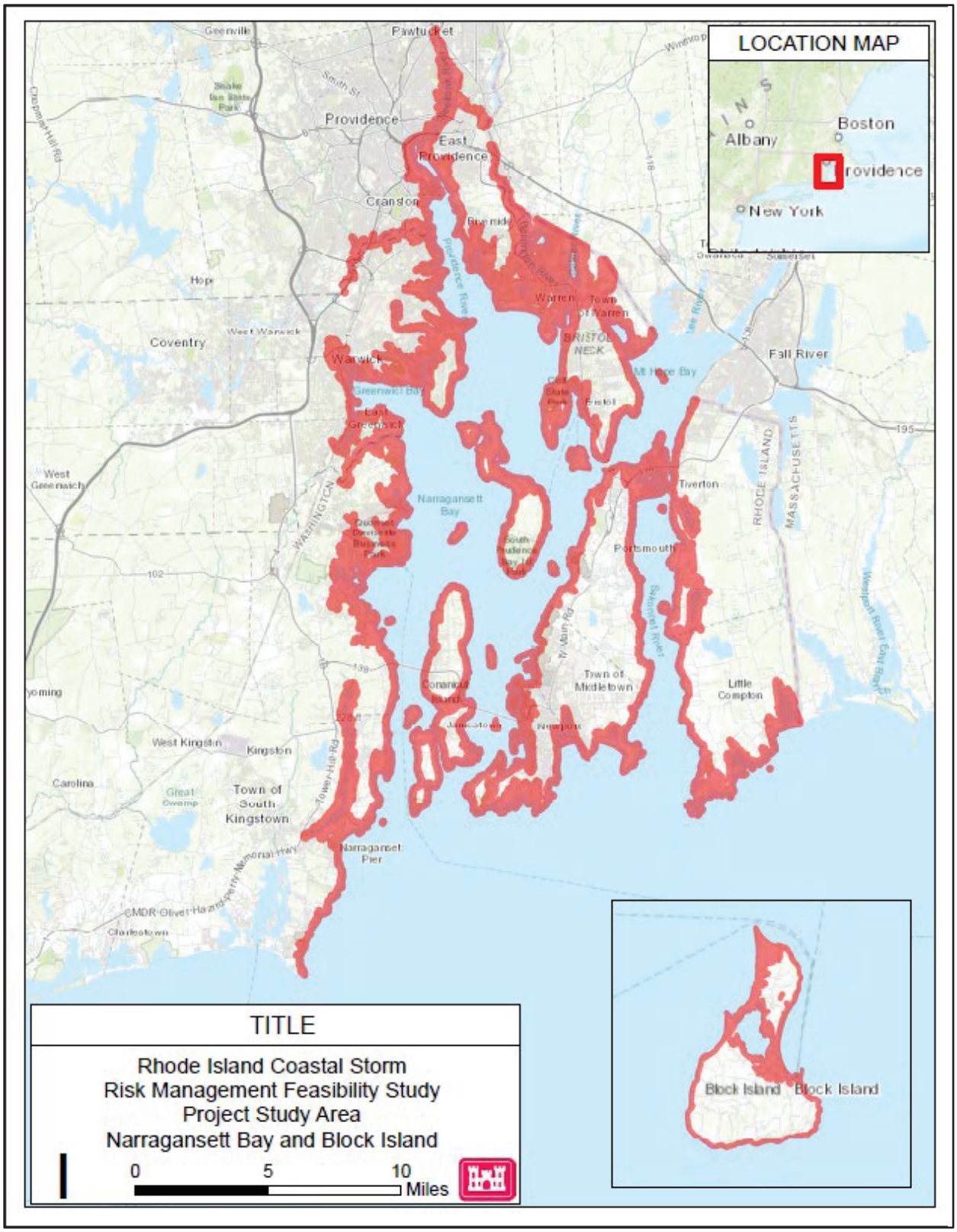

Figure 1 – Rhode Island Coastline CSRM Study Area

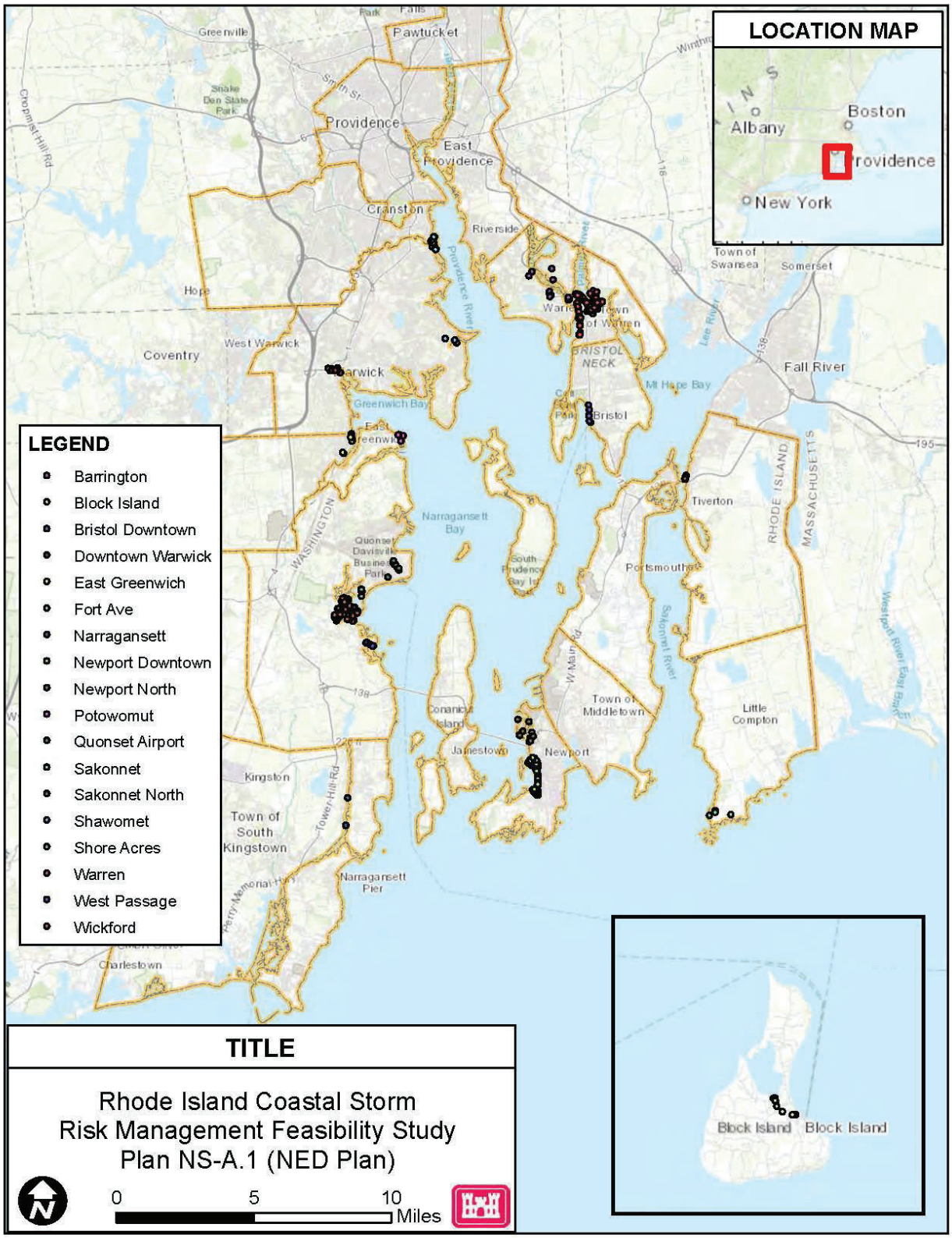

Figure 2 – Locations of the Structures Recommended for Elevation or Floodproofing in the Tentatively Selected Plan

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
NEW ENGLAND DISTRICT
696 VIRGINIA ROAD
CONCORD MA 01742-2751

February 23, 2022

Planning Division

Mr. Antonio Teixeira, Town Administrator
Town Hall
40 Commons; P.O. Box 226
Little Compton, RI 02837

Dear Mr. Teixeira:

I am writing to request your comments on the Rhode Island Coastline Coastal Storm Risk Management (CSRM) project. The CSRM study area includes more than 457 miles of coastline within all or part of 19 municipalities in the State of Rhode Island (Figure 1). The project Draft Integrated Feasibility Report and the Environmental Assessment (IFR/EA) is available at the link below. The Draft IFR/EA and its appendices include maps of the proposed project area, a project description, and resource characterizations of the project area.

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Sincerely,

KENNELLY.JOHN.R.1228532939

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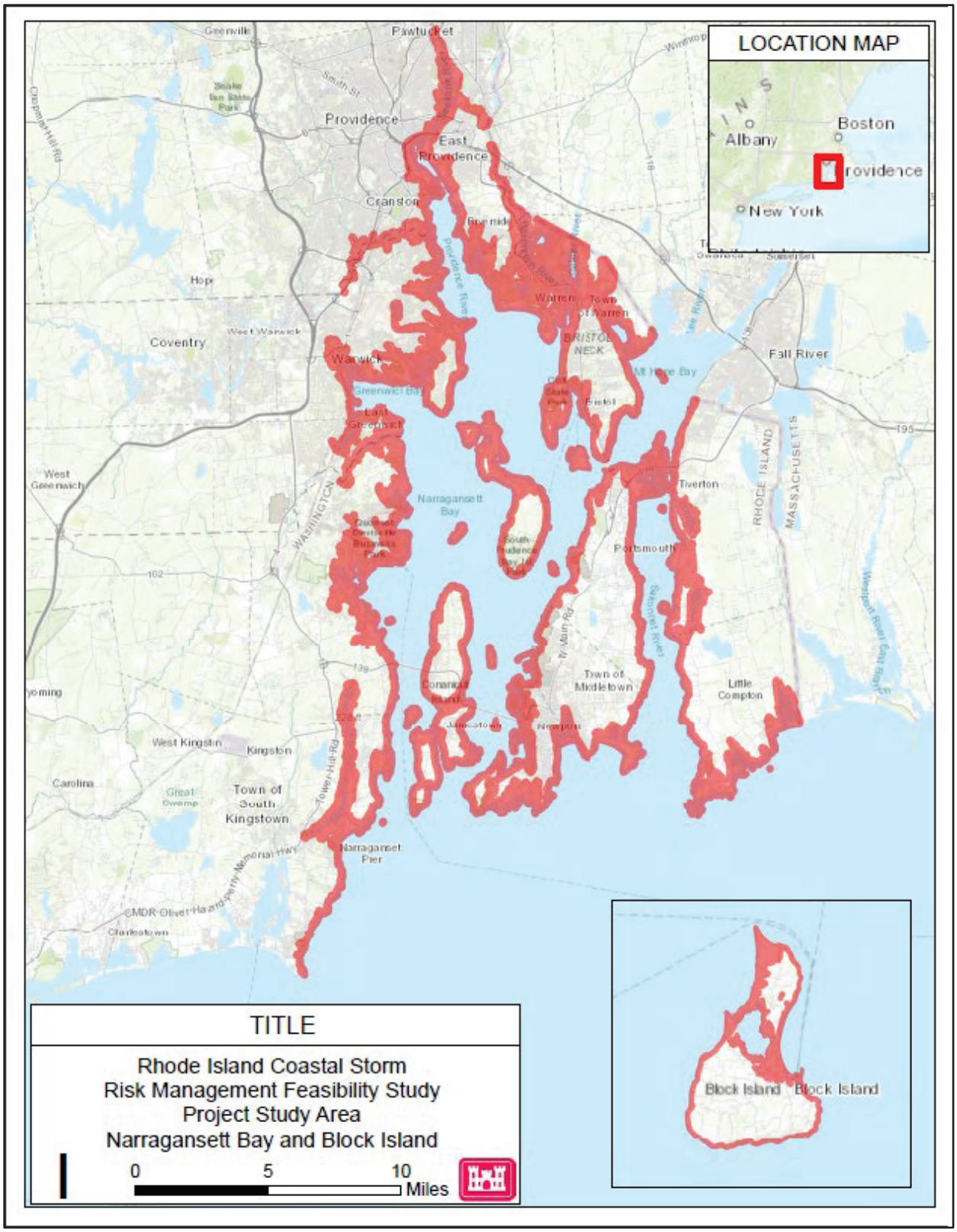
Date: 2022.02.23 09:58:07 -05'00'

John Kennelly
Chief, Planning Division

Enclosures



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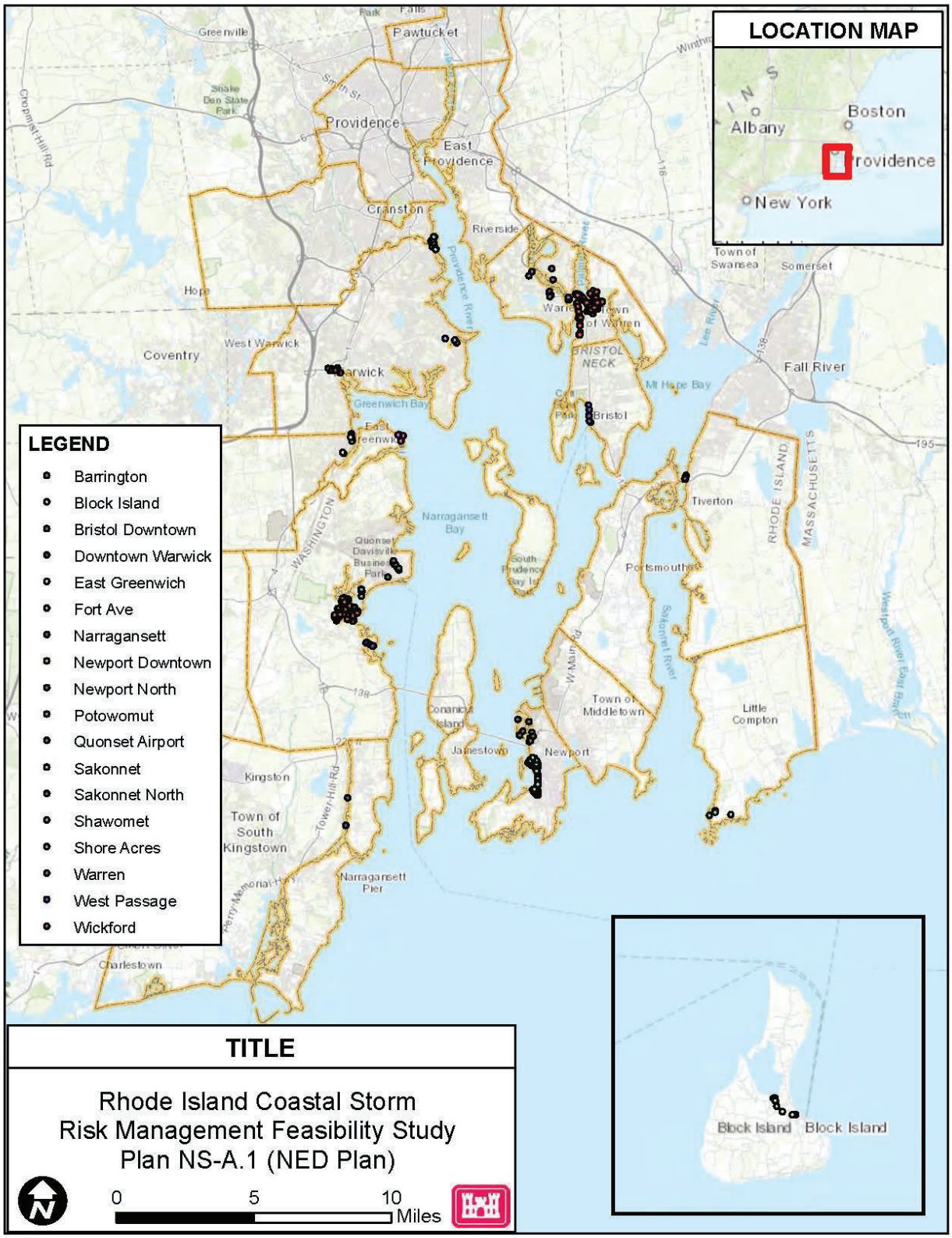

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
NEW ENGLAND DISTRICT
696 VIRGINIA ROAD
CONCORD MA 01742-2751

February 23, 2022

Planning Division

Mr. Shawn Brown, Town Administrator
Town of Middletown
350 East Main Road
Middletown, RI 02842

Dear Mr. Brown:

I am writing to request your comments on the Rhode Island Coastline Coastal Storm Risk Management (CSRM) project. The CSRM study area includes more than 457 miles of coastline within all or part of 19 municipalities in the State of Rhode Island (Figure 1). The project Draft Integrated Feasibility Report and the Environmental Assessment (IFR/EA) is available at the link below. The Draft IFR/EA and its appendices include maps of the proposed project area, a project description, and resource characterizations of the project area.

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KENNELLY.JOHN.R.1228532939

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John Kennelly
Chief, Planning Division

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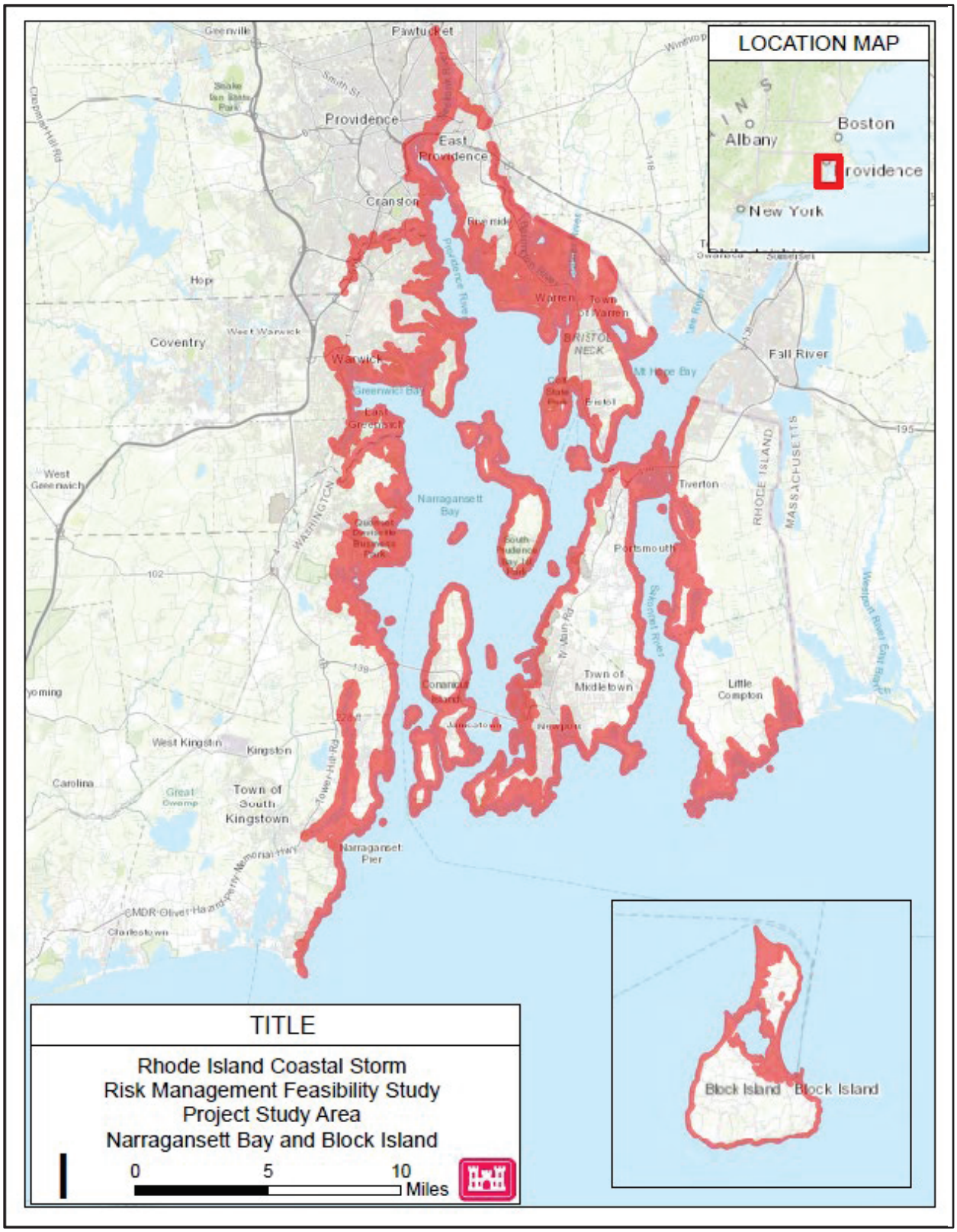

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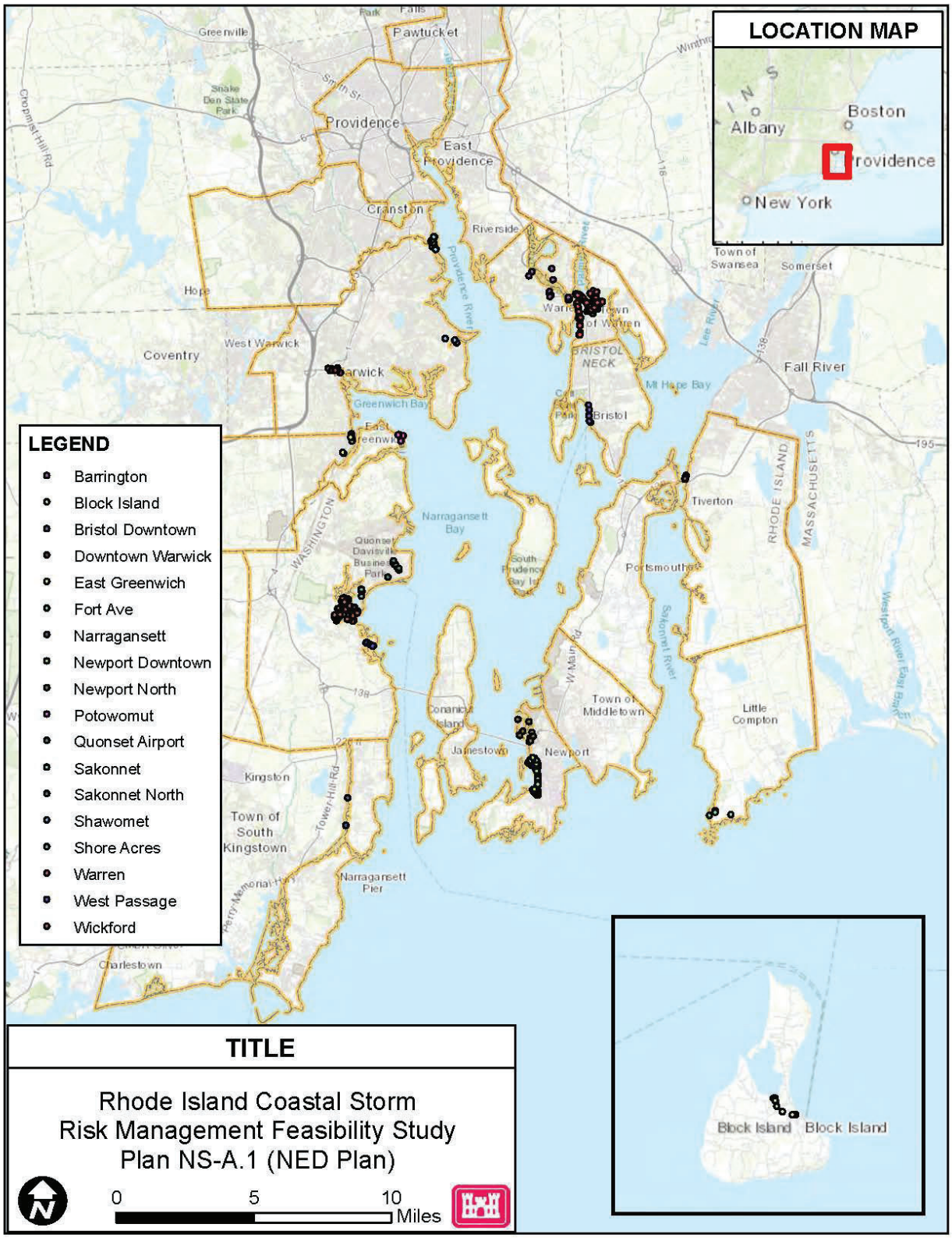

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US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
NEW ENGLAND DISTRICT
696 VIRGINIA ROAD
CONCORD MA 01742-2751

February 23, 2022

Planning Division

Mr. James Tierney, Town Manager
Town Hall
25 Fifth Avenue
Narragansett, RI 02882

Dear Mr. Tierney:

I am writing to request your comments on the Rhode Island Coastline Coastal Storm Risk Management (CSRM) project. The CSRM study area includes more than 457 miles of coastline within all or part of 19 municipalities in the State of Rhode Island (Figure 1). The project Draft Integrated Feasibility Report and the Environmental Assessment (IFR/EA) is available at the link below. The Draft IFR/EA and its appendices include maps of the proposed project area, a project description, and resource characterizations of the project area.

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KENNELLY.JOHN.R.1228532939

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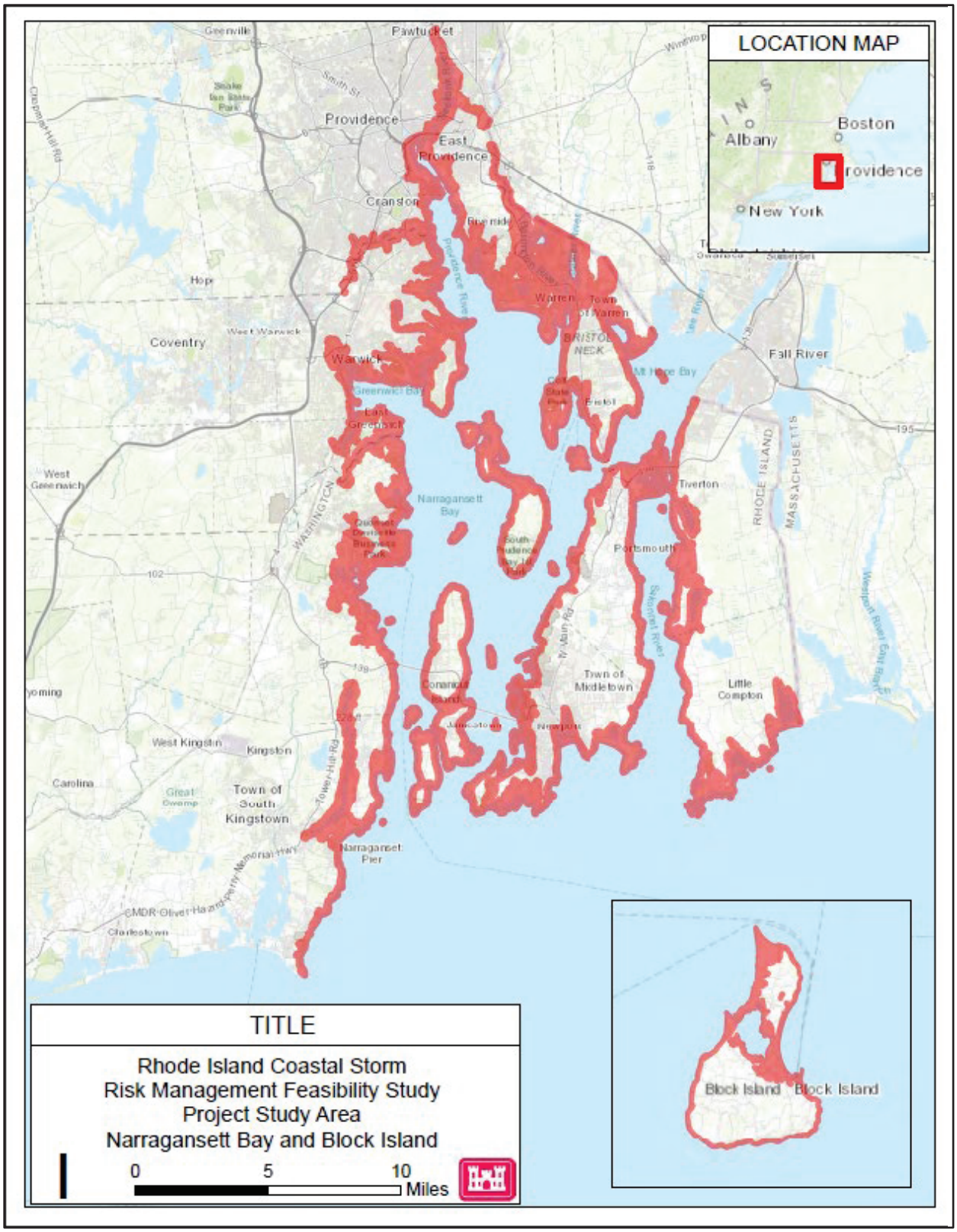
John Kennelly
Chief, Planning Division

Enclosures



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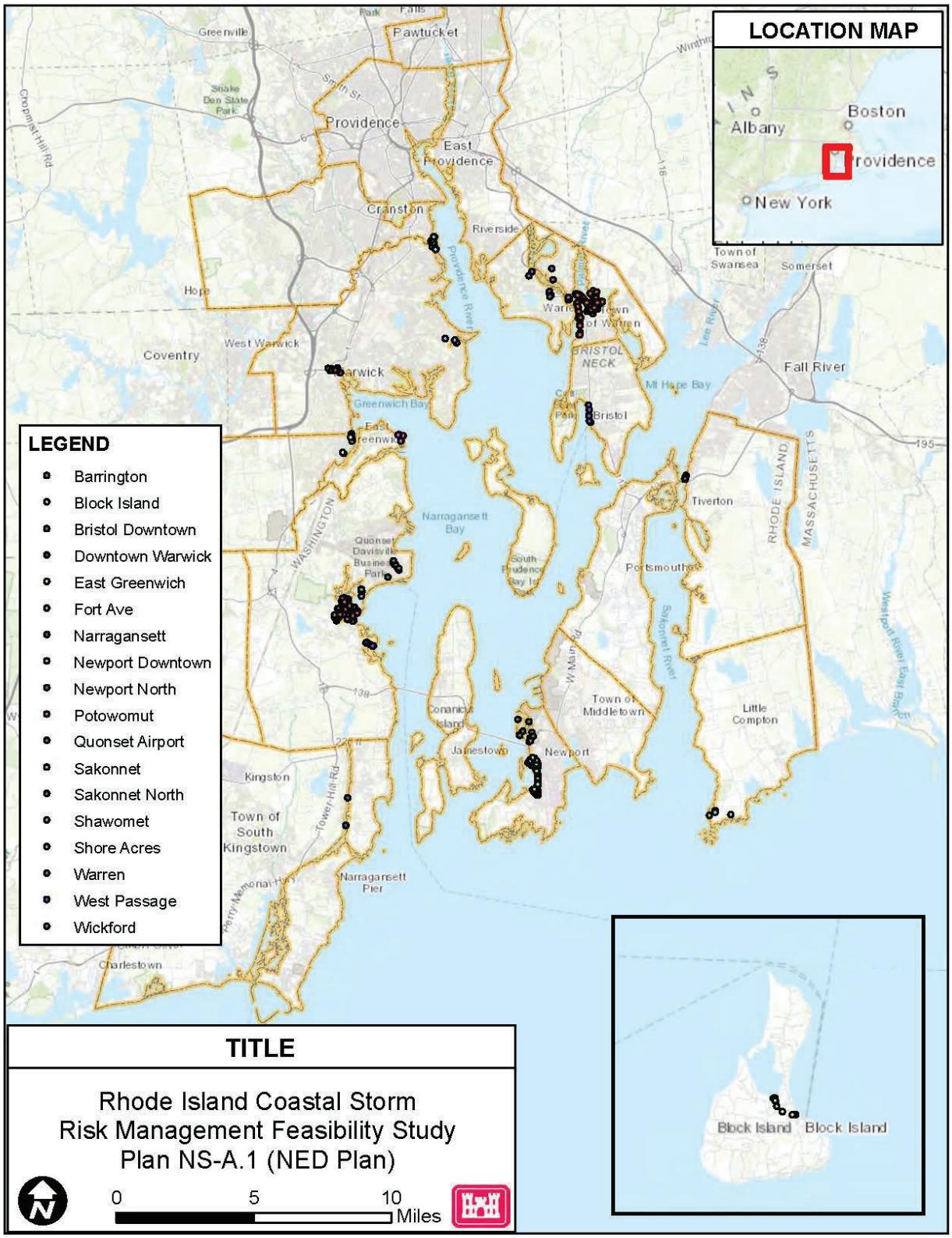

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
NEW ENGLAND DISTRICT
696 VIRGINIA ROAD
CONCORD MA 01742-2751

February 23, 2022

Planning Division

Mr. Vincent J. Mesolella, Chairman
The Narragansett Bay Commission
One Service Road
Providence, RI 02905

Dear Mr. Mesolella:

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Sincerely,

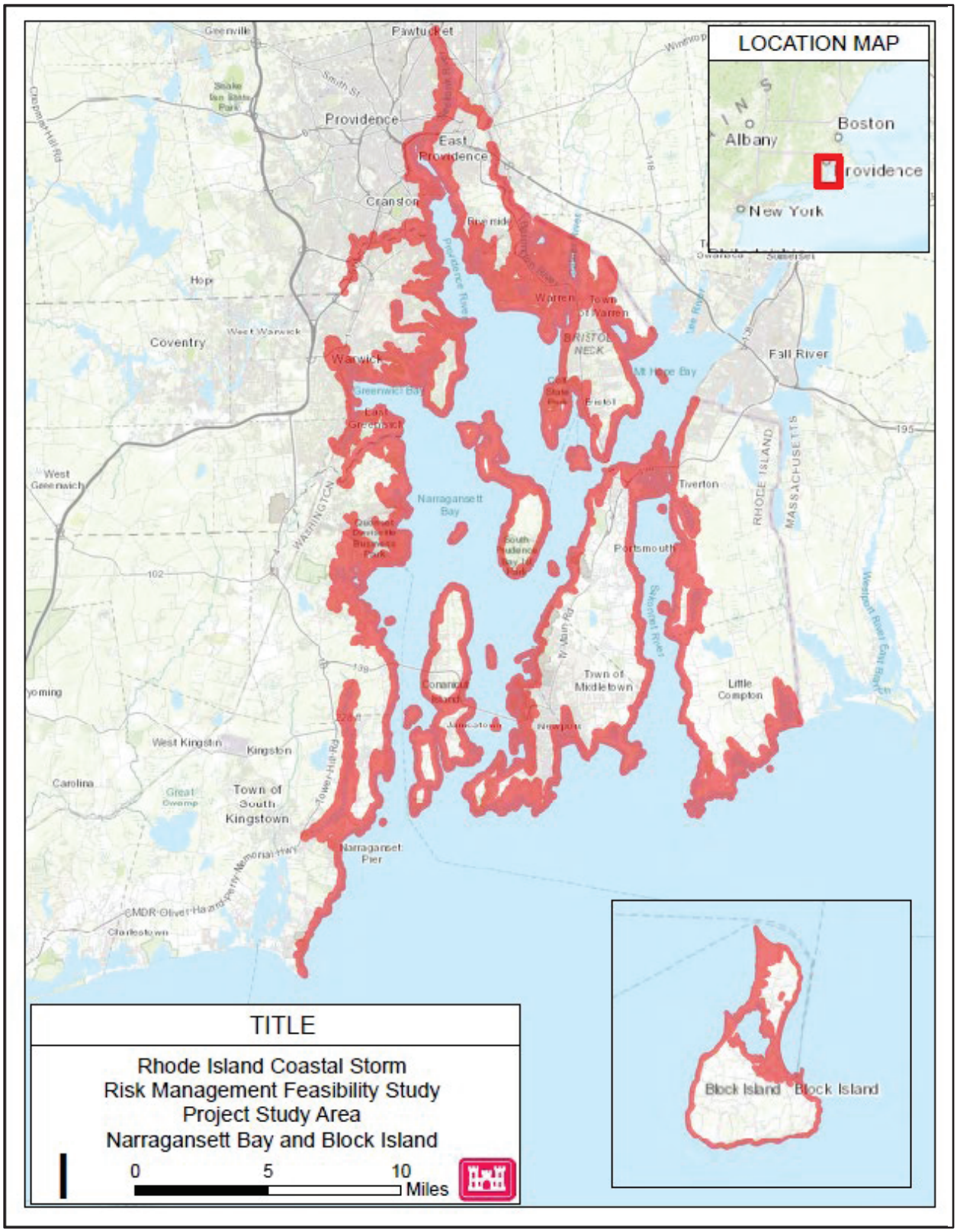
KENNELLY.JOHN.R.1228532939 Digitally signed by KENNELLY.JOHN.R.1228532939 Date: 2022.02.23 10:01:47 -05'00'

John Kennelly
Chief, Planning Division

Enclosures

Copy Furnished (via email):

nbcpr@narrabay.com



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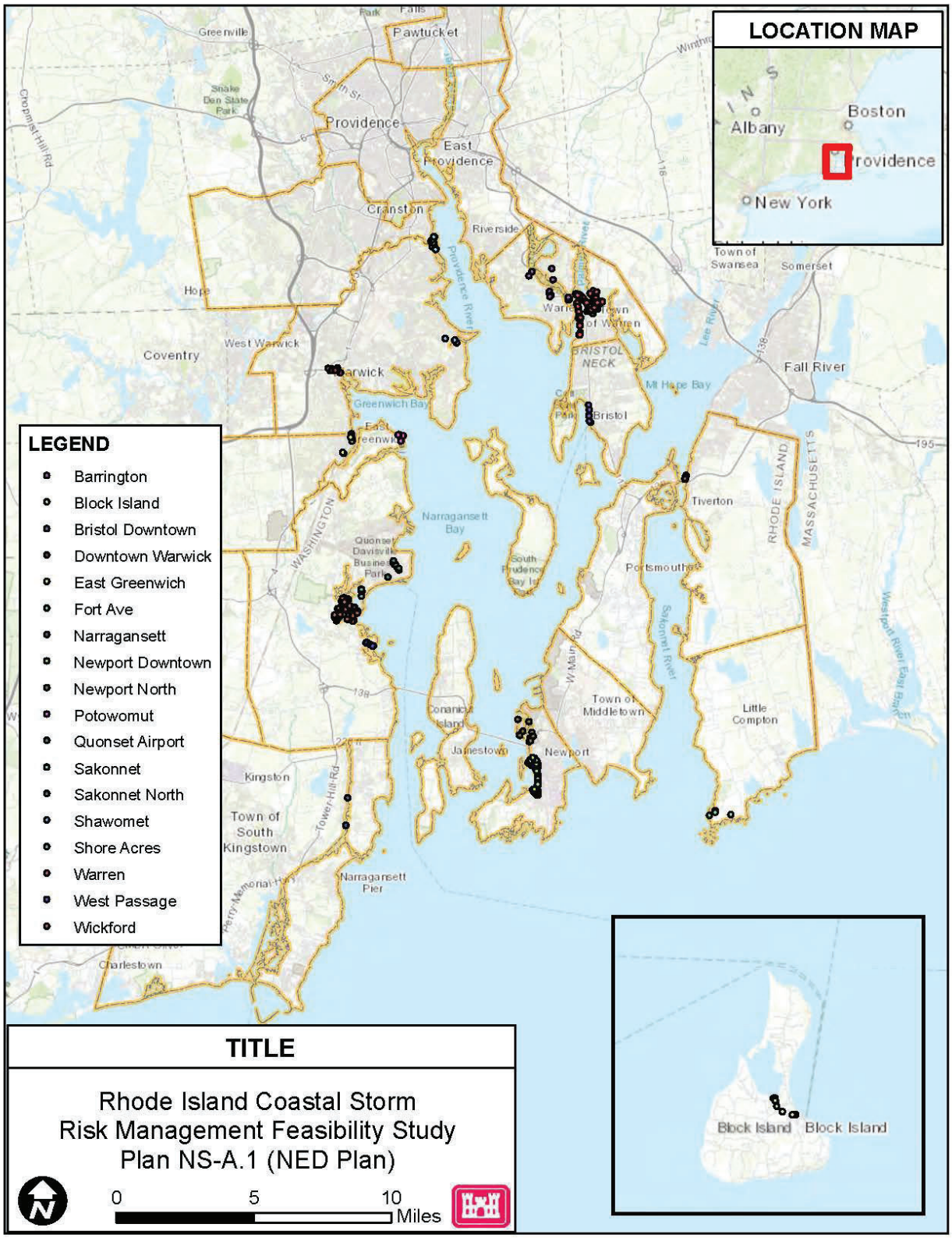

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
NEW ENGLAND DISTRICT
696 VIRGINIA ROAD
CONCORD MA 01742-2751

February 23, 2022

Planning Division

Mr. Joseph Nicholson, Jr., City Manager
Department of the City Manager
43 Broadway
Newport, RI 02840

Dear Mr. Nicholson:

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John Kennelly
Chief, Planning Division

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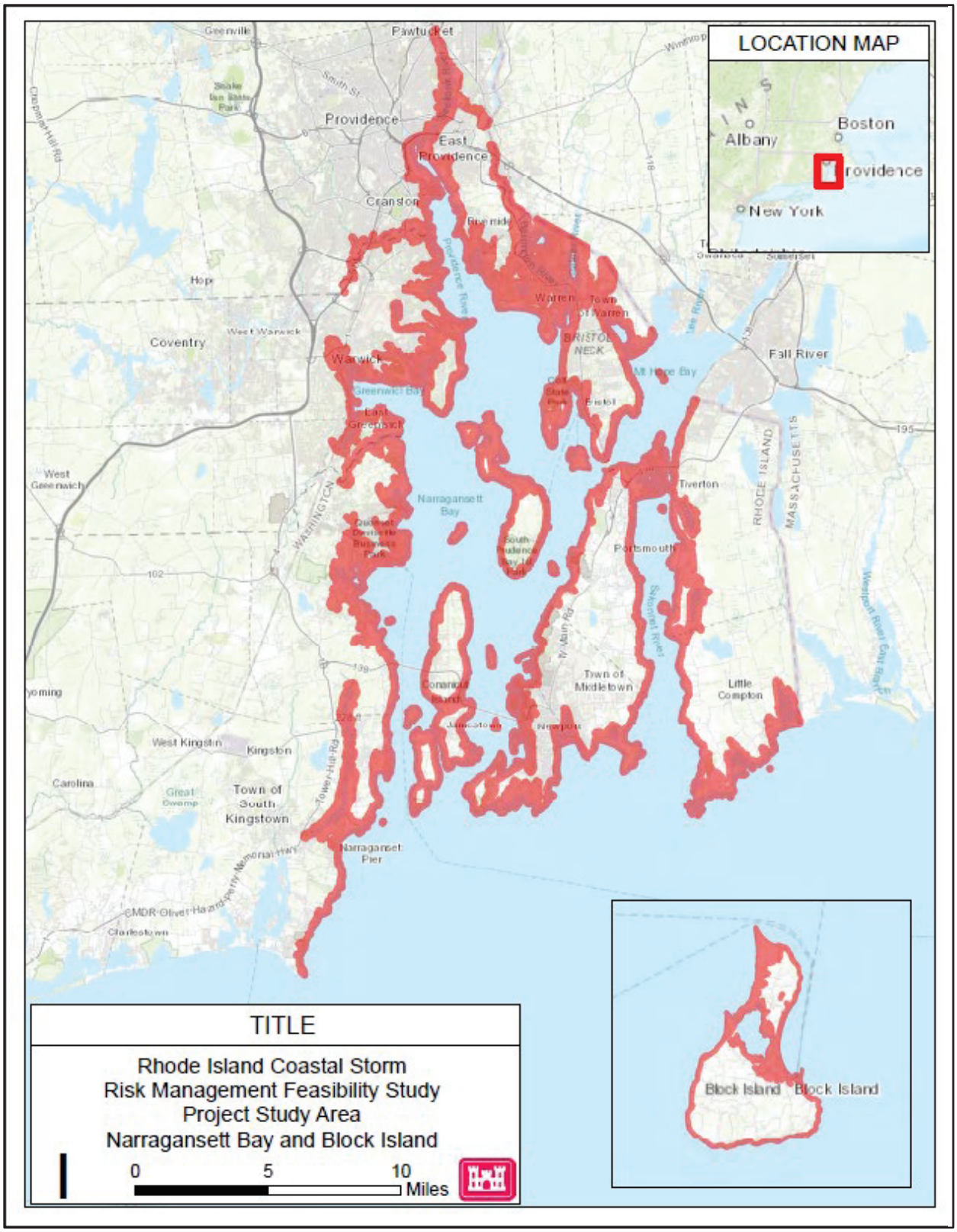

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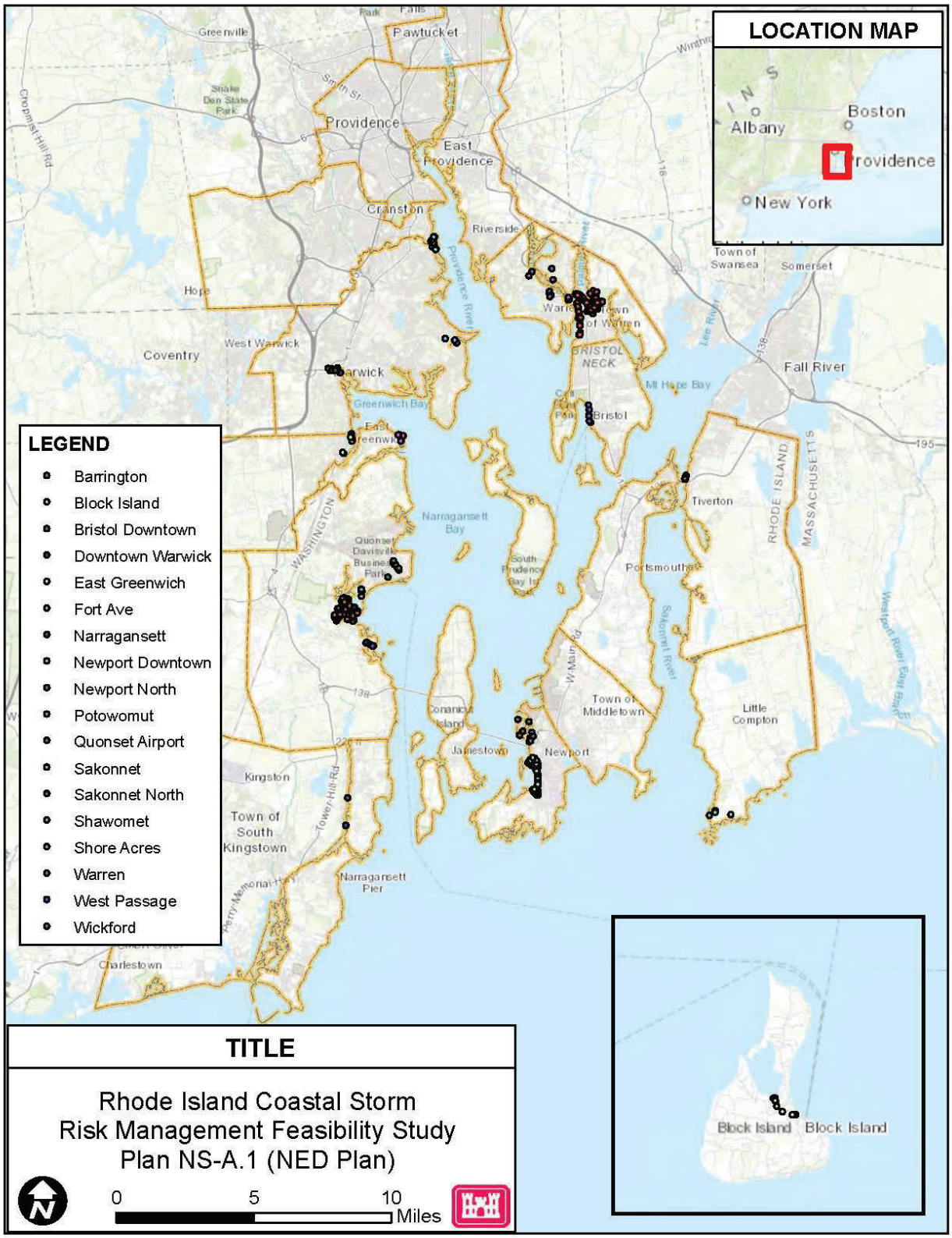

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
NEW ENGLAND DISTRICT
696 VIRGINIA ROAD
CONCORD MA 01742-2751

February 23, 2022

Planning Division

Ms. Maryanne Crawford, Town Manager
Town of New Shoreham
PO Box 220
Block Island, RI 02807

Dear Ms. Crawford:

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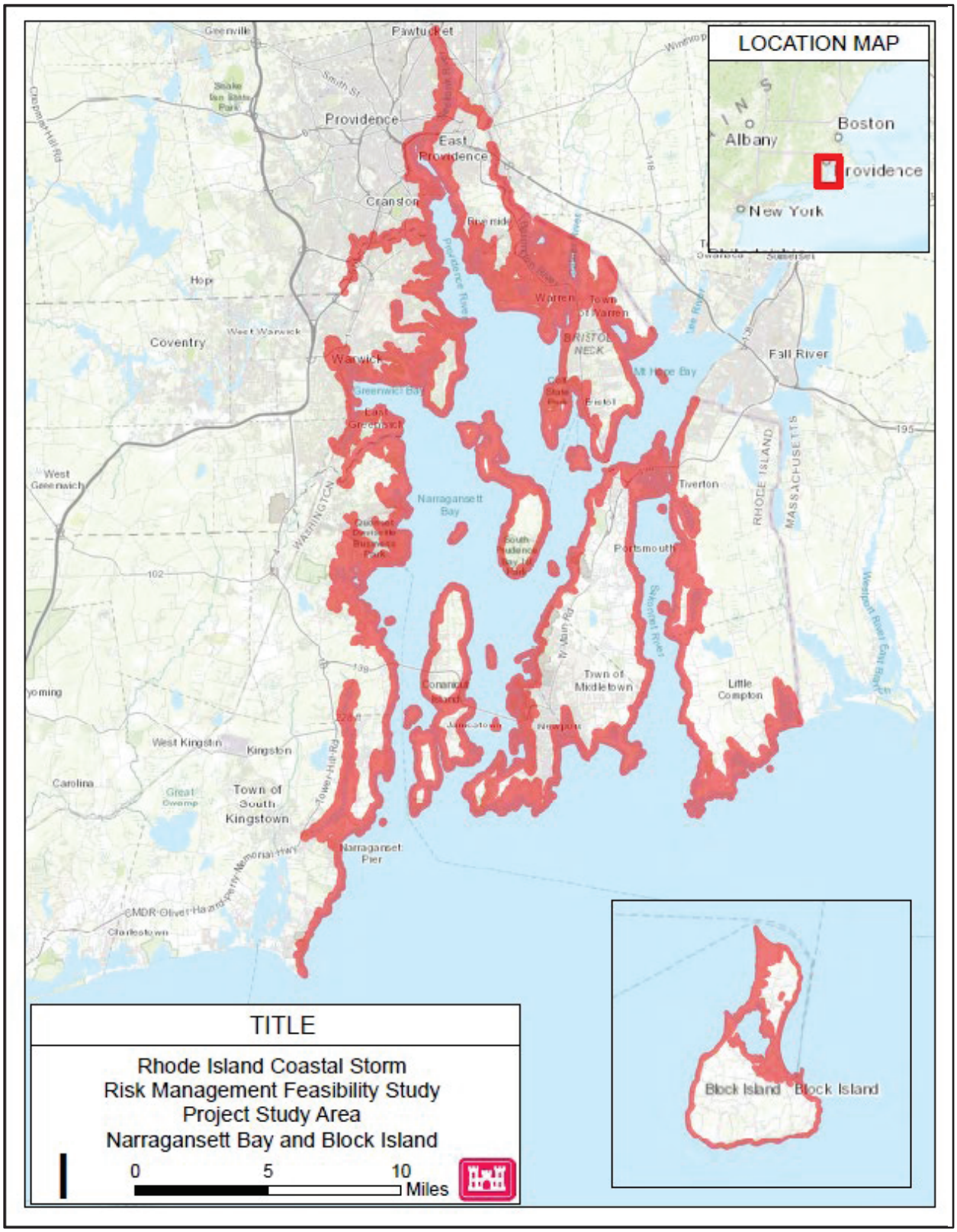

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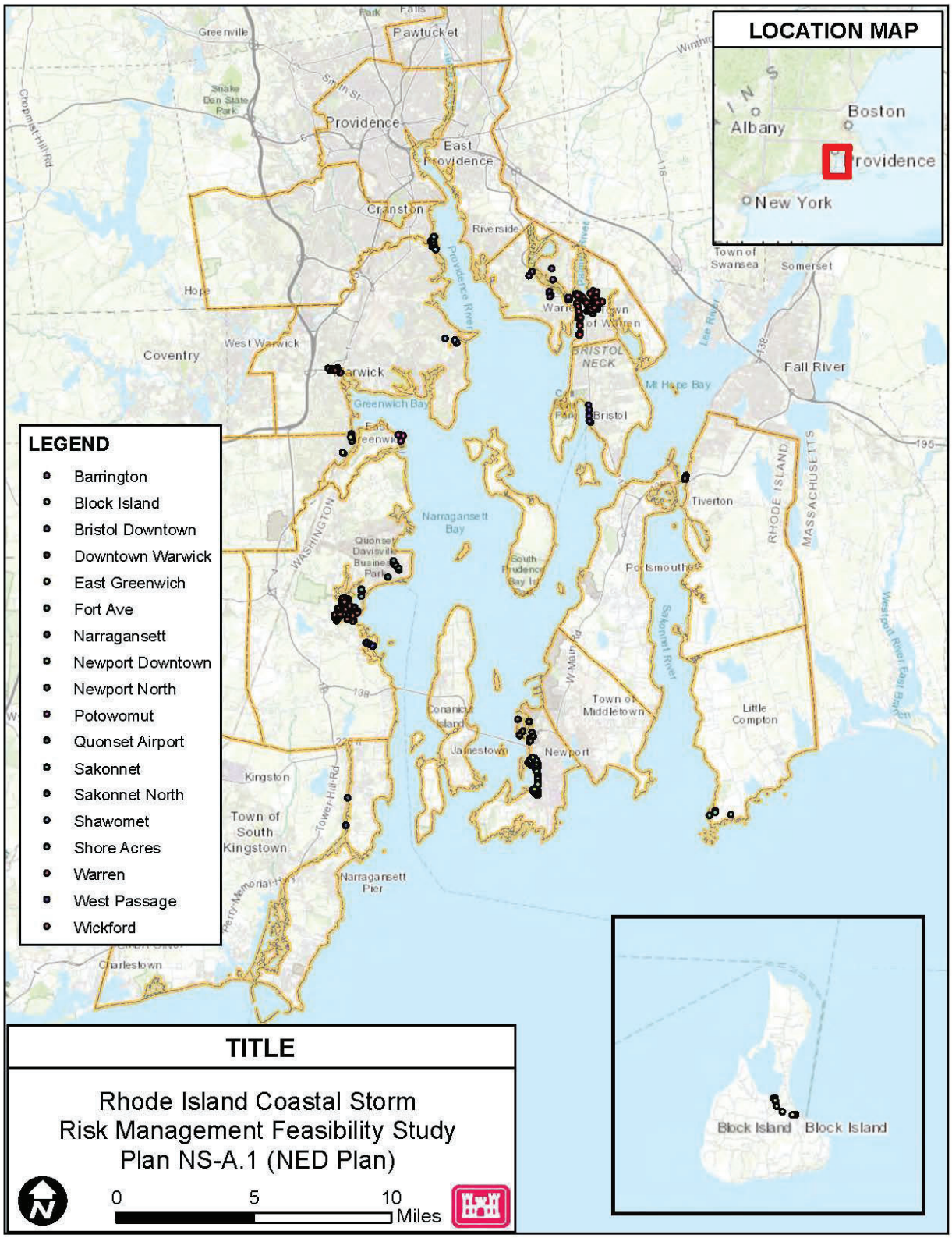

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
NEW ENGLAND DISTRICT
696 VIRGINIA ROAD
CONCORD MA 01742-2751

February 23, 2022

Planning Division

Mr. Ralph Mollis, Town Manager
Town Hall
100 Fairway Drive
North Kingstown, RI 02852

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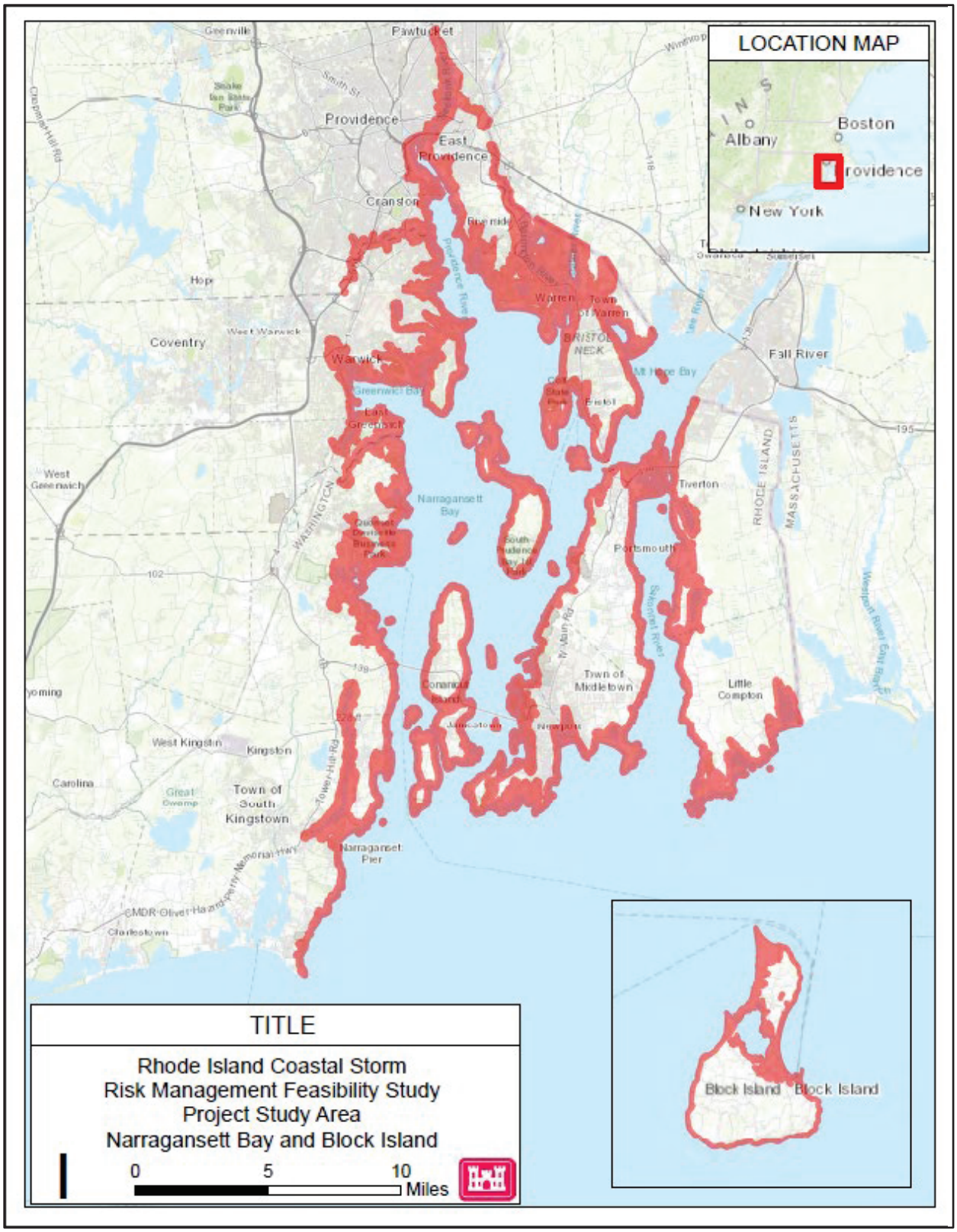
Chief, Planning Division

Enclosures



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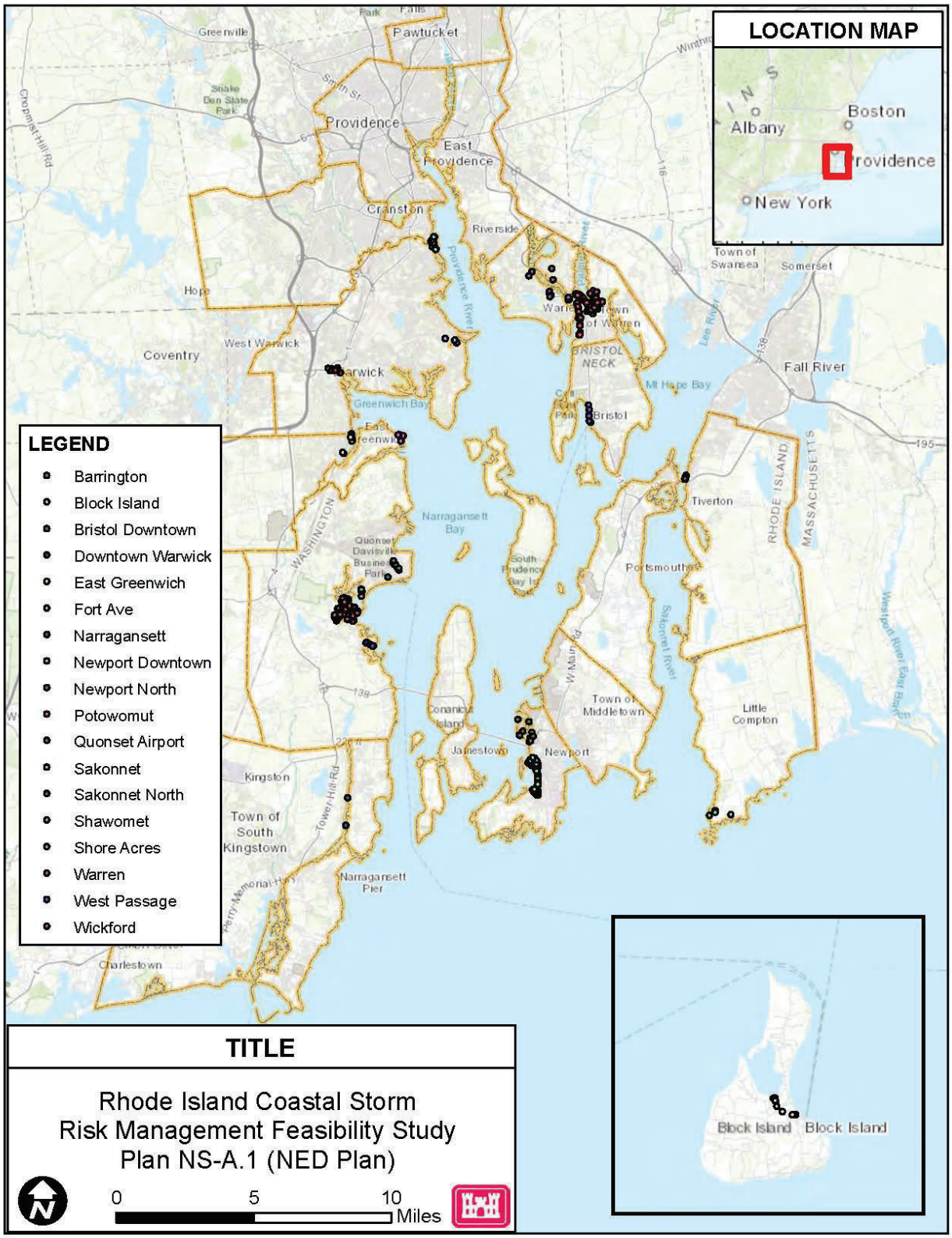

Figure 2 – Locations of the Structures Recommended for Elevation or Floodproofing in the Tentatively Selected Plan

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
NEW ENGLAND DISTRICT
696 VIRGINIA ROAD
CONCORD MA 01742-2751

February 23, 2022

Planning Division

Mr. Richard Rainer, Jr., Town Administrator
Town Hall
2200 E. Main Road
Portsmouth, RI 02871

Dear Mr. Rainer:

I am writing to request your comments on the Rhode Island Coastline Coastal Storm Risk Management (CSRM) project. The CSRM study area includes more than 457 miles of coastline within all or part of 19 municipalities in the State of Rhode Island (Figure 1). The project Draft Integrated Feasibility Report and the Environmental Assessment (IFR/EA) is available at the link below. The Draft IFR/EA and its appendices include maps of the proposed project area, a project description, and resource characterizations of the project area.

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Please submit any comments within 30 days of the date of this letter. If you or your staff have any questions or require additional information, please feel free to contact Grace Moses, the environmental team member, at (978) 318-8717 or by email at C.Grace.Moses@usace.army.mil, or Janet Cote, the project manager, at (978) 318-8728 or by email at Janet.Cote@usace.army.mil.

Sincerely,

KENNELLY.JOHN.R.1228532939

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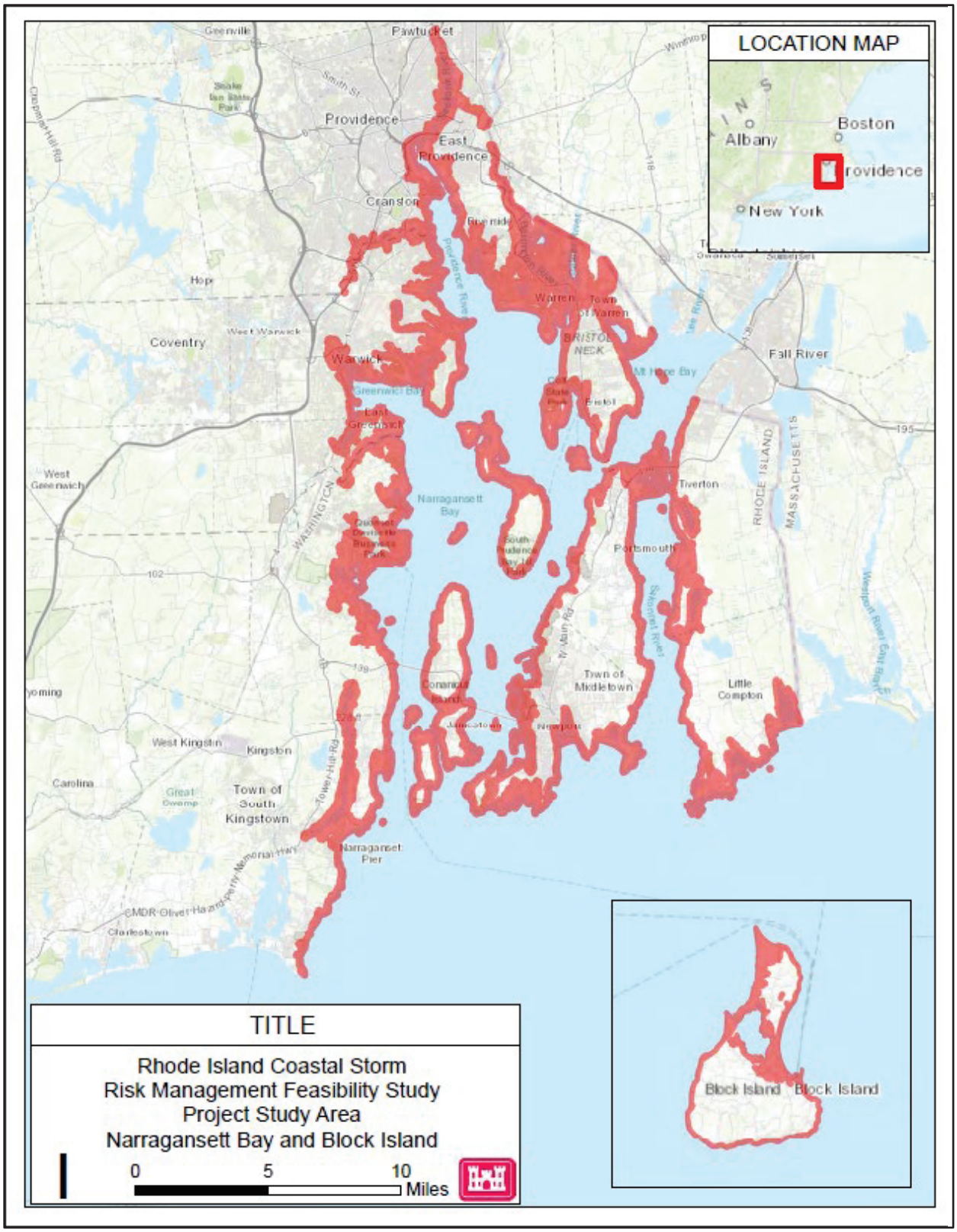
Date: 2022.02.23 10:10:04 -05'00'

John Kennelly
Chief, Planning Division

Enclosures



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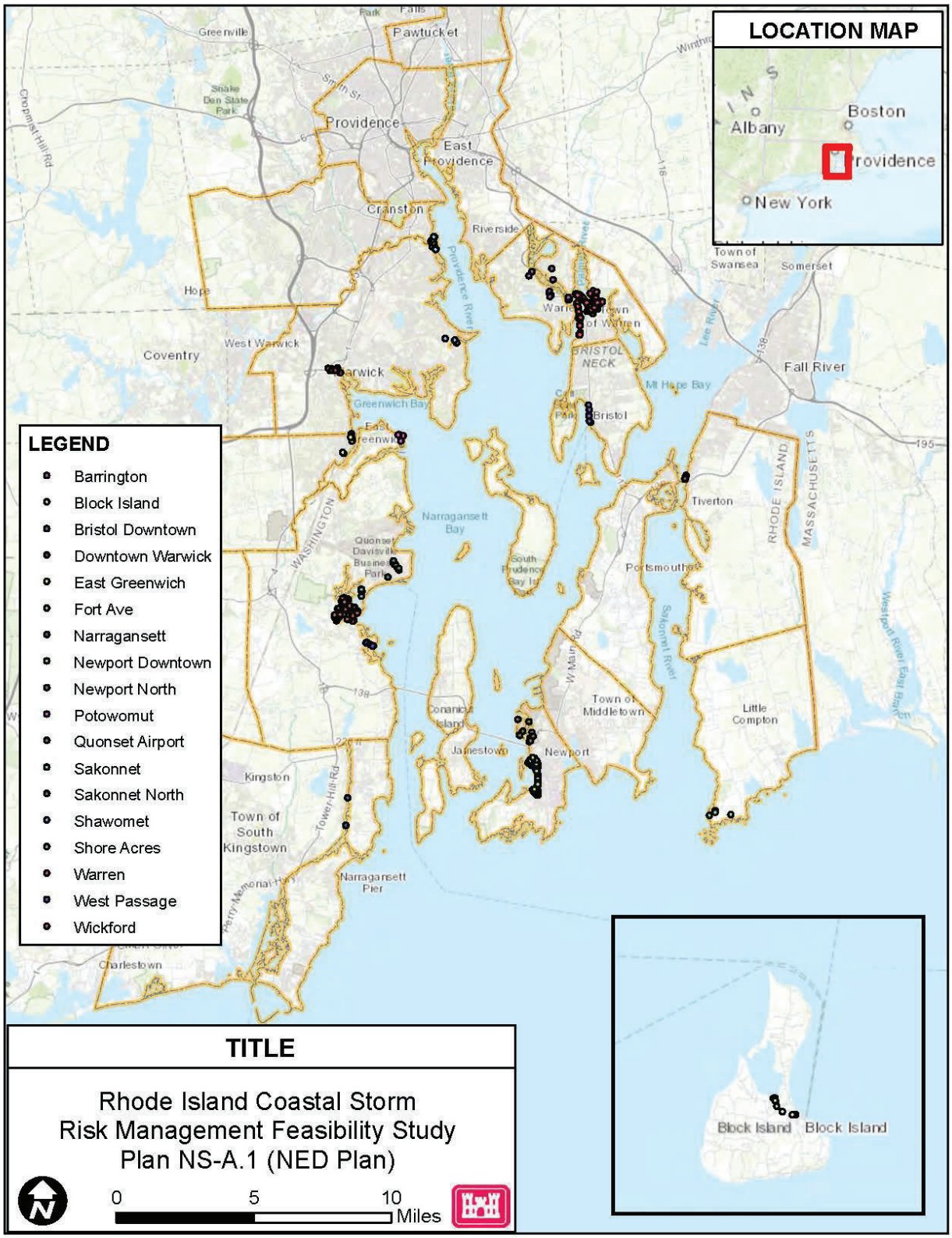

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
NEW ENGLAND DISTRICT
696 VIRGINIA ROAD
CONCORD MA 01742-2751

February 23, 2022

Planning Division

Mr. Jonathon Stone, Executive Director
Save The Bay Center
100 Save The Bay Drive
Providence, RI 02905

Dear Mr. Stone:

I am writing to request your comments on the Rhode Island Coastline Coastal Storm Risk Management (CSRM) project. The CSRM study area includes more than 457 miles of coastline within all or part of 19 municipalities in the State of Rhode Island (Figure 1). The project Draft Integrated Feasibility Report and the Environmental Assessment (IFR/EA) is available at the link below. The Draft IFR/EA and its appendices include maps of the proposed project area, a project description, and resource characterizations of the project area.

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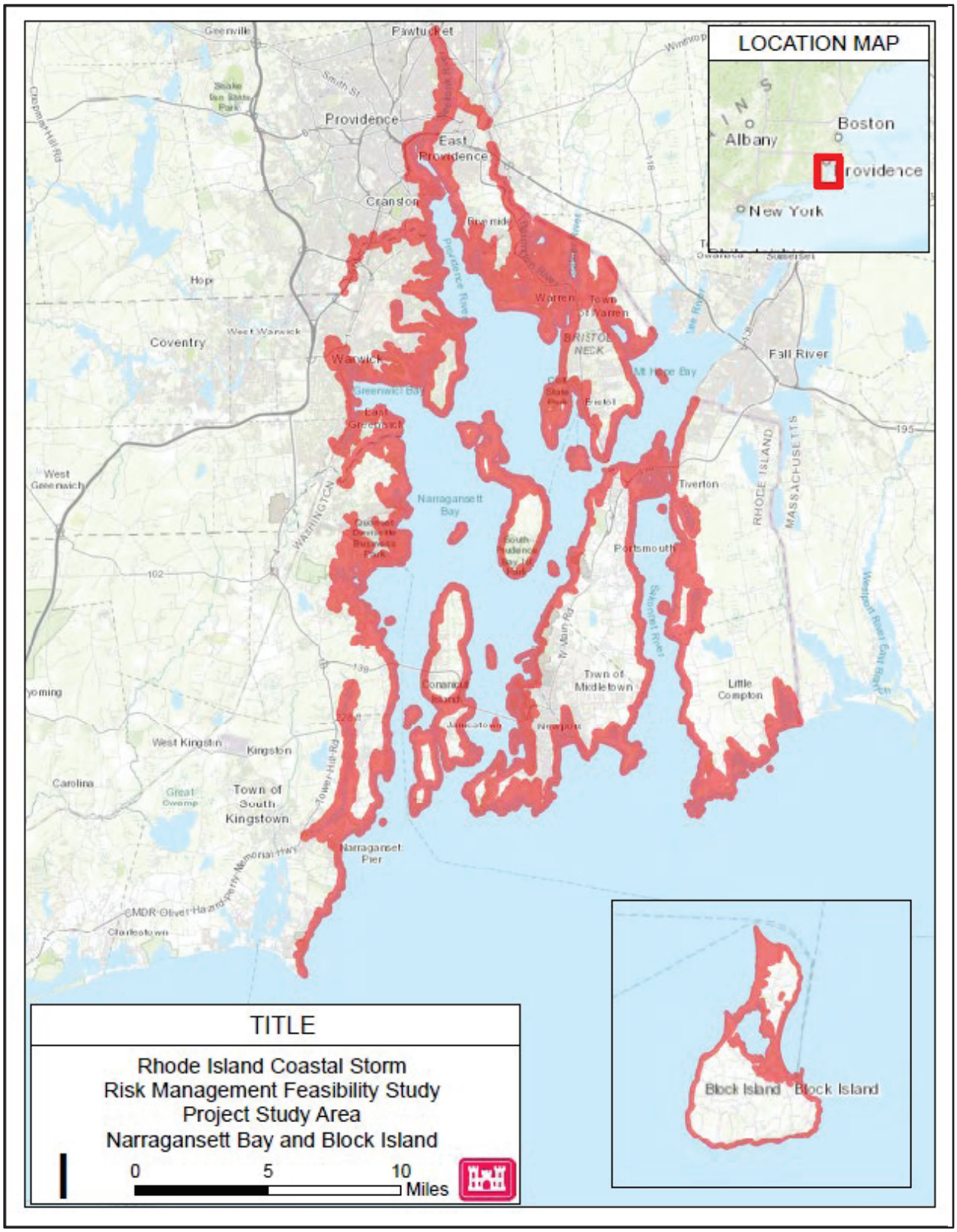
Sincerely,

KENNELLY.JOHN.R.1228532939 Digitally signed by KENNELLY.JOHN.R.1228532939 Date: 2022.02.23 10:12:08 -05'00'

John Kennelly
Chief, Planning Division

Enclosures



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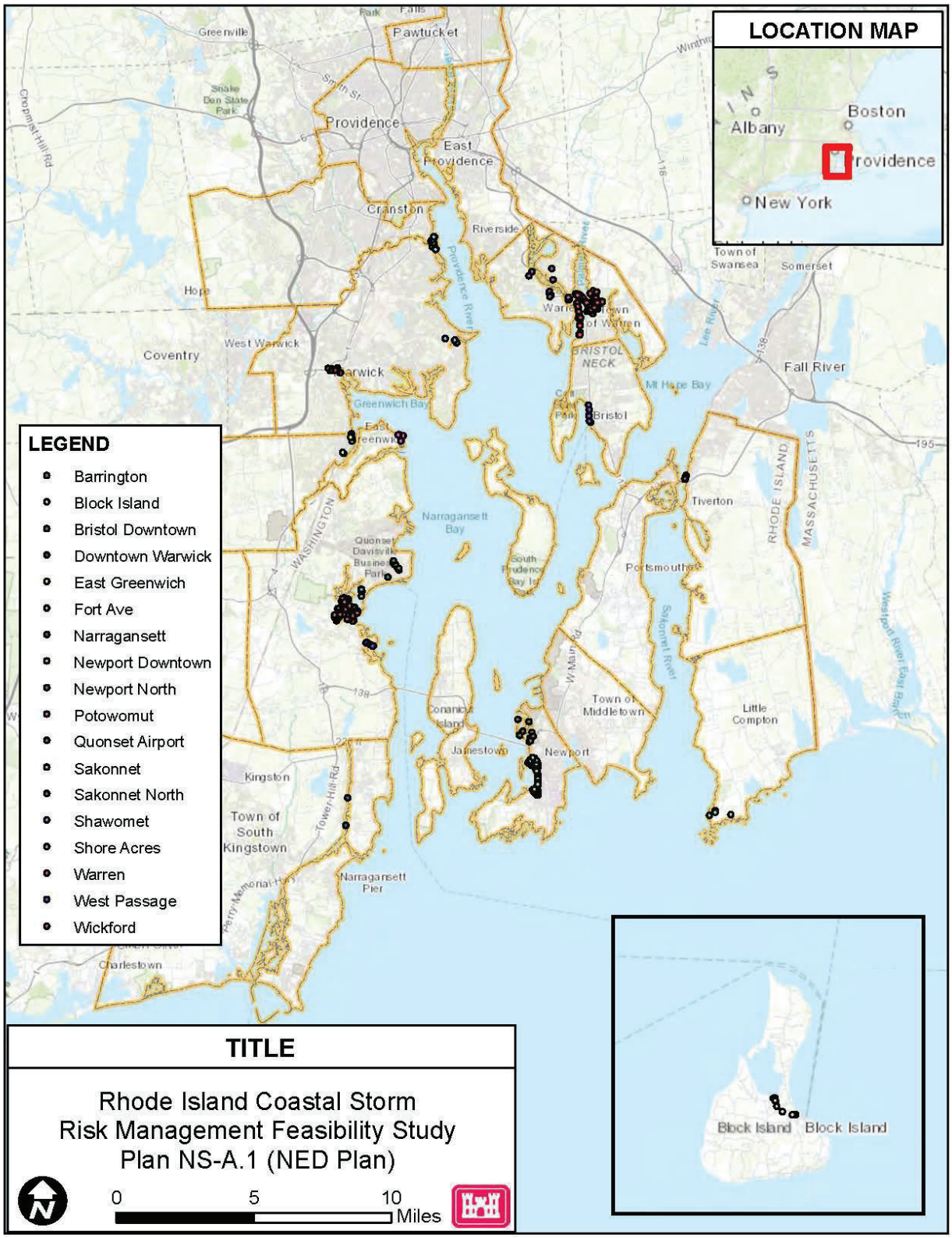

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
NEW ENGLAND DISTRICT
696 VIRGINIA ROAD
CONCORD MA 01742-2751

February 23, 2022

Planning Division

Mr. Chris Cotta, Town Administrator
Tiverton Town Hall
343 Highland Road
Tiverton, RI 02878

Dear Mr. Cotta:

I am writing to request your comments on the Rhode Island Coastline Coastal Storm Risk Management (CSRM) project. The CSRM study area includes more than 457 miles of coastline within all or part of 19 municipalities in the State of Rhode Island (Figure 1). The project Draft Integrated Feasibility Report and the Environmental Assessment (IFR/EA) is available at the link below. The Draft IFR/EA and its appendices include maps of the proposed project area, a project description, and resource characterizations of the project area.

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Sincerely,

KENNELLY.JOHN.R.1228532939

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Date: 2022.02.23 10:13:11 -05'00'

John Kennelly
Chief, Planning Division

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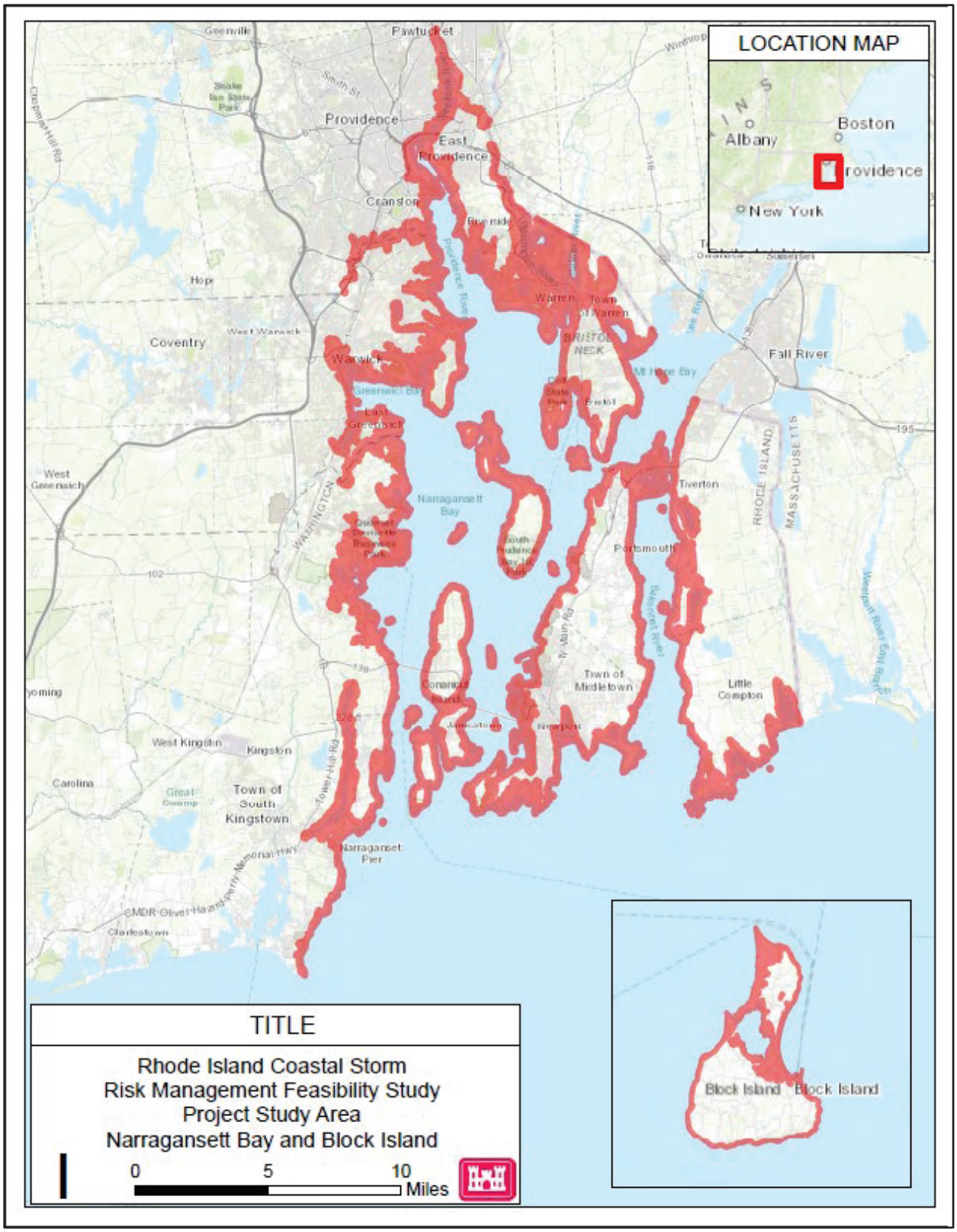

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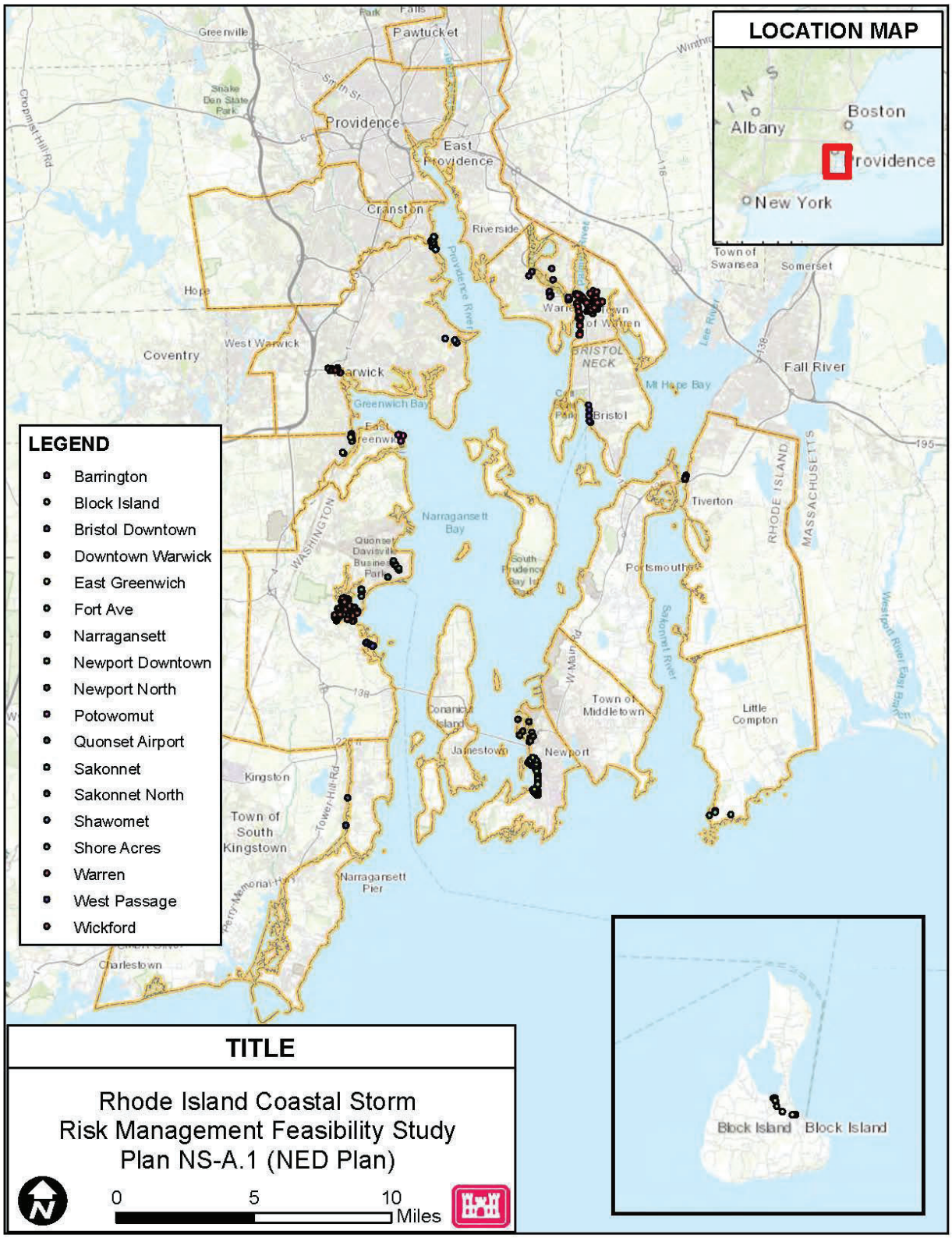

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
NEW ENGLAND DISTRICT
696 VIRGINIA ROAD
CONCORD MA 01742-2751

February 23, 2022

Planning Division

Mr. John Torgan, State Director
The Nature Conservancy in Rhode Island
159 Waterman Street
Providence, RI 02906

Dear Mr. Torgan:

I am writing to request your comments on the Rhode Island Coastline Coastal Storm Risk Management (CSRM) project. The CSRM study area includes more than 457 miles of coastline within all or part of 19 municipalities in the State of Rhode Island (Figure 1). The project Draft Integrated Feasibility Report and the Environmental Assessment (IFR/EA) is available at the link below. The Draft IFR/EA and its appendices include maps of the proposed project area, a project description, and resource characterizations of the project area.

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Sincerely,

KENNELLY.JOHN.R.1228532939

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Date: 2022.02.23 10:14:37 -05'00'

John Kennelly
Chief, Planning Division

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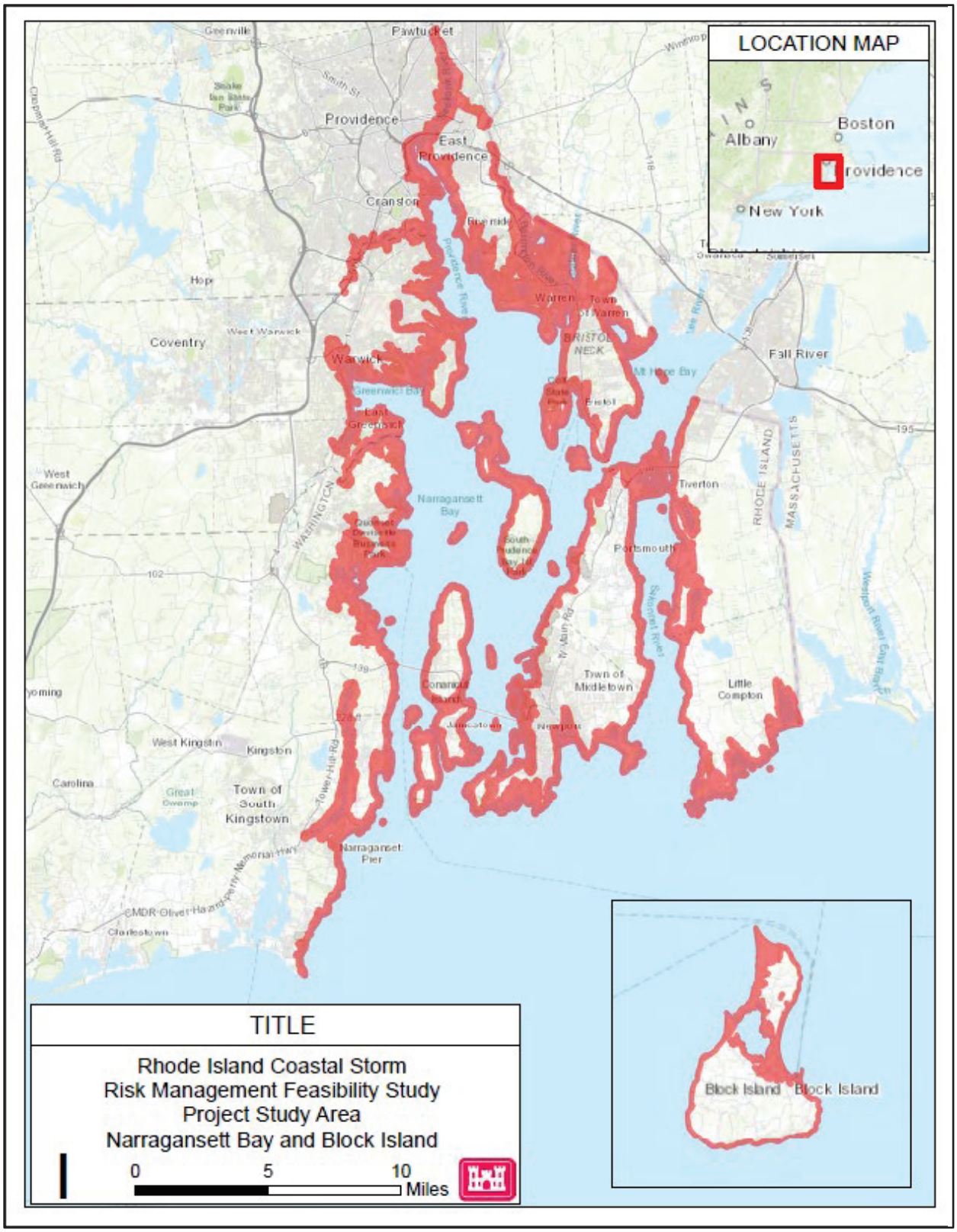

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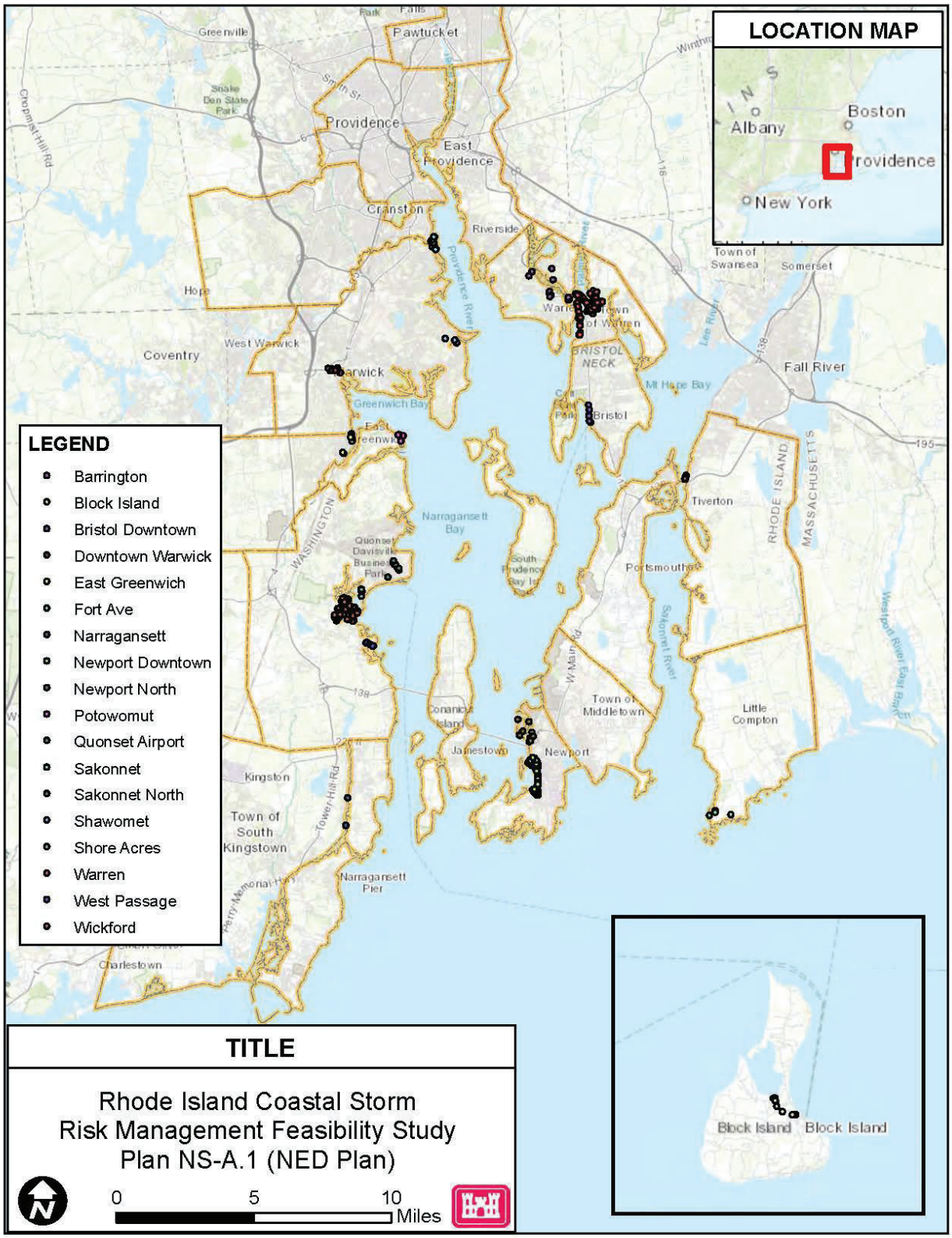

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
NEW ENGLAND DISTRICT
696 VIRGINIA ROAD
CONCORD MA 01742-2751

February 23, 2022

Planning Division

Ms. Kate Michaud, Town Manager
Town Hall
514 Main Street
Warren, RI 02885

Dear Ms. Michaud:

I am writing to request your comments on the Rhode Island Coastline Coastal Storm Risk Management (CSRM) project. The CSRM study area includes more than 457 miles of coastline within all or part of 19 municipalities in the State of Rhode Island (Figure 1). The project Draft Integrated Feasibility Report and the Environmental Assessment (IFR/EA) is available at the link below. The Draft IFR/EA and its appendices include maps of the proposed project area, a project description, and resource characterizations of the project area.

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Sincerely,

KENNELLY.JOHN.R.1228532939

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Date: 2022.02.23 10:17:03 -05'00'

John Kennelly
Chief, Planning Division

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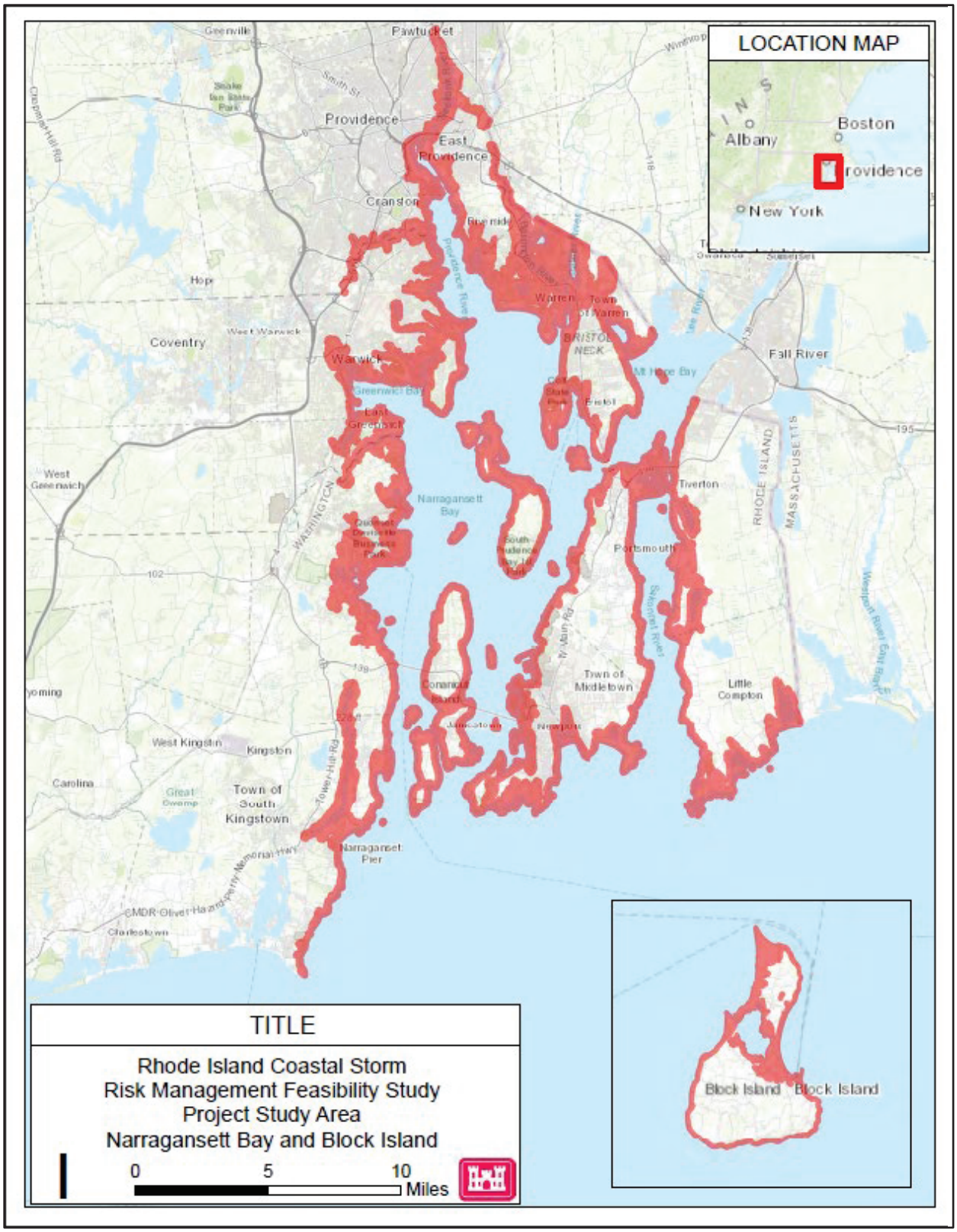

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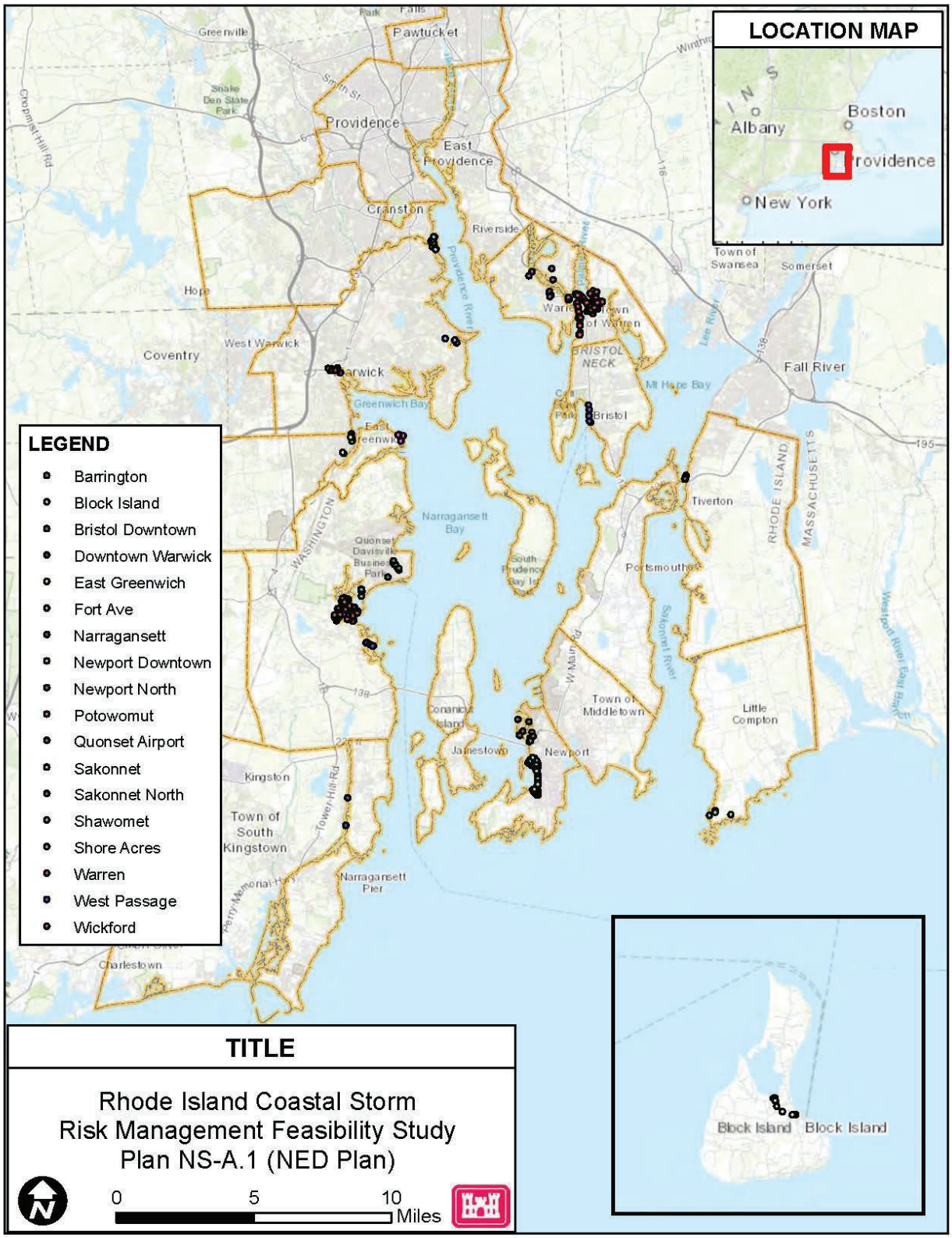

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
NEW ENGLAND DISTRICT
696 VIRGINIA ROAD
CONCORD MA 01742-2751

February 23, 2022

Planning Division

Mr. Frank Picozzi, Mayor
City Hall
3275 Post Road
Warwick, RI 02886

Dear Mr. Picozzi:

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Sincerely,

KENNELLY.JOHN.R.1228532939 Digitally signed by KENNELLY.JOHN.R.1228532939 Date: 2022.02.23 10:18:07 -05'00'

John Kennelly
Chief, Planning Division

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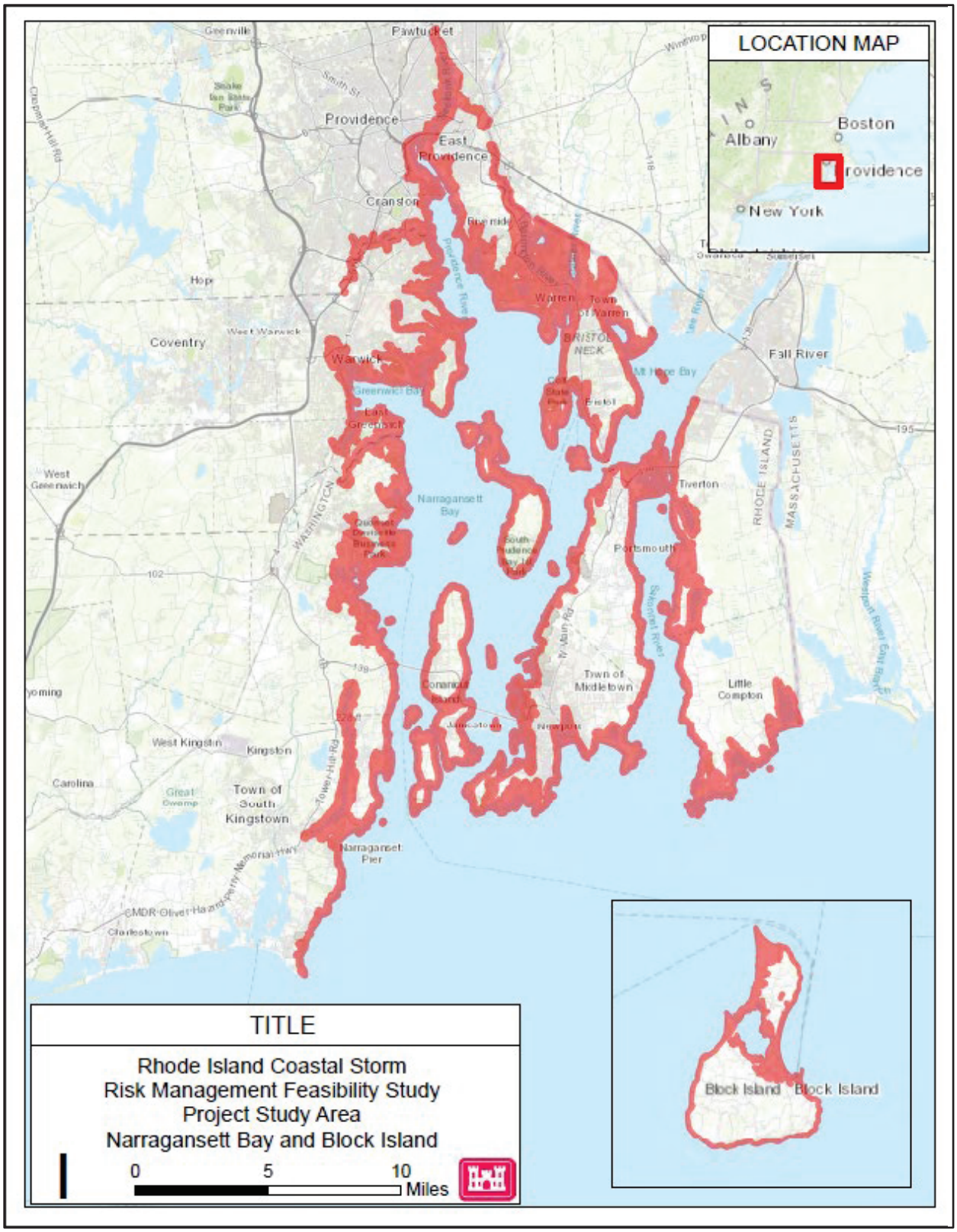

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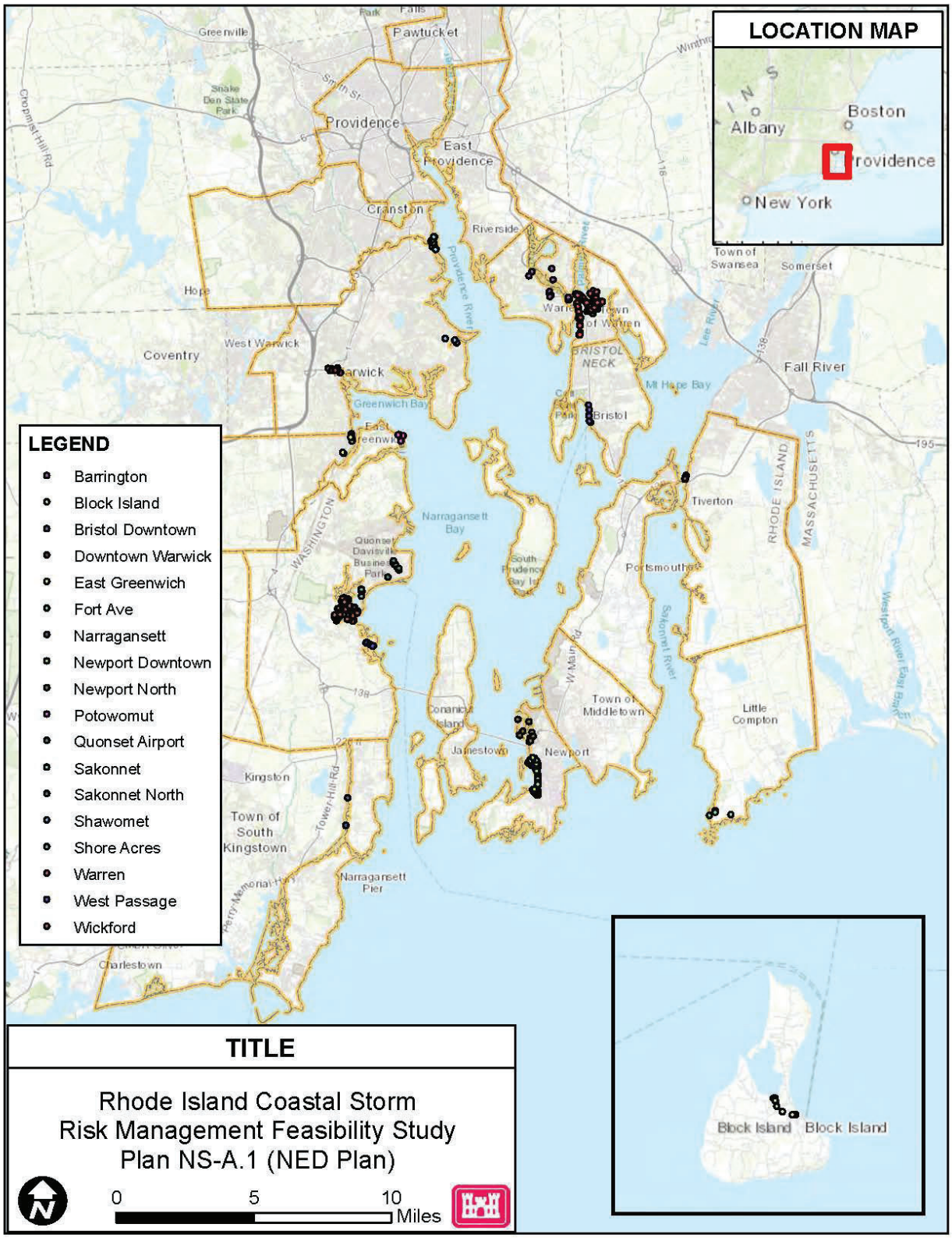

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Part 1b. Agency Meeting Notes and Materials

FINAL MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Rhode Island Coastal Study: Site Visit with State of RI, USFWS, NMFS, USEPA and USACE.

LOCATION: Middle Bridge, Narragansett; and Barrington/Warren Upper and Lower Surge Barriers, Rhode Island

TIME/DATE OF SITE VISIT: 0900AM-2:00 PM January 13, 2020

ATTENDEES:

Jackie LeClair, USEPA
Tim Timmermann, USEPA
Erica Sachs, USEPA
Rachael Croy, USEPA
Zach Jylkka, NMFS
Peter Johnsen, NMFS
Alison Verkade, NMFS
Eric Schneider, DEM-RI
Patrick McGee, DEM-RI
Janet Freedman, CRMC-RI
Justin Skenyon, CRMC-RI
Suzanne Paton, USFWS
Charlie Vandemoer, USFWS
Mike Riccio, USACE
David Oster, USACE
Kevin Foster, USACE

SITE VISIT DISCUSSION/OBSERVATIONS

Middle Bridge

We all met at 0900 at a parking lot on the east bank of Middle Bridge. Note: Prior to the site visit, Mike Riccio and I toured the neighborhood upstream of the bridge. The residential community is densely populated within the low-lying flood plain area.

We kicked off the site visit with a round of introductions.

Mike Riccio generally described the project in that it is more than installing closures at the bridge. In fact, the road may be elevated or barriers would need to be installed on the ocean side of the road to mitigate floodwaters. Likewise, the road/barriers would be constructed for some distance to the east and west of the bridge in order to tie into high ground. The precise height and length of the road or barriers would be identified if this alternative is further developed.

Charlie Vandemoer indicated that eelgrass (*Zostera marina*) occurs in large areas both north and south of the bridge. Charlie also suggested that the Corps inspect the John

H. Chafee National Wildlife Refuge that exists south of Middle Bridge since these resources may be affected by flood waters as a consequence of planned construction.

Suzanne Paton highlighted the presence of the saltmarsh sharp-tailed sparrow (*Ammodramus caudacutus*) within the project area. Suzanne described the importance of the wetland habitat within the influence of the project area since it serves as nesting habitat for this species and contributes to its reproductive success. Suzanne expressed concern that nests and chicks may be lost, possibly due to flooding if the barrier is constructed at Middle Bridge. Suzanne also indicated that the Service may list this species in the future.

Eric Schneider indicated that it is feasible that Atlantic Sturgeon and Shortnose Sturgeon may occur within the project area. Kevin will work with Eric to better understand how important the Narrow river is to both species.

Erica Sachs and Suzanne both suggested that the Corps consider constructing the flood barrier at the Sprague Bridge (Route 1A overpass), rather than Middle Bridge, in order to better protect the Chafee NWR and other affected resources.

Tim Timmermann expressed concern that the Middle Bridge alternative should be given consideration for an EIS, as opposed to an EA, to ensure adequate analyses are conducted to protect the human community as well as natural resources. Tim also suggested that it may be appropriate to undertake a Programmatic EIS that would cover all Corps project alternatives for this study. Tim indicated he would provide a letter from USEPA and would be available to meet with the Corps to further discuss NEPA for this project.

Alison Verkade of NOAA raised concerns about the impacts of a closure structure on wetlands and migratory fish. She stated that in the absence of robust climate change modeling and O&M plans/accountability measures they have to consider all impacts upstream of the closure structure or barrier as a potential loss, related to increased frequencies of closures with SLR and increased high intensity storms. Alison referred to Oak Island in Revere, where she said that structure is closed frequently.

Janet Freedman wanted to know more about how the Corps will assess sea level rise (SLR) in terms of the costs and benefits of this project. Janet expressed concern about extreme SLR scenarios and the overall benefits of a fixed structure, given current SLR estimates.

Mike Riccio indicated that the costs and benefits are evaluated over a 50-year period.

Erica and Janet both expressed public involvement should be increased to help address local concerns early. Mike R. stated that a meeting was held last year with the municipalities and there will be further public outreach as more USACE develops more information and has a better understanding of the feasibility of certain alternatives.

Barrington/Warren Upper Surge Barriers

Suzanne indicated that a variety of bird species occupy the wetlands upstream of the upper barrier proposed site, including the saltmarsh sparrow.

Barrington/Warren Lower Surge Barrier

Suzanne, Zach and Alison expressed concern about how the SMART planning process will allow sufficient time to undertake ESA and EFH consultations. A variety of federally listed and protected species (Endangered Species Act and the Magnusson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act), under the jurisdiction of the Fish and Wildlife Service (ESA) and the National Marine Fisheries Service (ESA and MSFCMA) occur within the various project alternative areas.

Zach indicated that the Corp's project alternatives will need to be fully described, including an analysis of project-related effects, before consultation may begin.

CONCLUSION AND FOLLOWUP ITEMS:

Follow-up items:

a) Everyone expressed an interest in keeping the conversation going so that all agencies have an opportunity to provide comments and help the Corps develop the best project alternatives. Please provide us with your thoughts on how we may best be able to communicate with you and your agency. Emails, regular meetings, teleconferences, additional site visits, please let us know.
b) Set up monthly teleconference calls to share project-related information, express concerns, discuss status of consultations/permits etc.
c) USACE develop a schedule, including NEPA documents and state and federal consultations/permits and share with the group.

Kevin Foster and David Oster
Environmental Branch
New England District
Corps of Engineers

ATTACHMENTS
WRITTEN COMMENTS RECEIVED

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Charley Vandemoer
Refuge Manager
John H. Chafee National Wildlife Refuge
January 23, 2020

The following Issues and Concerns related to the proposed ACOE hurricane barrier at Middlebridge are provided to address the John H. Chafee National Wildlife Refuge only. These comments do not address issues or concerns from other divisions within the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), and specifically do not address any Endangered Species Act consultation needs. These issues and concerns are submitted consistent with the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act.

Issues and Concerns

How will the project impact trust species of high conservation concern (such as salt marsh sparrow, alewife run) and locally endemic plant communities (fens).

Saltmarsh sparrows are a species of high conservation concern. An estimated 80% of the population has disappeared in just the last 15 years, with an annual observed rate of decline of 9% per year. This species only nest within high marsh habitats, and their nests are susceptible to flooding, particularly if the frequency or duration exceeds normal tide cycle flooding events. On average, nest count data suggests an average of 30 active nests occur in the marshes downstream of the project area. We suspect additional nests are present upstream of the project area, but nest surveys have not been conducted there.

How will road raising or construction of a barrier on eastern shore effect movement of animals (amphibians, reptiles, etc.) between and among freshwater and tidal wetlands?

Wildlife species populations associated with freshwater and tidal marsh habitats occur on both sides of middlebridge road, with interchange of individuals above and below middlebridge road occurring. How would construction of a barrier influence the interchange of individuals in these populations?

What is the feasibility of raising the road along the eastern shore of the project area?

We understand the approach on the eastern shoreline to the new bridge and structure would need to be raised by approximately seven feet. Assuming the right of way is 50 feet wide, there is not enough room within the ROW to raise

the road seven feet while maintaining 3:1 side slopes and travel lanes totaling 18 feet. Since adjacent lands are managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as the John H. Chafee National Wildlife Refuge, it is unlikely the ROW could be widened, as road construction or barrier construction on the national wildlife refuge would likely be incompatible with the purposes for which the refuge was established, and therefore denied.

How will road raising or construction of a barrier on the eastern shore effect recreational uses and visitor safety on the existing right of way?

Summer vehicular and pedestrian traffic along this relatively narrow stretch of road is high during the summer months. Raising the road (see previous comment) with narrower toe slopes could force more pedestrians onto the road surface, or limit escape routes off the road for pedestrians.

How will access to the refuge administrative parking area on eastern shore be maintained?

The Service maintains an administrative parking area just east of the town's Middlebridge property used by field crews during the warmer seasons. Raising the road would likely eliminate access to this parking area and hamper management of the National Wildlife Refuge.

How will the project effect water levels on tidal marshes upstream and downstream of the proposed barrier?

Using the tidal gate during king tides or during storm events would, assumedly not only block higher levels of water from accessing the upstream areas, but would also result in preventing freshwater inputs upstream from exiting the river. In storm induced higher tides where freshwater inputs would increase, this could lead to not only flooding of the marsh surface during the storm, but also after the storm when river water above the structure is released downstream. In essence would operation of the flood gate result in a longer duration of tidal marsh flooding? How would the hydrology of the marshes (a) below, and (b) above the structure be impacted? Would the release of flood flows accumulated upstream of the gate result in greater erosion of saltmarsh shorelines downstream of the structure when water is released?

How will construction and operation of the facility impact the efficacy of recent federal investments in ongoing saltmarsh restoration and resiliency efforts within and outside the project area?

The Service, in collaboration with a number of federal agencies, state agencies, local municipalities, and non-profit conservation organizations have completed a $3.5 million restoration of saltmarsh habitats in the Narrow River estuary above and below the project site. The objectives were to enhance elevations to abate sea level rise, improve saltmarsh surface drainage, enhance eelgrass habitat, create shorebird habitat, and the abundance of cool water refugia in the estuary for marine fish.

How will construction of the barrier influence the presence of cool water refugia for marine fish?

One of the deepest pools in the estuary occurs underneath the current bridge. Will construction of the tide gate create shallower depths underneath Middlebridge, creating a loss in cool water refugia?

Will this project be consistent with the Coastal Barrier Resource Act (16 U.S.C. § 3501 et seq; 12 U.S.C. § 1441 et seq) ?

The project area is within/on the boundary of CBRA unit RI-10. This Act prohibits most federal expenditures that encourage development or modification of coastal barriers. Consultation will likely be needed.

How will the project alter aesthetics of the area?

The Middlebridge area has been referred to as" the Gateway to Narragansett" by some. Construction of a wall along the road will likely diminish the aesthetic quality of the area.

How will construction and operation of the barrier impact eelgrass beds and other estuarine habitat components?

An eelgrass bed is present both upstream and downstream of the project site.

How will the new bridge and accompanying floodgates impact motorized and non-motorized boat traffic and potential erosional impacts on tidal marsh shorelines?

There is a substantial amount of boat traffic passing underneath the current bridge including a mix of smaller motorized vessels, kayaks, canoes, and rowboats. How will this structure impact these uses? The current height of the bridge openings limits uses to smaller vessels. If the height of the structure above the waterline is increased, will larger vessels be able to pass? This would have ramifications to the level of impacts on saltmarsh shorelines from wake-induced erosion.

Figure 1. Middle Bridge alternative and John H. Chafee National Wildlife Refuge.

Tim Timmermann
Director, Environmental Review
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Here is a link to a helpful CEQ guidance regarding programmatic NEPA reviews. You are correct that the terms "tiered" and "programmatic" are often interchanged and I think the guidance speaks to that as well. I would be more than willing to meet. I also hope to send you a couple of quick thoughts in the next few days for your consideration (basically a recap of our discussions in the field the other day) as you work to decide how you are going to approach the project review under NEPA. https://ceq.doe.gov/docs/ceq-regulations-andguidance/Effective_Use_of_Programmatic_NEPA_Reviews_Final_Dec2014_searchable.pdf

From:	Moses, Catherine G CIV USARMY CENAE (US)
To:	Riccio, Michael S CIV USARMY CENAE (US); Oster, David A CIV USARMY CENAE (USA); Charlie Vandemoer; Paton, Suzanne; Alison Verkade - NOAA Affiliate; Zachary Jylkka - NOAA Federal; Sachs, Erica; Timmermann, Timothy; LeClair, Jacqueline; Lyons, Regina; Schneider, Eric (DEM; McGee, Patrick (DEM; jfreedman@crmc.ri.gov; jskenyon@crmc.ri.gov; Croy, Rachel; Corsair, Cynthia L
Cc:	Cote, Janet CIV CEHQ NCR2 (USA)
Subject:	Rhode Island Coastal Feasibility Study
Start:	Thursday, January 21, 2021 2:00:00 PM
End:	Thursday, January 21, 2021 3:30:00 PM
Location:	WebEx

Hello everyone,

I hope you are all having a nice holiday season. This meeting is to discuss the status of the Rhode Island Coastal Storm Risk Management Feasibility Study which was restarted late this Fall. Since you haven't seen anything on this in about a year, we'll reintroduce the project with an overview of the study areas, alternatives, and the project's schedule. We'd like to make these meetings monthly to ensure we're capturing your input throughout the process, so please be prepared to identify ideal days and times for a standing meeting.

Thank you,

Grace Moses

Biologist

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

New England District

978-318-8717

WebEx Information:

Meeting link: https://usace1.webex.com/usace1/j.php?MTID=m11086630b49e0e27ec2a3615e5d8595b

Meeting number: 199 048 0928

Password: EmPqZpx*362

Join by phone

+1-844-800-2712 US Toll Free

+1-669-234-1177 US Toll

Access code: 199 048 0928

January 29, 2021

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Rhode Island Coastal GI Resource Agency Meeting (January Meeting)

LOCATION: WebEx Meeting

DATE OF MEETING: January 21, 2021

PREPARER: Grace Moses, USACE

ATTENDEES:

Mike Riccio, USACE
Grace Moses, USACE,
Dave Oster, USACE
Kate Atwood, USACE
Jackie LeClair, EPA
Tim Timmermann, EPA
Erica Sachs Lambert, EPA
Rachel Croy, EPA
Eric Schneider, RIDEM
Patrick McGee, RIDEM
Janet Freedman, CRMC
Justin Skenyon, CRMC
Maggie Sager, NMFS
Roosevelt Mesa, NMFS
Alison Verkade, NMFS
Jeff Emidy, SHPO

REPORT:

- The meeting purpose was to re-engage resource agencies on the subject study which restarted in October 2020 after a funding lapse.
- We (USACE) presented the current alternatives under consideration in each of the study areas. We also discussed the current schedule which is to have the Tentatively Selected Plan (TSP) milestone complete in late July 2021.
- We scheduled monthly resource agency meetings focused on the project for every third Thursday at 2pm through the TSP to ensure a collaborative process.

CONCLUSION AND FOLLOW-UP ITEMS:

- The next meeting will be held on February 18, 2021.
- At the next meeting (February), we will present the benefit-cost ratios for the Narrow River and Warren/Barrington River upper and lower river closure structures.
- We will provide proof of concept designs for any proposed structures by the end of February/early March or as soon as available.

*Participants will review a draft of these notes with updates made as necessary.

February 18, 2021

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Rhode Island Coastal GI Resource Agency Meeting (February Meeting)

LOCATION: WebEx Meeting

DATE OF MEETING: February 18, 2021

PREPARER: Grace Moses, USACE

ATTENDEES:

Mike Riccio, USACE
Grace Moses, USACE,
Dave Oster, USACE
Kate Atwood, USACE
Tim Timmermann, EPA
Erica Sachs Lambert, EPA
Eric Schneider, RIDEM
Charlie Vandemoer, USFWS
Maggie Sager, NMFS
Roosevelt Mesa, NMFS

REPORT:

- Preliminary BCR's currently do not support closure structures in the Barrington/Warren area or along Middle bridge in Narragansett (BCR's<1).
- The design team is exploring options for a closure structure at Sprague bridge in Narragansett. More will be presented at the next meeting, if viable.
- Three floodwall alignments along Wellington Ave. in Newport are being designed. Drawings will be available in early March with BCR's to follow in late March.
- No update on Providence structural alternatives. Likely available in April.
- TSP on track for late July 2021.

CONCLUSION AND FOLLOW-UP ITEMS:

- The next meeting will be held on April 15, 2021.
- At the next meeting, we will present the designs for the Newport Wellington Ave alignments and provide updates on the Sprague bridge structural alternative.

*Participants will review a draft of these notes with updates made as necessary.

April 15, 2021

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Rhode Island Coastal GI Resource Agency Meeting (February Meeting)

LOCATION: WebEx Meeting

DATE OF MEETING: April 15, 2021

PREPARER: Grace Moses, USACE

ATTENDEES:

Mike Riccio, USACE
Grace Moses, USACE,
Tim Timmermann, EPA
Erica Sachs Lambert, EPA
Eric Schneider, RIDEM
Maggie Sager, NMFS
Roosevelt Mesa, NMFS
Jackie LeClair, EPA
Jean Brochi, EPA
Jeff Emidy, SHPO

REPORT:

- Model areas for the nonstructural alternative are being run and broken down by structures in the 25, 50, and 100-year flood event scenarios.
- No river closure structures on the Narrow River or Warren and Barrington Rivers are being considered.
- Floodwall/levee combination proof of concept for Wellington Ave in Newport is complete, BCR to follow. Jeff noted that the structure will be in two historic districts. The structure will be approximately hip to shoulder height as currently designed.
- The Providence structural alternative is focused on protected portions of the wastewater treatment plant. Design and BCR to be available in late May.
- TSP still on track for late July 2021.

CONCLUSION AND FOLLOW-UP ITEMS:

- Meetings will be moved to bimonthly with the next on Thursday, 17 June 2021.
- At the next meeting, we will present the designs for the ProvPort area and any refinements to the Wellington Ave floodwall.

*Participants will review a draft of these notes with updates made as necessary.

Rhode Island Coastal Study
June 2021 Resource Agency Meeting

Agenda:

- Nonstructural update
- Structural update
- Study schedule
- Agency input

Castle Hill Lighthouse, Newport, RI

Rhode Island Coastal Study
June 2021 Resource Agency Meeting

Nonstructural update:

- We expanded the nonstructural investigation beyond the 11 discrete study areas previously considered. We now have 15 model areas encompassing 19 towns that touch Narragansett Bay.
- The overall study area has approximately 500-1,000 structures considered for nonstructural measures.
- We are screening out structures that 1) have a current elevation within 1 foot of the target elevation height which is based on the NACCS 100-year+1+SLR, and 2) would experience less than $125,000 damages from a Future Without Project. Screening cost is based on the lowest construction cost for a nonstructural measure.
- Measures considered are elevating, floodproofing, and acquisition.
- No BCRs are available yet given the expanded outlook. BCRs expected in July.

Rhode Island Coastal Study
June 2021 Resource Agency Meeting

Structural update:

- The Newport alignment is the same as previously discussed- a levee/floodwall combo on Wellington Ave. BCR expected soon, but costs likely unjustified. Could go nonstructural only in Newport.

- In Providence, floodproofing of some buildings at the wastewater treatment plant is being considered. Damage curves with cost estimates to be developed.

Rhode Island Coastal Study
June 2021 Resource Agency Meeting

Study schedule:

- Newport alignment BCR projected to be done by end of June.
- Nonstructural BCRs expected in mid-July.
- TSP still on schedule for 30 July 2021.
- Draft report with integrated environmental assessment to follow in late September 2021.
- Final report to be signed by March 2023.

Rhode Island Coastal Study
June 2021 Resource Agency Meeting

Agency input:

- We discussed adjusting the economic model to ensure low-income homes are not indiscriminately screened out. Our econ team is working the issue.
- In the ProvPort area, the societal costs of AST and WWTP failures would be high for surrounding communities which are Env Justice areas.
  - The Corps doesn't intends to continue investigating the Providence area beyond the TSP. Not enough information or time to confidently make a recommendation at this particular milestone, but that is distinctly different than suggesting there is no risk or that no solution will ultimately be recommended for this area.
  - We are recommending that continued investigation of this area is warranted and intend to do investigative work in parallel with the rest of the study effort/milestone schedule.

The next meeting will be after TSP. Grace to send Outlook invite.

Part 2. Coastal Zone Management Determination Correspondence

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
NEW ENGLAND DISTRICT
696 VIRGINIA ROAD
CONCORD MA 01742-2751

February 23, 2022

Planning Division

Mr. Jeffrey Willis, Executive Director
Coastal Resources Management Council
Stedman Government Center
4808 Tower Hill Road
Wakefield, Rhode Island 02879

Dear Mr. Willis:

I am writing to request your concurrence with our phased Coastal Zone Management Consistency Determination for the Rhode Island Coastline Coastal Storm Risk Management (CSRM) project pursuant to 15 CFR § 930 Subpart C – Consistency for Federal Agency Activities. The CSRM study area includes more than 457 miles of coastline with all or part of 19 municipalities in the State of Rhode Island (Figure 1). The study was authorized by a resolution adopted by the Senate Public Works Committee dated 12 September 1969, a resolution adopted by the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works dated August 2, 1995, and by Public Law (PL) 84-71.

The Rhode Island Coastline CSRM project plan formulation considered a range of structural and nonstructural measures to reduce the risk of storm damage in the study area. Potential coastal storm risk management measures were identified, evaluated, and compared through an iterative planning process and in consultation with the Rhode Island Coastal Resources Management Council, which is the non-Federal sponsor for the project. The Tentatively Selected Plan (TSP) for the project consists of elevating the first floors of 323 single family residences. The elevation design height was determined separately for each structure based on the probability of flooding and sea level change. Methods for elevating individual structures will vary and may consist of addition of fill material, extending foundation walls, piers, post, piles, and columns.

In addition, 210 non-residential structures will be floodproofed. Floodproofing was considered for non-residential structures and large multi-family structures not in a designated VE Zone and without a basement. VE-zones are areas subject to inundation by the 1-percent annual chance flood event with additional hazards due to storm-induced velocity wave action. Floodproofing measures consist of dry floodproofing or wet floodproofing. Dry floodproofing makes a structure watertight below the level that needs flood protection to prevent floodwaters from entering. An example of a dry floodproofing measure is to apply a waterproof veneer, such as a layer of brick backed

by a waterproof membrane, directly to the outside surface of an existing structure. Wet floodproofing allows floodwaters to enter an enclosed area of a structure without damaging the structure or its contents. All construction materials and finishing materials are water resistant and all utilities elevated above the design flood elevation in the areas of structures proposed for wet floodproofing. Figure 2 shows the locations identified for elevating or floodproofing within the study area.

The Draft Integrated Feasibility Report and Environmental Assessment was released for public review on February 18, 2022, and may be accessed in its entirety on the following website:

https://www.nae.usace.army.mil/Missions/Projects-Topics/Rhode-Island-Coastline-Coastal-Storm-Risk-Management-Project/

A summary of the proposal relative to the enforceable policies within the CRMC Red Book 650-RICR-20-00-1 as outlined in your January 20, 2022, email to Ms. Grace Moses is presented below. We understand that these enforceable policies may not be the only ones applicable to our proposal and look forward to continued coordination with your organization.

Section 1.1.1(A)

- All necessary approvals and environmental requirements will be obtained/satisfied prior to commencement of construction activities. Applicable environmental and public interest factors have been considered in the Rhode Island Coastline CSRM project planning process. The project has been designed to protect natural resources, continue coastal-dependent uses, and reduce the risk of coastal storm damages to life and property.

Section 1.3.1(C)(7)

- The project's TSP recommends that a total of 533 structures located within flood hazard areas be elevated or floodproofed. The design and construction methodology of those nonstructural measures will be finalized in the Pre-Construction Engineering and Design (PED) phase of the project. The suggestions of this policy will be taken into consideration and our consistency determination will be updated during PED.

We have determined that, at this phase of the project, the Rhode Island Coastline CSRM project will be undertaken in a manner consistent to the maximum extent practicable with the enforceable policies of the federally approved Rhode Island coastal zone management program. We are requesting your concurrence with our determination. We will submit a final consistency determination during the PED phase of the project once more details of the proposed plan are known.

If you have any questions, or need additional information, please contact the project biologist, Grace Moses by email at C.Grace.Moses@usace.army.mil or by phone at (978) 318-8717 or the project manager, Janet Cote, by email at Janet.Cote@usace.army.mil or by phone at (978) 318-8728.

Sincerely,

KENNELLY.JOHN.R.1228532939

Digitally signed by KENNELLY.JOHN.R.1228532939
Date: 2022.02.23 09:47:32 -05'00'

John R. Kennelly
Chief, Planning Division

Enclosures

Copies Furnished (via email)

James Boyd: jboyd@crmc.ri.gov
Justin Skenyon: jskenyon@crmc.ri.gov
Leah Feldman: lfeldman@crmc.ri.gov

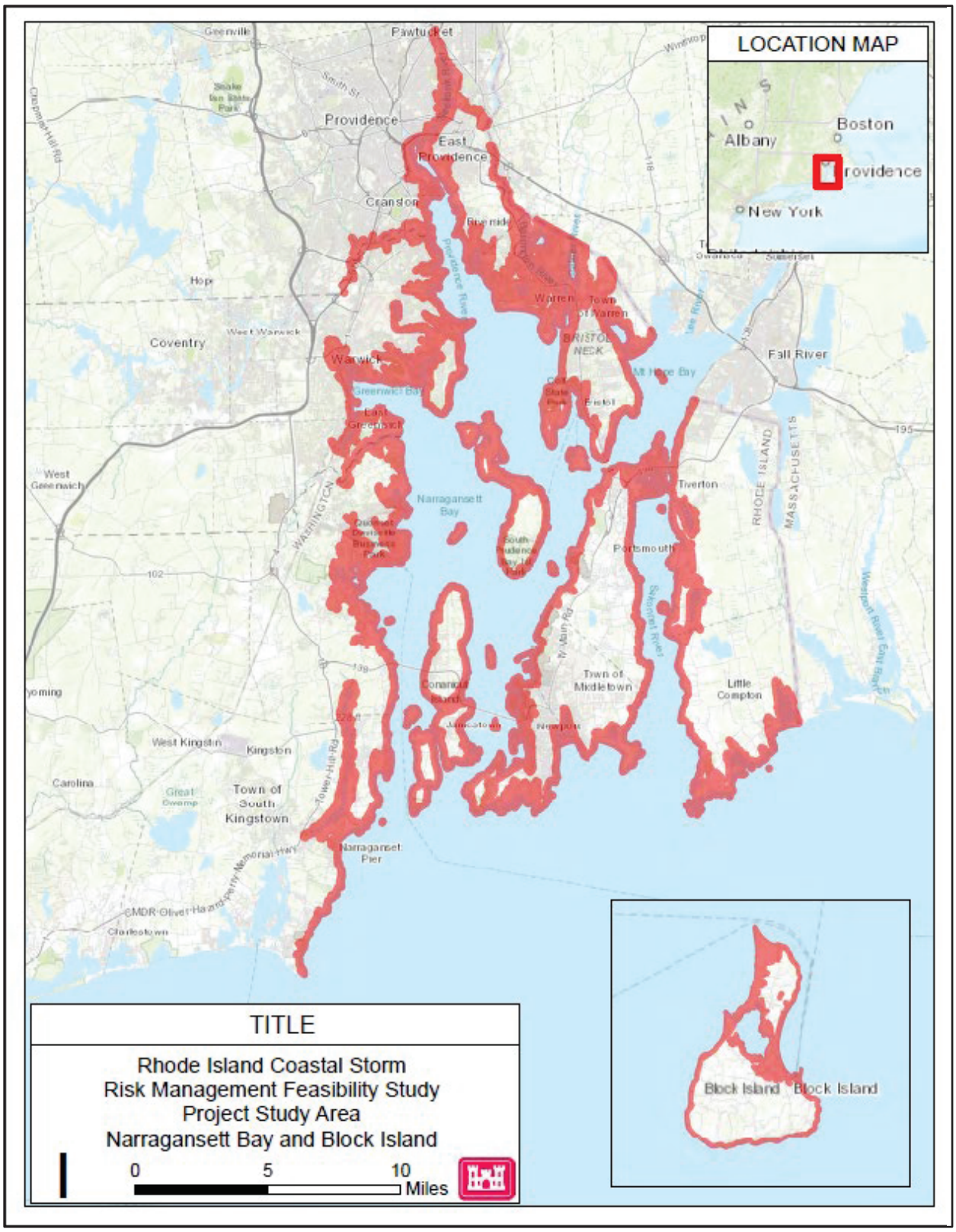

Figure 1 – Rhode Island Coastline Study Area

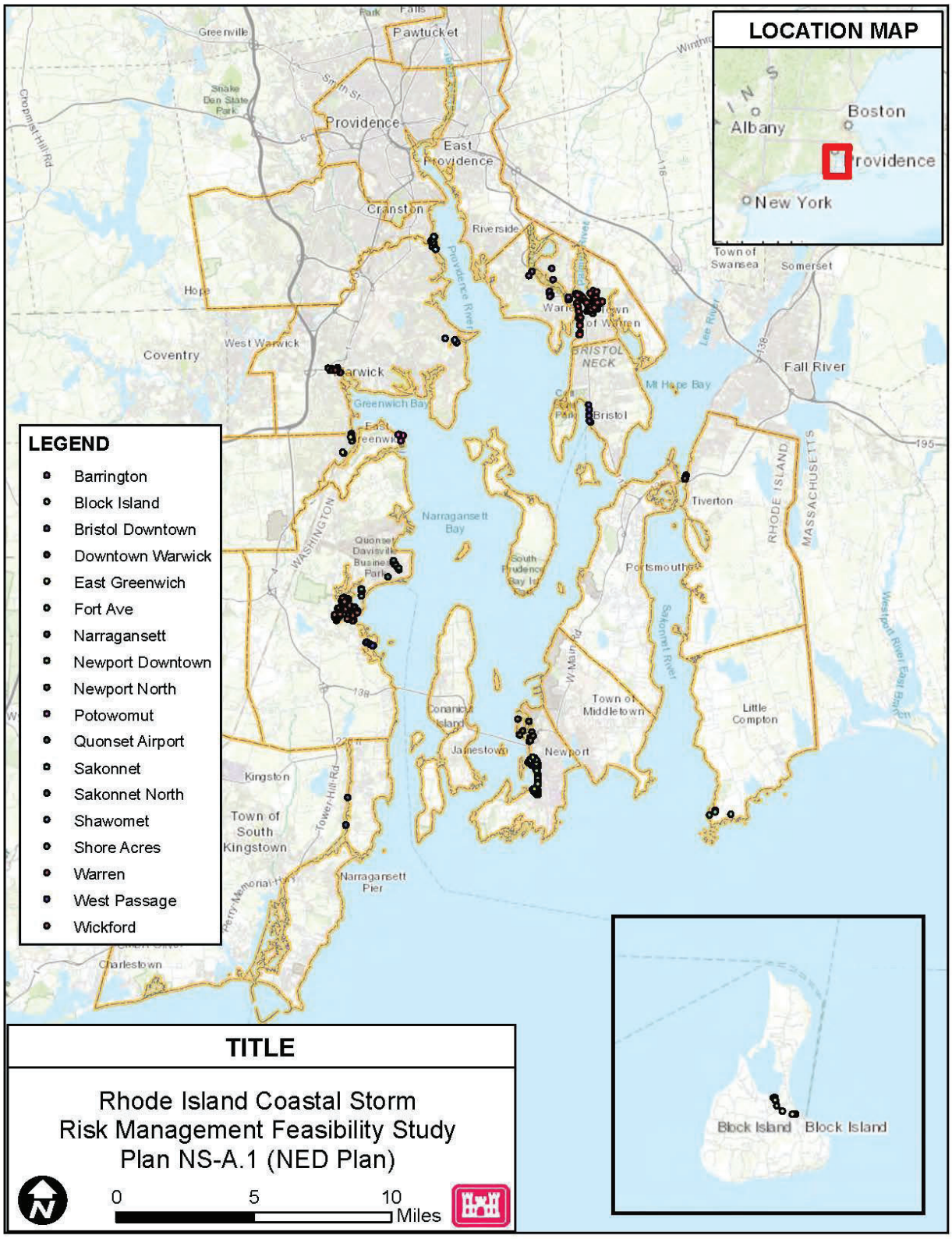

Figure 2 – Locations of the Structures Recommended for Elevation or Floodproofing in the Tentatively Selected Plan

State of Rhode Island
Coastal Resources Management Council
Oliver H. Stedman Government Center
4808 Tower Hill Road, Suite 3
Wakefield, RI 02879-1900

(401) 783-3370
Fax (401) 783-2069

March 8, 2022

John R. Kennelly, Chief, Planning Division
Department of the Army
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
New England District,
696 Virginia Road
Concord, MA 01742-2751

Re: CRMC File # 2022-02-081 -- Consistency Determination for the Rhode Island Coastline Coastal Storm Risk Management (CSRM) project

Dear Mr. Kennelly,

The Rhode Island Coastal Resources Management Council (CRMC) received your Consistency Determination filing on February 23, 2022 via email with attachment for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) Rhode Island Coastal Storm Risk Management (CSRM) project. The CSRM study area includes all or part of 19 municipalities abutting Narragansett Bay and New Shoreham (Block Island) as shown in Figure 1 of your filing. The Tentatively Selected Plan (TSP) for the CSRM project consists of elevating the first floors of 323 single-family residences above the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) designated Base Flood Elevation (BFE), including consideration of sea level change, and an additional 210 non-residential structures will be flood proofed within the CSRM study area. The TSP recommends that the 533 structures that have been identified within flood hazard areas be elevated or flood proofed, and the design and construction methodology of those nonstructural measures will be finalized in the Pre-Construction Engineering and Design (PED) phase of the project. The Corps has consulted and coordinated with the CRMC, which is the non-Federal sponsor for the project, during the planning stages of the CSRM project. In addition, please note that on February 15, 2022 the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) issued updated sea level rise projections with a higher level of confidence that the northeast region, including Rhode Island, will likely see one (1) foot of sea level rise between 2020 and 2050. See: https://www.noaa.gov/news-release/us-coastline-to-see-up-to-foot-of-sea-level-rise-by-2050. Accordingly, the Corps should be factoring these new NOAA projections into account during the PED phase of the project.

The Corps' Draft Integrated Feasibility Report and Environmental Assessment was released for public review on February 18, 2022, and is publicly available at: https://www.nae.usace.army.mil/Missions/Projects-Topics/Rhode-Island-Coastline- Coastal-Storm-Risk-Management-Project/. Based on the report and information contained within your filing, including a statement that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is adhering to the TSP, the CRMC has determined that the proposed federal activity to elevate and flood proof eligible structures within the CSRM study area is consistent to the maximum extent practicable, as defined by 15 C.F.R. § 930.32, with Rhode Island's enforceable policies of the Coastal Resources Management Program. Notwithstanding this determination, please note that eligible individual property owners that elect to participate in the Corps TSP and that are located within the CRMC's regulatory jurisdictional area (i.e., on a shoreline feature or the 200-foot contiguous area) will be required to obtain a permit from the CRMC for any proposed work to elevate and flood-proof structures. Such property owners will need to file an application directly with the CRMC and receive a permit in advance of commencement of work on the property. In addition, pursuant to 15 C.F.R. § 930.46, the Corps will not have to update their Consistency Determination with the CRMC unless there is a significant change to the TSP or as a result of the Pre-construction Engineering and Design phase of the project that will affect any coastal use or resource substantially different than originally described. This CRMC concurrence will remain in effect for the federal activity as described to date unless the provision of 15 C.F.R. § 930.46 are activated.

We appreciate the ACOE's work in collaboration with the State and local communities on this important project to increase coastal hazard resiliency within the project study area. The CRMC looks forward to a continued productive partnership as this important project advances into the construction phase. Please contact me at 401-783-3370 or email jwillis@crmc.ri.gov with any questions regarding this consistency decision.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey M. Willis, Executive Director
Coastal Resources Management Council

/lat
cc CRMC Council members
Justin Skenyon, CRMC Ocean Engineer