

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page Number
1. Letter of Intent from the City of Stamford	D-2
2. Section 206 Preliminary Restoration Plan, December 2001	D-3
3. Coordination letters	D-14
4. Minutes of Meeting, July 1, 2002	D-22
5. Minutes of Meeting, September 25, 2002	D-25
6. Letter from CT DEP concerning Threatened and Endangered Species	D-31
7. Letter from NMFS regarding federally listed species	D-32
8. CTDEP Fisheries Biologist Letter of Support	D-33
9. Planning Aid letter, US Fish and Wildlife Service	D-34
10. Letter from State Historic Preservation Office	D-37
11. Dredge Permit from CT DEP	D-38
12. Final Coordination Act Report, U.S Fish and Wildlife Service	D-41
13. ACOE response to Final Coordination Act Report	D-43
14. Support Letter from the City of Stamford	D-45
15. Essential Fish Habitat Review, National Marine Fisheries Service	D-47
16. Response to the Essential Fish Habitat Review	D-49
17. Public Notice (30-day comment period ends June 17, 2004)	D-51
18. Public Comment Letters	D-57
19. Response to Public Comment Letters	D-64
20. Public Information Meeting (June 24, 2004) Notes	D-65

MAYOR
DANNEL P. MALLOY



CITY OF STAMFORD
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

STAMFORD GOVERNMENT CENTER
888 WASHINGTON BOULEVARD
P.O. BOX 10152
STAMFORD, CT 06904-2152

(203) 977-4150
FAX (203) 977-5845

April 11, 2003

Colonel Brian E. Osterndorf
District Engineer
US Army Corps of Engineers, New England
Concord, MA 01742

RE: Mill River, Stamford, CT

Dear Colonel Osterndorf:

The City of Stamford, hereinafter called the "Sponsor," is interested in obtaining the US Army Corps of Engineers' assistance in an aquatic ecosystem restoration project located on the Mill River in Stamford, Connecticut. We have received the Preliminary Restoration Plan (PRP) dated November 9, 2001, which describes a restoration scenario and identifies the projected costs and schedule of the required feasibility investigation, development of plans and specifications, and construction.

The sponsor has reviewed the PRP and concurs with the restoration scenario identified at this time and requests that the Corps of Engineers initiate this project under its Environmental Protection and Restoration Program, Section 206 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1996. Studies will evaluate various alternatives for aquatic ecosystem restoration in the Mill River. Alternatives to be considered may include, but are not limited to, removal of the Main Street dam, dredging the Mill River Pond, restoration of aquatic and riparian habitats in the Mill River corridor, and removal of concrete walls and bank restoration along Mill River Pond.

The sponsor is aware of the obligations of the non-federal cost sharing under the Section 206 Program, including the cost-sharing requirement of thirty-five percent (35%) of the proposed project (including all study costs). We also understand that the City of Stamford will be responsible for the operation and maintenance of the completed project. We support the project and intend to pursue budgetary actions so that funds will be available to meet our cost-sharing requirements and prior to the advertisement of a construction contract.

The City of Stamford has designated Mr. Robin Stein, Land Use Bureau Chief, as the point of contact for this project. He can be reached at (203) 977-4716 by phone and rstein@ci.stamford.ct.us by email.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dannel P. Malloy". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "D" and a long, sweeping tail.

Dannel P. Malloy
Mayor

MAYOR
DANNEL P. MALLOY



STAMFORD GOVERNMENT CENTER
888 WASHINGTON BOULEVARD
P.O. BOX 10152
STAMFORD, CT 06904-2152

(203) 977-4150
FAX (203) 977-5845

CITY OF STAMFORD

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

Kenneth E. Hitch, P.E.
Chief, Engineering/Planning Division
US Army Corps of Engineers
New England District
696 Virginia Road
Concord, MA 01742-2751

Dear Mr. Hitch:

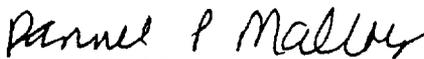
On Behalf of the City of Stamford, Connecticut, I am writing to request that you initiate preparation of a preliminary restoration plan (PRP) for the Mill River in Stamford under the Corps Section 206 "Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration" program.

The City of Stamford is undertaking a major initiative to revitalize the Mill River corridor in our community. A key aspect of the Mill River revitalization will be the restoration of the River and shoreline ecosystem. The potential river restoration project has been discussed with Ms. Barbara Blumeris of your staff and the Section 206 program identified as a possible avenue for river restoration. Project components may include studies and construction to address fish habitat, shoreline restoration, river flow, sedimentation and debris, and associated ecosystem and public recreational issues.

I understand that the PRP is a short document prepared by the Corps based on existing information that outlines the components of potential study and construction projects and their potential costs. I also understand that the PRP when completed will be provided to the City for review and that the City will then be asked to provide a letter of support for the implementation of the outlined project. The Mill River project is a top priority for the community, and we therefore ask that this PRP request be submitted for funding and approval as soon as possible.

Thank-you for your assistance, we look forward to working with you to restore the Mill River.

Sincerely,


Dannel P. Malloy
Mayor, City of Stamford

cc: Major General Hans Van Winkle
Col. John McElree, Assistant Director, Eastern Region (CECW-ZE)

**Section 206 Preliminary Restoration Plan
Mill River, Stamford, Connecticut
December 2001**

1. Project

The proposed restoration project is aquatic ecosystem restoration of the lower Mill River and Mill River Pond in Stamford, Connecticut, 4th Connecticut Congressional District.

2. Location

The Mill River aquatic ecosystem restoration site is located in Stamford, Connecticut, in Fairfield County. The degraded section of Mill River to be studied is located in downtown Stamford and empties into Long Island Sound. This river section is approximately two miles long and includes Mill River Pond, a 3.5-acre impoundment behind the Main Street Dam. Mill River is also known as Rippowam River.

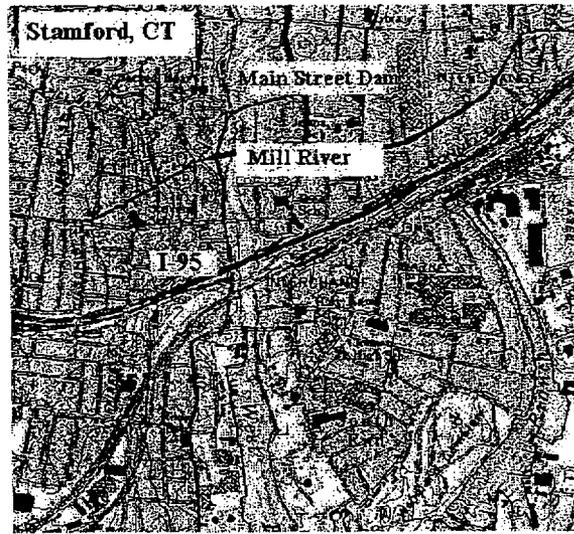


Figure 1 – Site Map of Mill River in Stamford, CT.

3. Description of Proposed Restoration Project

a. Existing Conditions

This proposal is to investigate actions to restore the riparian and aquatic habitats of this degraded urban river and pond. Degradation is a result of low flows, channel modifications, and excess sedimentation related to the urban setting surrounding the river. The pond has been reduced to a maximum depth of 1.5 feet despite dredging four years ago that increased the depth to five feet.

The current shallowness of the pond and river is conducive to extensive and dense summer-time growth of aquatic weeds and allows for the production of algae covered

mud flats in the pond. The pond currently provides little to no fish habitat. The Main Street Dam currently blocks anadromous fish passage. Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has designed a fish ladder to allow passage around the dam and migration up the river of anadromous fish, including alewife, blueback herring, and sea-run brown trout. This fish ladder is planned for construction in 2002, with funding assistance from National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). Over two thousand feet of concrete walls, eight feet high, enclose and form the banks of Mill River Pond and portions of the river upstream. The walls and fill behind the walls have precluded development of riparian habitat along the pond and they have negatively affected the aquatic habitat of the pond and river. Along the walls on both sides of the pond are rows of mature planted ornamental cherry trees.

In the upstream portion of Mill River, above Mill River Pond, aquatic habitat is shallow and non-diverse with poor instream habitat. Downstream of the Main Street Dam, the river is tidally influenced saline habitat.

b. Proposed Project

The goals of this proposed Continuing Authorities Program (CAP) restoration project are to restore the river corridor to a more natural appearing and functioning stream and to improve habitat for fish and waterfowl, including anadromous fish spawning habitat. The proposed CAP project supports an approved and funded project under the direction of the DEP to install a fish ladder in 2002 that will reopen the upper reaches of Mill River to anadromous fish from Long Island Sound. The major proposed actions of the proposed CAP project are 1) removing accumulated sediment in Mill River Pond, 2) improving channel morphology and function of the Mill River corridor, and 3) restoring riparian habitat along the Mill River Pond and upstream channel. Specific actions to be analyzed could include:

- Dredging and disposing of up to 36,000 cubic yards of sediments from the pond. The pond would be dredged to a variety of depths to provide deep and shallow habitat for resident fish species and spawning substrates for anadromous fish, including alewife.
- Adding riffles and other natural features to the river channel, such as boulders, pools, and meander bends to improve fish habitat, including spawning habitat.
- Restoring the riparian and streambank habitats surrounding Mill River Pond and along the river. This restoration involves removing the concrete walls, moving or replacing the cherry trees further back from the water's edge, excavating and sloping back the banks, and revegetating the shoreline area with riparian vegetation for shade, cover, and erosion control.
- Assessing recreational access to the shoreline of the pond. Boardwalks and trails along portions of the pond's edge would provide protection to the riparian area and shorelines from human impacts while providing recreational access to the pond.
- Constructing a sedimentation basin at the head of the impoundment of Mill River Pond to capture sediment being transported down the river before it enters the lower part of the pond. This sedimentation basin can consist of an excavated basin in the riverbed at the head of the impoundment and an access ramp for dredging equipment.

The estimated dredged quantity of 36,000 cubic yards includes excavation of this sedimentation basin.

- Examining possible benefits of augmenting the river's flow with upstream releases or diverting pumped water (from sump pumps in buildings in the city) to the river.

c. Additional Information

Mill River, also known as the Rippowam River, flows through downtown Stamford, which has a population of 117,000 people in the 37-square-mile watershed. Due to the water-use pressures from the urban surroundings, there has been a decrease in water quantity and quality. As the City has grown, the water needs have increased, resulting in greater withdrawals from the reservoirs at the head of the river. There is also a high water table under the city that requires some of the underground parking facilities to pump the water out. It is unknown whether there is a connection between this aquifer and the River.

The land surrounding the Mill River Pond, between Broad Street Bridge and Main Street Dam, is parkland owned by the city of Stamford. The river has been channelized with concrete walls along the banks in the downtown area, and many areas have little or no overhanging vegetation to shade the waters. A double line of mature cherry trees exists along both banks of the river above the concrete walls, and these trees have cultural significance to the City. Discarded trash, sedimentation, and low flows were observed along the river from downtown Stamford to the Stamford Harbor.

There are numerous stormwater outfalls into Mill River, and deposited sediment is observable directly downstream of each. The sediment that has accumulated in Mill River Pond since dredging is reported to be mostly leaves with some sand and salt from winter runoff. The condition of downstream sediments is unknown, but some contamination is expected due to impacts from the surrounding urban area.

Another problem in the lower Mill River basin is flooding due to bridges that catch debris and prevent water flow, the lack of natural floodplains due to channelization, and the urban encroachment. A Detailed Project Report done by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England District in 1985 describes the flooding problem and potential solutions in greater detail.

The City of Stamford is trying to revitalize the downtown area, and has developed plans for a greenway along the Mill River and other aesthetic improvements. Included in the revitalization is the desire to improve fish habitat along the river by increasing flow, providing fish passage over the Main Street Dam, and building riffles and other riverine habitat structures.

d. Alternatives Discussion

No Action (do nothing to restore the pond and river). Under this alternative, the pond will be very shallow, and extensive algae and weed growth will continue to choke the

pond. The river will continue to be polluted and unsuitable for fish habitat due to shallow flows and excess sediment. The no-action alternative would not meet the goals of this project because it results in the continued loss of aquatic habitat and loss of aesthetic characteristics of the river corridor.

Alternative for Ecosystem Restoration. This alternative includes the proposed actions, as stated above, of:

- 1) Removing accumulated sediment in Mill River Pond,
- 2) Improving channel morphology and function of Mill River,
- 3) Improving riparian and aquatic habitat, including habitat for domestic fish species and spawning habitat for a variety of anadromous fish from Long Island Sound (given that a fish ladder at the Main Street Dam is constructed), and
- 4) Constructing a sedimentation basin upstream of Mill River Pond to help reduce the rapid sediment accumulation in Mill River Pond.

This alternative would consider restoring the riparian areas and banks along the river by removing the concrete walls containing the river and pond, and repairing the riparian areas by reshaping and restoring the areas using natural materials and riparian vegetation. These restoration actions would improve the wildlife habitat along the river and provide a buffer from upland runoff and pollution. Recreation access to the pond would be accommodated by trails and/or boardwalks in order to protect the riparian habitat. Improvements in the river may involve adding riffles to increase aeration in the water and designing pools, boulders, meander bends, and other features to return the river to a more natural state.

Other Alternatives. An alternative to removing the walls along Mill River Pond and transplanting or removing the existing rows of cherry trees and sloping back the banks is to leave the cherry trees in place and construct sloped banks by filling into the pond. A major problem with this alternative is that further encroachment into the floodway of the channel would worsen flooding potential. To counteract the increased flooding the dam height could be reduced, but this alternative would require removal and reconstruction of the fish ladder that is already designed and is planned for construction in 2002. Additionally, encroachment into the floodway would increase flow velocities along the banks of the pond, possibly requiring more durable bank protection measures, and these measures could eliminate environmental restoration values to the project. Additional costs of protecting the cherry trees, conducting additional flood studies, and removing portions of the dam would make this alternative very expensive with possibly little to no value in restoration.

e. Project Benefits

Dredging the Mill River Pond and improving flows and channel morphology of Mill River are expected to restore open water and spawning habitats in the pond and the increase the depth of flow and improve the fish habitat in Mill River. Ecosystem restoration benefits would be measured in terms of length of river restored for fisheries

habitat for resident and anadromous fish. An incremental analysis is proposed to be undertaken to compare restoration increments and associated costs to the expected fish and wildlife benefits. It is expected that the proposed project would result in restoration of approximately two miles of river habitat, would provide warm-water fish habitat and anadromous fish spawning grounds, and would also improve waterfowl and riparian habitat.

f. Resource Significance

The Mill River runs through the heart of downtown Stamford, and, as such, has the potential to provide functional habitat within the city for fish and wildlife while providing educational opportunities for the public. The river had been neglected, and has become filled with debris, pollution, and sediment.

Public Recognition – Mill River and Mill River Pond provide valuable habitat for fish and wildlife within the City of Stamford. The City of Stamford recognizes the river system as an important natural resource to the area, and commissioned a study by Sasaki Associates and Economics Research Associates (1998) to examine ways to improve the ecology of the Stamford Mill River Corridor. In 1996, the city contracted dredging of the Mill River Pond in an effort to beautify and restore the river and pond setting. The Mill River Corridor has been the focus of a previous Corps study for Flood Control (1985).

Technical Recognition – As discussed above (3e), the restoration of Mill River Pond and Mill River would improve the aquatic habitat and biodiversity of a degraded system. This project would supplement the planned construction of a fish ladder on Main Street dam by improving the upstream spawning habitat and access for anadromous fish.

Institutional Recognition – As a tributary to Long Island Sound, Mill River has been investigated through a Coastal Connecticut General Investigation program with the Army Corps of Engineers and identified as a resource worth restoring to improve the water quality in Long Island Sound. Connecticut DEP and NOAA recognize the importance of Mill River as anadromous spawning grounds.

g. Methodology for the Planning, Design, and Analysis Phase

The PDA will examine the existing conditions at the site and recommend improvements to restore the pond. Analysis will be at a level of detail sufficient to characterize the benefits, impacts, and costs of the proposed project.

Specifically, it is envisioned that the PDA will include the following items:

Sediment Assessment – Test sediments to characterize their suitability for disposal and dredging/excavating requirements.

Bathymetric Survey – Conduct a survey of the sediment and bottom elevations of the pond and river to assess the amount of material to excavate.

Water Quality and Hydrology and Hydraulics – Provide a discussion of existing water quality conditions and expected improvements with the project. Provide an estimate of flows and flooding potential through the pond and river for existing conditions and the proposed action. Analyze sediment trap design, including sediment rates and sources.

Geotechnical Engineering – Assist in the evaluation of alternatives for sediment removal and disposal. Assist in design of natural banks, riparian area, and floodplain for the downtown section of river.

Engineering Design and Cost Estimates – Provide preliminary design and analysis for sediment removal and any dewatering areas or disposal areas required for project construction. Estimate the amount of sediment to be removed from the pond and outline the construction methods. Evaluate both mechanical and hydraulic options. Investigate removal of concrete walls and replacing them with bio-engineered slopes.

Ecological Evaluation – Use existing information to characterize the existing habitats and predict future habitat characteristics and value with and without project implementation. Determine riparian habitat requirements for bank restoration. Determine pond habitat needs regarding dredging and instream structural needs along two miles of stream for fish habitat improvement. Use an incremental analysis of project benefits and costs based on excavation amounts and acres to be restored to select the proposed project. In addition, prepare an Environmental Assessment of the proposed project as required by the Federal National Environmental Policy Act requirements (NEPA).

Cultural Resources Coordination – Coordinate the proposed project with the Connecticut State Historic Preservation Office.

Real Estate – Identify any real estate requirements for project implementation and prepare a Real Estate Plan for the proposed project.

h. LERRD

The local sponsor is responsible for acquiring any lands, easements, rights-of-way, relocations, and excavation/disposal sites (LERRD) needed for the project. The following outlines what LERRD might need to be obtained by the sponsor. This is based on preliminary information provided by the local sponsor and may change as the project is further investigated.

Land and Construction Easements – Some of the land adjacent to Mill River Pond and Mill River is owned by the City. It has been assumed that the city-owned land will be used for construction staging and sediment dewatering containment areas. If this is not possible, then private land may need to be acquired by the City for these purposes.

Also, depending on the actual location used for construction access, a construction easement across private land to the pond and river may be needed.

Flowage Rights for Pond Drawdown and River Flow during Construction – Currently, there are no known rights to the water in the lower reaches of Mill River. However, to minimize impacts, construction could occur during the fall, when flows are at their lowest levels.

Disposal Site – The local sponsor is responsible for obtaining a site to dispose of the material removed from the pond. Results of sediment testing would determine the type of disposal site that would be required.

4. Consistency Statement (for Section 1135)

Not Applicable

5. Views of the Sponsor

The City of Stamford strongly supports the project to restore Mill River and Mill River Pond and recognizes the benefits from both the ecological and community resource aspects.

6. Views of Federal, State, and Regional Agencies

Restoring Mill River and Mill River Pond would reduce nutrient and pollutant inputs into Long Island Sound, benefiting both Connecticut and New York. The Connecticut DEP supports the project to restore fish habitat. As well, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) supports the project, and has provided funding for Connecticut DEP to build a fish ladder at the Main Street Dam.

7. Status of Environmental Compliance:

It is anticipated that an Environmental Assessment (EA) and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for this project will be prepared during the study phase.

8. Costs and Benefits

a. Project Costs

A preliminary assessment of project implementation costs was made, along with a breakdown of projected costs for the Planning, Design, and Analysis (PDA) phase, preparation of Plans and Specifications, and the Construction Phase. These costs are presented in Section 11. The construction cost estimate is preliminary and is based on:

- Removal of 2,000 feet of concrete walls, transplanting or replacing existing cherry trees, back-sloping the pond banks, and restoring riparian habitat along the banks of the pond;
 - Dredging three acres of Mill River Pond to a depth of one to fifteen feet, including excavation of a sedimentation basin; and
 - Adding boulders and other natural features to two miles of river channel.
- This estimate will be revisited in the PDA.

At present, a projected annual O&M costs are unknown for maintaining the sedimentation basin. The City will need to closely monitor all future activities in the watershed to prevent further sedimentation to the pond. Any construction or agricultural activities that occur in the watershed will need to include erosion controls. The City will also need to improve catch basins and sediment control devices for the stormwater outfalls that feed into Mill River.

b. Project Benefits

The output of this project is the ecological restoration of 3.5 acres of a freshwater pond and 2 miles of river habitat. Anadromous fish habitat to the pond and river will be created or improved in conjunction with the planned construction of a fish ladder on Main Street Dam. These benefits are described in more detail under items 3d and 3e above.

9. Schedule (Tentative)

<u>Item</u>	<u>Duration In Months</u>	<u>Estimated Start Date</u>	<u>Estimated Finish Date</u>
PDA	12	January 2002	January 2003
EA Review	2	January 2003	March 2003
Finalize Plans & Specifications	3	April 2003	July 2003
Sponsor Obtains Local Permits	5	August 2003	January 2004
Sponsor Provides LERRD and any required cost share	1	February 2004	March 2004
Contract Advertisement and Award	3	March 2004	June 2004
Construction	*	July 2004	May 2004

*Construction schedule will depend on any environmental windows required to avoid impacts. At this time it is expected that construction will require pond drawdown and would be restricted to the fall season to avoid environmental impacts. The assumption has been made that the pond and river restoration could be accomplished in one fall season. However, two seasons may be required.

10. Supplemental Information

None

11. Financial Data (Estimated)

Project Costs (\$000s)

Project Costs – Section 206 – Cost share 35 percent Non-Federal/65 percent Federal

	Project Costs			Federal Funding Needs			
	Total	Non-Fed	Fed	FY	FY + 1	FY + 2	FY + 3
PDA	242	0	242	120	122	0	0
Construction	700	330	370	0	0	100	270
Totals	942	330	612	120	122	100	270

Note: These are preliminary estimates based on costs developed for similar work.

Non-Federal Requirements:

Contributions	Value (dollars)
LERRD	To Be Determined
Cash	330,000
Work In-Kind	To Be Determined
Annual OMRR&R	To Be Determined

12. Federal Allocations to Date

Preliminary Restoration Plan: \$10,000
PDA: \$0
Construction: \$0



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
NORTH ATLANTIC DIVISION, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
FORT HAMILTON MILITARY COMMUNITY
GENERAL LEE AVENUE
BROOKLYN, NY 11252-6700

IN REPLY REFER TO

CENAD-ET-P (1105-2-10b)

04 January 2002

MEMORANDUM FOR CENAB-PI-P

SUBJECT: Approval of Preliminary Restoration Plan (PRP), Section 206. Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration Project, Mill River, Stamford, Connecticut, PWI#NAE 52LFCH

1. Reference CENAB-PL-P Memo dated 27 December 2001 SAB.
2. This office has reviewed the subject PRP and has determined that it satisfies the requirements of milestone C-3 for the initiation of feasibility studies. Provided costs remain at or below projected amounts you may proceed directly to Plans and Specifications consistent with the establishment of an intermediate milestone with this office to evaluate the final plan. If project costs should significantly exceed the \$1,000,000 threshold, a feasibility study may be required. The District may initiate Planning Design and Analysis (PDA) upon receipt of funds. Funds will be provided following receipt of district request.
3. The PRP indicates a potential for serious sedimentation problem in the project area and includes an intra-riverine sediment control basin as part of the restoration proposal. The district is cautioned to consider the effects of chronic sedimentation on any restoration features that are developed and to encourage the local sponsor to undertake control actions that would preclude or reduce the need for intra-riverine control structures. The status of such efforts should be factored into any decisions to proceed with those features of the project that could be affected by the sedimentation.
4. The POC for this action is Ms. Linda Monte. Ms. Monte may be reached at 718-765-7067 or by e-mail at Linda.B.Monte@usace.army.mil.

SAMUEL P. TOSI
Chief, Planning & Policy Division
Directorate of Civil Works & Management



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

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

CENAE-EP-P

17 December 2001

MEMORANDUM FOR Commander, U.S. Army Engineer Division, North Atlantic,
ATTN: CENAD-ET-P, (Mr. Wright), Ft. Hamilton Military
Community, Bldg. 301, Brooklyn, NY 11252

SUBJECT: Approval of Preliminary Restoration Plan, Section 206, Aquatic Ecosystem
Restoration Project, Mill River, Stamford, Connecticut, PWI# NAE 52LFCH

1. Enclosed is the Preliminary Restoration Plan (PRP) for Mill River, Stamford, Connecticut Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration Project for your review and approval. The total cost of the project is estimated to be less than one million dollars. The non-Federal sponsor, the city of Stamford, Connecticut, has provided a letter of support, and a copy of the letter is enclosed.
2. If further information is needed, please contact the study manager, Mr. Adam Burnett at (978) 318-8547.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

Encls(as)

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Dulong", written over a horizontal line.

DAVID L. DULONG, P.E.
Chief, Engineering/Planning Division

<<DATE>>

<<NAME>>

<<TITLE>>

<<AGENCY>>

<<ADDRESS>>

<<ADDRESS>>

<<NAME>>:

On behalf of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) - New England District, we would like to invite you to a coordinated meeting and site visit to discuss an environmental restoration project proposed for the Mill River in Stamford Connecticut on Wednesday, September 25th. The project is being conducted under Section 206 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1996. Section 206 provides programmatic authority for the USACE to carry out aquatic ecosystem restoration projects. The Bioengineering Group, Inc. is currently conducting a Feasibility Study and Environmental Assessment. A Coastal Zone Management Consistency Determination, Water Quality Certification, and a Clean Water Act Section 404(b)(1) Evaluation may be required for the proposed work. The City of Stamford, the local sponsor, will acquire all other appropriate permits. A location map is enclosed to aid you in your work.

The study area is located in downtown Stamford, Connecticut, in Fairfield County. Stamford is situated along the Atlantic shoreline 25 miles northeast of New York City. Restoration plans focus upon the Mill River and Mill Pond in downtown Stamford. The Mill Pond is a 3.5-acre impoundment located in downtown Stamford that is formed by the Main Street Dam. In 1922, the Main Street Dam was constructed and vertical cement retaining walls were built. Approximately 2.5 miles of river corridor is being evaluated for in-stream and floodplain restoration potential.

Preliminary alternatives are being evaluated for the proposed project. One plan involves retaining the dam, removing the concrete walls, moving or replacing the cherry trees, excavating and naturally sloping the banks, and revegetating the shoreline with riparian vegetation for shading, cover, and erosion control. Another alternative includes removing the dam and concrete walls along the pond and restoring riverine morphology and habitat. Additional restoration opportunities will be identified and evaluated during this phase of the study including possible tidal and freshwater wetland creation, riparian enhancement, stormwater treatment, erosion control, and fish passage enhancement.

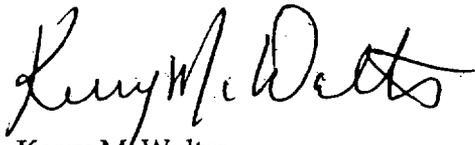
Objectives for restoration include enhancing instream and riparian habitat as well as restoring anadromous fish passage to the upper reaches of the Mill River. The Main Street Dam prevents the passage of anadromous fish to their spawning grounds upstream as well as causing

sedimentation and water quality issues within the pond. Habitat quality/integrity within the Mill River has suffered from the Mill Pond impoundment. A history of sediment deposition and neglect has left the river and pond in a degraded state. The preferred alternative, removal of the dam, would restore fish passage and improve water quality to this reach of the Mill River.

Mr. Leo Pierre Roy, The Bioengineering Group, and Mr. Adam Burnett, USACE Study Manager, will be conducting a coordinated on-site meeting on Wednesday, September 25th, at 11:00 am at the Stamford Government Center, 888 Washington Blvd. The purpose of the meeting is to explain the proposed project and to elicit agency concerns and suggestions. Please meet in the Mayor's Conference Room on the 10th floor. See enclosed map for directions and details. Your agency's participation at this meeting would be appreciated.

If you require any further information, please contact Ms. McWalter at 978-740-0096 ext 524 or Mr. Burnett at 978-318-8547.

Sincerely,



Kerry McWalter
Ecological Engineer
The Bioengineering Group, Inc

Enclosure

cc:

Adam Burnett, USACE
Judith Johnson, USACE

The preceding letter was sent to the following addressees:

Federal Government:

Adam Burnett
Project Manager
US Army Corps of Engineers
696 Virginia Road
Concord, Massachusetts 01742-2751
(978) 318-8547
adam.w.burnett@usace.army.mil

Judith L. Johnson
Biologist
US Army Corps of Engineers
696 Virginia Road
Concord, Massachusetts 01742-2751
(978) 318-8138
judith.l.johnson@usace.army.mil

Michael Marsh
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Wetlands Program Coordinator - CT
1 Congress St
Boston, Massachusetts 02114-2023
(617) 918-1556
marsh.mike@epa.gov

Lynne Hamjian
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Director, Wetlands Program
Coordinator - CT
1 Congress St
Boston, Massachusetts 02114-2023
(617) 918-1556

Joseph Salata
US Environmental Protection Agency
Long Island Sound Office
Government Center
888 Washington Blvd.
Stamford, CT 06904
(203) 977-1541; fax 977-1546
salata.joseph@epamail.epa.gov

Mark Tedesco
US Environmental Protection Agency
Director, Long Island Sound Office
Government Center
888 Washington Blvd.
Stamford, CT 06904
(203) 977-1541; fax 977-1546

City of Stamford:

Dannel Malloy
Mayor, City of Stamford
888 Washington Boulevard
Stamford, Connecticut 06904
(203) 977-4150

Robin Stein
Land Use Bureau Chief
Stamford Government Center
888 Washington Boulevard
Stamford, Connecticut 06904
(203) 977-4716
rstein@ci.stamford.ct.us

David Emerson
Director, Environmental Protection
Board
Stamford Government Center
888 Washington Boulevard
Stamford, Connecticut 06904
(203) 977-5021
demerson@ci.stamford.ct.us

Rick Tallimelli
Environmental Protection Board
Government Center
888 Washington Blvd.
Stamford, CT 06904
977-4028; fax 977-5703

Antonio Iadarola
Engineering Bureau Chief
888 Washington Boulevard
Stamford, Connecticut 06904
(203) 977-4135

Glen MacWilliams
Operations Services Bureau Chief
888 Washington Boulevard
Stamford, Connecticut 06904
(203) 977-4143

Tim Curtin
Director of Operations
888 Washington Boulevard
Stamford, Connecticut 06904
977-4141

Ralph Tedesco
Facilities and Parks Maintenance
888 Washington Boulevard
Stamford, Connecticut 06904
(203) 977-4688

State:

Steve Gephard
Connecticut DEP /Inland Fisheries
Division
P.O. Box 719
Old Lyme, CT 06371
(860) 434-6043
Steve.gephard@po.state.ct.us

Peter Aarrestad
Inland Fisheries Division
Connecticut DEP
79 Elm Street
Hartford, Connecticut 06106-5127
(860) 424-3487

Chris Malik
Watershed Coordinator, Connecticut
Connecticut DEP
Bureau of Water Management
79 Elm Street
Hartford, Connecticut 06106-5127
(860) 424-3869

Ron Rosza
Office of Long Island Sound Programs
Connecticut DEP
79 Elm Street
Hartford, Connecticut 06106-5127
(860) 424-3034

John Gaucher
Coastal Planner
Connecticut DEP
Office of Long Island Sound Programs
79 Elm Street
Hartford, Connecticut 06106-5127
(860) 424-3034
Coastal Zone Management
John.gaucher@po.state.ct.us

Wes Marsh
Inland Water Resources Division
Connecticut DEP
79 Elm Street
Hartford, Connecticut 06106-5127
(860) 424-3706
wes.marsh@po.state.ct.us

Gene Robida
Inland Water Resources Division
Connecticut DEP
79 Elm Street
Hartford, Connecticut 06106-5127
(860) 424-3706

Doug Zimmerman
Supporting Environmental Analyst
Connecticut DEP
79 Elm Street
Hartford, Connecticut 06106-5127
(860) 424-3800

Jeff Caiola
Stream Channel Encroachments
Inland Water Resources Division
Connecticut DEP
79 Elm Street
Hartford, Connecticut 06106-5127
(860) 424-4162

The Bioengineering Group:

Leo Pierre Roy
Vice President
The Bioengineering Group, Inc.
18 Commercial Street
Salem, MA. 01970
(978) 740-0096 x501
lroy@bioengineering.com

Laura Wildman, P.E.
American Rivers
20 Abyberry Rd.
Glouster, CT 06033
(860) 652-9911
lwildman@amrivers.org

Kerry McWalter
The Bioengineering Group, Inc.
18 Commercial Street
Salem, MA. 01970
(978) 740-0096 x524
kmcwalter@bioengineering.com

Aquarion Water Company:

Fred Gliesing
Aquarion Water Company
714 Black Rock Road
Waston, CT. 06612
(203) 452-3505
fgliesing@aquarionwater.com

Brian Thompson
Aquarion Water Company
714 Black Rock Road
Waston, CT. 06612
(203) 452-3505
bthompson@aquarionwater.com

Local Organizations:

William Shadel
**Director of Research, Save the Sound
Inc.**
20 Marshall St.
South Norwalk, CT 06854
(203) 654-0036
wshadel@savethesound.org

<<DATE>>

<<NAME>>

<<TITLE>>

<<AGENCY>>

<<ADDRESS>>

<<ADDRESS>>

<<NAME>>:

On behalf of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) – New England District, we would like to initiate study coordination pursuant to the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, as amended, and to request a list of endangered and threatened species for the project area pursuant to Section 7(c) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended. A coordinated meeting and site visit will be held on Wednesday, September 25th to discuss a proposed environmental restoration project for the Mill River in Stamford Connecticut. The project is being conducted under Section 206 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1996. Section 206 provides programmatic authority for the USACE to carry out aquatic ecosystem restoration projects. The Bioengineering Group, Inc. is currently conducting a Feasibility Study and Environmental Assessment. A Coastal Zone Management Consistency Determination, Water Quality Certification, and a Clean Water Act Section 404(b)(1) Evaluation may be required for the proposed work. The City of Stamford, the local sponsor, will acquire all other appropriate permits. A location map is enclosed to aid you in your work.

The study area is located in downtown Stamford, Connecticut, in Fairfield County. Stamford is situated along the Atlantic shoreline 25 miles northeast of New York City. Restoration plans focus upon the Mill River and Mill Pond in downtown Stamford. The Mill Pond is a 3.5-acre impoundment located in downtown Stamford that is formed by the Main Street Dam. In 1922, the Main Street Dam was constructed and vertical cement retaining walls were built. Approximately 2.5 miles of river corridor is being evaluated for in-stream and floodplain restoration potential.

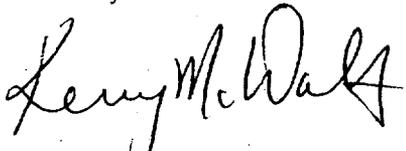
Preliminary alternatives are being evaluated for the proposed project. One plan involves retaining the dam, removing the concrete walls, moving or replacing the cherry trees, excavating and naturally sloping the banks, and revegetating the shoreline with riparian vegetation for shading, cover, and erosion control. Another alternative includes removing the dam and concrete walls along the pond and restoring riverine morphology and habitat. Additional restoration opportunities will be identified and evaluated during this phase of the study including possible tidal and freshwater wetland creation, riparian enhancement, stormwater treatment, erosion control, and fish passage enhancement.

Objectives for restoration include enhancing instream and riparian habitat as well as restoring anadromous fish passage to the upper reaches of the Mill River. The Main Street Dam prevents the passage of anadromous fish to their spawning grounds upstream as well as causing sedimentation and water quality issues within the pond. Habitat quality/integrity within the Mill River has suffered from the Mill Pond impoundment. A history of sediment deposition and neglect has left the river and pond in a degraded state. The preferred alternative, removal of the dam, would restore fish passage and improve water quality to this reach of the Mill River.

Mr. Leo Pierre Roy, The Bioengineering Group, and Mr. Adam Burnett, USACE Study Manager, will be conducting a coordinated on-site meeting on Wednesday, September 25th, at 11:00 am at the Stamford Government Center, 888 Washington Blvd. The purpose of the meeting is to explain the proposed project and to elicit agency concerns and suggestions. Please meet in the Mayor's Conference Room on the 10th floor. See enclosed map for directions and details. Your agency's participation at this meeting would be appreciated.

If you require any further information, please contact Ms. McWalter at 978-740-0096 ext 524 or Mr. Burnett at 978-318-8547.

Sincerely,



Kerry McWalter
Ecological Engineer
The Bioengineering Group, Inc

Enclosure

cc:

Adam Burnett, USACE
Judith Johnson, USACE

The preceding letter was sent to the following addressees:

Federal Government:

Don Henne
US Fish & Wildlife
P.O. Box 307
Charlestown, R.I. 02813
(401) 364-9124
don_henne@fws.gov

Michael Bartlett
Supervisor, Department of the Interior
US Fish & Wildlife
Ecological Services
70 Commercial St, Suite 300
Concord, New Hampshire 03301-5087

Tom Halavik
US Fish & Wildlife
P.O. Box 307
Charlestown, R.I. 02813
(401) 364-9124
tom_halavik@fws.gov

Greg Mannesto
US Fish & Wildlife
P.O. Box 307
Charlestown, R.I. 02813
(401) 364-9124
greg_mannesto@fws.com

Jim Turek
Assistant N.E. Coordinator,
NOAA Restoration Center
National Marine Fisheries
28 Carzwell Dr.
Narragansett, R.I. 02882
(401) 782-3338
james.g.turek@noaa.gov

Mike Ludwig
National Marine Fisheries
212 Rogers Ave
Milford, CT. 06460-6499
(203) 882-6594
Michael.Ludwig@noaa.gov

Robert Varney
New England Regional Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1 Congress Street, Suite 1100 (RAA)
Boston, MA 02114-2023

Meeting Date: July 1, 2002

Meeting Location: The Government Center
888 Washington Boulevard
Stamford, Connecticut 06904

Meeting Purpose: USACE Restoration Feasibility and Environmental Assessment of the Mill (Rippowam) River, Stamford CT

Attendees:

TBG	City of Stamford	USACE	State of Connecticut- DEP
Leo Pierre Roy	Robin Stein	Adam Burnett	Steve Gephard
Kerry McWalter	David Emerson	Judith L. Johnson	
	Rick Tallimelli		
TRC	Save the Sound	US Fish & Wildlife	Housing Authority
Nathan Morphew	William Shadel	Don Henne	Richard Fox

1.0 The meeting agenda included the following items:

- Introduction of the USACE interests and goals for the Mill River.
- Introduction of The Bioengineering Group, Inc.
- Section 206 Program - Opportunities and Limitations, Role of the Local Sponsor, Potential Timelines
- City of Stamford's goals for the Mill River and Mill River Pond
- Open discussion of restoration opportunities

2.0 Leo Pierre Roy (TBG) discussed the opportunities and limitations of the USACE Section 206 program for Aquatic Habitat Restoration as well as The Bioengineering Group's role in the feasibility study and environmental assessment.

3.0 Steve Gephard (CDEP) discussed the potential for restoring the anadromous fish passage up the Rippowam River. The possibility exists to restore the American Shad, Sea-run Brown Trout, Alewife, and Blueback Herring to the upper reaches of the Rippowam through the placement of a fish ladder at the Main Street Dam or the complete removal of the dam. He recognized that the removal of the dam is a preferred alternative for the fish passage restoration.

3.1 Anadromous fish have been trapped at the base of the dam, so the potential for fish movement into the upper portions of the watershed exists.

- 4.0 The value of including the Water Authority (Aquarion Company) in any further discussions of restoration and flow augmentation was mentioned. Involving Trout Unlimited in future discussions concerning maintenance and fish habitat along Mill River was recognized as a potential collaboration.
- 5.0 The current fish ladder project is in its final stages of completion with a full design completed by Kleinschmidt, Inc. Construction is due to start in approximately one month. Issues with liability and paperwork have slowed the process to installation of the fish ladder to date. These issues have been resolved and the project should be moving forward unhindered. The funding for the fish ladder project comes from NOAA, Save the Sound, and Fish America Foundation. There is concern over the availability of funding if the project is postponed another year.
- 6.0 Steve Gephard and Bill Shadel (Save the Sound) expressed concern over the timing of the two projects. If the dam were to be removed within the next five to ten years, the fish ladder project would not obtain its full benefit. Everyone agreed that the timeline for potential restoration activity was at least 2 years away but no prediction could be made as to the exact date for the restoration of Mill River Pond. A decision will need to be made concerning the construction of the fish ladder with this timeline in mind.
- 6.1 While there has been no recommendation to remove the Main Street Dam to date, this alternative will be examined in the USACE feasibility study.
- 6.2 Aluminum components of fish ladder may be removed and reused for another project in the case that the dam is removed.
- 6.3 All agencies are concerned about duplicating efforts for fish passage on the river. The fish ladder effort was begun in 1999 and has continued through many hurdles to be near completion this summer.
- 6.4 As a part of the fish ladder project the City is required to repair a portion of the Dam.
- 7.0 The potential for fish passage over concrete blocks and old floodgates beneath the Pulaski Street Bridge were discussed as a potential blockage of fish passage from the Long Island Sound to the Rippowam River. Adam Burnett addressed the possibility of removing these channel barriers through the Section 206 restoration effort. (*Further field investigations found that there is fish passage through the area of concern during high tide*)
- 8.0 Robin Stein (City of Stamford) then spoke on the City of Stamford's goals for the restoration of Mill River. While the City has not previously been open to the idea of removing the Dam they are now ready to consider this alternative seriously. The City's goal is to restore the aquatic habitat of the Rippowam River and incorporate the river into the downtown area as a green space.
- 9.0 Richard Fox (Housing Authority) expressed concern about the liability of any alterations to the Dam structure. All appropriate forms, details and flooding permits would need to be in place before construction activity could commence.
- 10.0 David Emerson (City of Stamford) spoke concerning the Environmental Protection Board's interest in restoring aquatic habitat as well as ensuring flood protection for the City of Stamford. For any proposed restoration activities, a Flood Hazard Study would

have to be completed to show no increase in the floodway. It was agreed that removing the dam would reduce the potential for flooding in Stamford.

- 11.0 The potential contamination levels of PCB's within the Mill Pond is a concern for dredging activities. Further investigation will be done to confirm the levels of hazardous substances present within bottom sediments. The last time sediment was removed from the pond was 9 to 10 years ago. Contamination levels were not sufficiently present at that time to warrant concern. It was suggested that the DEP be contacted immediately to evaluate the level of contamination and need for concern over sediment within the pond.
- 12.0 Judi Johnson (USACE) spoke about an official coordination meeting that will happen within the next couple of months. This meeting will include a larger audience and will discuss alternatives. Everyone present will be receiving a letter detailing the date and time of the coordination meeting.

MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Date: September 25, 2002

Meeting Location: The Government Center
888 Washington Boulevard
Stamford, Connecticut 06904

Meeting Purpose: USACE Restoration Feasibility and Environmental Assessment of the Mill (Rippowam) River, Stamford CT



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**



Attendees:

TBG	City of Stamford, CT	City of Stamford, cont	State of Connecticut- DEP
Leo Pierre Roy	Dannel Malloy	Tim Curtain	Steve Gephard
Kerry McWalter	Robin Stein		Doug Zimmerman
Matt Collins	David Emerson		Jeffery Wilcox
	Rick Tallimelli	USACE	Chris Malik
Save the Sound	Frank Smeriglio	Adam Burnett	Lori Benoit
William Shadel	Paul Ginotti	Judith L. Johnson	John Gaucher
	Carl Ruspini		Steve Mackenzie
EPA	Stephen Osman	American Rivers	Peter Aarrestad
Joe Salata	Lou Casolo	Laura Wildman	

13.0 The meeting agenda included the following items:

- Introduction of the USACE interests and goals for the Mill River.
- Introduction of Section 206 Program - Opportunities and Limitations
- Short presentation of draft recommended alternative from Draft Feasibility Study
- Open discussion and questions

2.0 Adam Burnett (USACE) made opening remarks thanking everyone from all of the agencies for attending the coordination meeting for the Mill River and Mill Pond Habitat Restoration Project. He expressed enthusiasm by the Federal government for working with the City of Stamford to restore the Mill River and Mill Pond.

3.0 Leo Pierre Roy (TBG) discussed the opportunities and requirements of the USACE Section 206 program for Aquatic Habitat Restoration as well as The Bioengineering Group's role as contractor to the USACE in the feasibility study and environmental

assessment. He introduced the goal of the project - "The goal of the Mill River and Mill Pond habitat restoration is to restore the aquatic and riparian resources of the river and return the Mill River to a healthy, viable, and self-maintaining river system."

4.0 Kerry McWalter (TBG) gave a brief presentation detailing some background information on the watershed and project area. Specifics concerning the draft recommended alternative presented in the Draft Detailed Project Report included:

4.1 Alternatives Evaluated:

4.1.1 Alternative 1: No Restoration

No alterations to the Mill River or Mill Pond would be performed. The Mill Pond landscape would remain unchanged. Sediment deposition would continue in Mill Pond, thus requiring regular dredging and maintenance by the City of Stamford. Water quality within Mill Pond would continue to be impaired. The Main Street Dam would continue to block migration and movement of anadromous and freshwater fishes. (\$0)

4.1.2 Alternative 2

Alternative 2, which removes the Main Street Dam and re-creates a natural stream channel, is the draft recommended alternative. To facilitate fish passage and allow continual flushing of sediment, the Main Street Dam would be removed. Concrete retaining walls would also be removed and banks sculpted to create a riparian corridor through the park. The configuration of the natural channel design, along with the selective placement of boulders and other rock structures in the stream channel, would create an in-stream, pool and riffle sequence within the park reach. The pools would be self-maintained by natural flushing during high river flows. Since this alternative meets the goals of the project and was determined to be cost-effective at an estimated construction cost of \$3,798,000, it was chosen as the draft recommended plan.

4.1.3 Alternative 3

Dam removal would occur as described in Alternative 2. A still-water landscape would be maintained in Mill Pond Park by establishing a series of pools connected by small cascades. Flow control structures would be constructed by using boulders, and would appear to be small natural cascades. The concrete walls around the Mill Pond would be removed and replaced with vegetated banks, stabilized and functioning in the same manner as described in Alternative 2. On-going dredging and maintenance would be required to manage sedimentation within all six pools. The significant operation and maintenance costs make this a less desirable alternative. Alternative 3 was not determined to be the most cost-effective plan with an estimated construction cost of \$4,170,000.

4.1.4 Alternative 4

The Main Street Dam and the Mill Pond would be retained. The concrete walls around Mill Pond would be partially removed and the shoreline of the pond would be reshaped and regraded. The new pond slopes would be stabilized with native upland vegetation to develop a riparian buffer zone around the pond. Fish passage would be enhanced by installing a fish ladder at the Main Street Dam. On-going dredging and maintenance would be required to manage sedimentation within the pond. Alternative 4 was not determined to be cost-effective despite an estimated construction cost of \$2,690,000.

Additional restoration goals will be attained by restoring 1.8 acres of tidal and freshwater wetland, and by accomplishing 1.7 miles of riparian enhancement. These components of the plan are uniform across all alternatives.

4.2 Draft Recommended Alternative: Alternative #2

The Mill River and Mill Pond Habitat Restoration Project will remove the Main Street Dam and the concrete retaining walls around the Mill Pond. Removing these structures will create an opportunity to restore the river channel and floodplain to Mill Pond Park and open 5.2 miles of the Mill River for fish passage. The restored channel will effectively transport sediment and nutrients, supporting aquatic, riverbank, and floodplain habitat.

Additional restoration actions include:

- creating a wetland and outdoor education area on the JM Wright Technical School grounds;
- enhancing the riparian corridor through planting native woody and herbaceous vegetation;
- removing exotic and invasive plant species along the riparian corridor;
- creating and restoring tidal wetlands through re-grading banks and planting native salt marsh vegetation;
- removing cement blocks and gate structures directly beneath the Pulaski Street Bridge; and
- incorporating a trail system to connect the greenway and parks along the river corridor.

As the local sponsor, the City of Stamford is required to provide 35% of total project costs along with continuing operations and maintenance costs. Project sponsorship will be formalized with the execution of the Project Cooperation Agreement, which is expected by September 2003. Construction is expected to begin in May 2004 and projected to be completed in April 2005.

In accordance with Section 206 guidance, the draft recommended plan represents the most cost-effective plan that maximizes environmental benefit. The estimated total project cost (without Lands, easements, rights-of-way, relocations, and disposal areas (LERRDs) costs) of the draft recommended plan is \$4,680,000. When LERRDs costs are included, the total project cost is \$7,980,000.

5.0 A discussion followed the introduction of draft recommended actions:

5.1 Adam Burnett clarified a point made in the presentation concerning real estate value and the City of Stamford's 35% cost share. The initial assessment of real estate easements, both permanent and temporary, suggests that the city's entire cost share could be covered through the cost and value of LERRDs.

5.2 A question was posed concerning the benefits to flooding from the draft recommended alternative. Kerry McWalter and Matt Collins (TBG) responded that

there were significant flood reduction benefits predicted from the removal of the dam and construction of a river channel within the downtown area. Hydraulic modeling predicts a 2-ft decrease in flooding elevation for the 100-year flood for 2000 feet upstream of the dam.

5.3 The Mayor of Stamford, Dannel Malloy noted that there is currently a Mill River Corridor Conservancy being established with the cooperation of the Trust for Public Lands. Funds for recreation and enhancement may be sought through this organization. He noted there is significant support from the public concerning the enhancement of the downtown park, and he hopes there will be public acceptance once the draft recommended plan is explained.

5.4 Jim Turek (EPA) asked about the quality and content of sediment contamination within the pond. Kerry McWalter explained that there are three contaminants of concern, Benzo[a]anthracene, Benzo[a]pyrene, and Benzo[b]fluoranthene. Sediment quality issues in Mill Pond and Mill River are primarily associated with pollutant runoff. Sediment analysis to date has shown that the pollutants in the pond do not reach hazardous waste levels. At present, however, these contaminants exceed the CT DEP thresholds for disposal in residential and/or industrial/commercial areas. If dredging is to occur, the City of Stamford will be required to secure appropriate permits for disposing material that exceeds these thresholds. Potential disposal locations include a landfill as well as a similarly contaminated site under remediation. The city will need to specify an appropriate disposal location during the draft comment period to be included in the final draft.

5.5 Doug Zimmerman (CT DEP) noted that there are levels of PCBs, specifically aroclor 1254, which is not a PCB found in transformers therefore the source of this PCB is of concern. He noted that there might be funds available through the CT DEP to investigate the source of this particular contaminant.

5.6 Questions concerning recreation dollars included within the cost of the project were addressed to the TBG team. Kerry McWalter detailed some of the elements included within the projected cost for the draft recommended alternative. These include boardwalks, paths, overlooks, information Kiosks, benches, and signage. The exact locations of these components are not outlined in the draft feasibility study. Locations would be identified during the design and spec phase of this project.

5.7 Adam Burnett briefly discussed the issues surrounding Alternative #3 - Dam removal and step pool creation. Due to the reduced size of the step pools sedimentation would be expected to occur at an accelerated rate as compared to the current Mill Pond. While the upper-most pool would be designed to retain sediment and allow access for sediment removal, continued dredging of all pools would be required to ultimately control sediment buildup. A cascade pool series is not representative of riverine systems in southern Connecticut and would require constant, intensive maintenance. While passage of fish and other aquatic species would be enhanced within the Mill River, the success rate of passage is reduced when compared to a natural stream channel restoration.

5.8 Kerry McWalter explained that there has been a dam in this location since 1642 for a grist mill. Steve Gephard (CT DEP) noted that dams in this era were normally built on natural falls or bedrock outcroppings. He asked if the bathymetric mapping showed any bedrock outcroppings near the dam. Kerry McWalter responded that it did not. There is the possibility that there is a natural fish passage blockage in this location that the bathymetry mapping did not pick up. The Mayor noted that the original location of the Mill is unknown.

5.9 Leo Pierre Roy noted that the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) had been consulted concerning the historical significance of the Main Street Dam and adjacent retaining walls. No significance that would prohibit the removal of the dam has been raised to date by SHPO. The Main Street Dam is an Ambursen Dam. The Ambursen Construction Company of New York constructed the Main Street Dam in 1922 during the heyday of Ambursen Dam construction. In addition to the Main Street Dam, there are four other Ambursen Dams in existence in the state of Connecticut: one in New London, two in Sprague, and one in Shelton.

5.10 Adam Burnett discussed the Cherry trees surrounding the Mill Pond. He mentioned both their historical significance and their currently degraded state. Leo Pierre Roy mentioned that a detailed evaluation of the trees surrounding the Mill Pond was completed by a PhD. silviculturist. The findings of this analysis are contained within the Technical Appendices of the USACE report. The analysis concluded that the trees are nearing the end of their natural life span and many are in a state of disrepair while suffering from disease.

5.11 Concern was noted for the content and quality of the fill material behind the walls within Mill River Park. The need for additional borings and investigations was discussed.

5.12 Laura Wildman (American Rivers) inquired as to the projected cost of dam and retaining wall removal. She asked whether or not the entire footing of the retaining walls would be removed. Kerry McWalter responded that the entire wall including footings were currently specified for removal. Laura replied that she was glad to see that the entire structure would be removed.

5.13 Mayor Malloy reconfirmed the city's enthusiasm and interest in the restoration of the Mill River and Mill Pond. He said that the city was ready to fully support the project both financially and politically. He believes there will be support from the community once the draft recommended actions are explained. He acknowledged that the Housing Authority currently owns the Main Street Dam and will need to transfer ownership to the City.

5.14 Questions concerning the impact of the USACE restoration project on the Main Street Bridge, located just downstream of the dam whose replacement is currently in design. Gene Robida (City) and Lou Casolo (City) stressed the importance of a thorough understanding of the hydraulics of the Mill River once restored to a natural

stream channel. Matt Collins and Laura Wildman responded that there should be little difference on hydraulic parameters at that location. It was acknowledged that further discussions and review of predicted hydraulic information would be required before the design could be completed.

5.15 The Mayor inquired if anyone had any objections or further issues to raise before he had to step out. He asked if it was safe to say that everyone was in full support for the dam removal alternative. He also asked if anyone had heard of potential opposition that could surface. Everyone in the room agreed, or seemed to agree, that the dam removal alternative was agreeable and preferred. No one mentioned any potential roadblocks that would inhibit or derail the project. A question was asked concerning the ownership of the dam. The mayor stated that the Housing Authority owned the dam and that all issues over ownership would be worked out within the City. The Housing Authority would not pose a significant obstruction to the completion of the project.

5.16 Lori Benoit (CT DEP) and John Gaucher (CT DEP) asked about the tidal influence at the current dam location. A general discussion concerning mean high tide elevation followed. A number of different measurements have been observed at the base of the dam, ranging from 2 to 6 inches. John mentioned that a predicted high tide of the year on October 7 and 8th. The DEP may delineate their jurisdictional limit through the measurement of this tidal event.

5.17 Robin Stein (City) noted the importance of keeping the citizen groups within the city informed as to the progress of the project. A public meeting will be held once the draft document has been reviewed. Everyone agreed that keeping the public fully informed as to the project and recommended actions once the draft is finalized should be a top priority.

5.18 Judi Johnson (USACE) noted the importance of the meeting for completing the NEPA process and that letters would be required from USFWS and EPA to document their support and attendance. There had been a USFWS representative at the last meeting, but there was not currently one present.



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION



ENVIRONMENTAL & GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION CENTER
79 Elm Street, Store Level
Hartford, CT 06106
Natural Diversity Data Base

AUG 08 2002

July 31, 2002

Kerry McWalter
The Bioengineering Group
18 Commercial Street
Salem, MA 01970

re: Proposed Habitat Restoration of Mill
River Corridor in Stamford, Connecticut

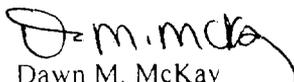
Dear Mr. McWalter:

I have reviewed Natural Diversity Data Base maps and files regarding the area delineated on the map you provided for the Proposed Habitat Restoration of Mill River Corridor in Stamford, Connecticut. According to our information, there are no known extant populations of Federal or State Endangered, Threatened or Special Concern Species that occur at the site in question.

Natural Diversity Data Base information includes all information regarding critical biological resources available to us at the time of the request. This information is a compilation of data collected over the years by the Natural Resources Center's Geological and Natural History Survey and cooperating units of DEP, private conservation groups and the scientific community. This information is not necessarily the result of comprehensive or site-specific field investigations. Consultations with the Data Base should not be substitutes for on-site surveys required for environmental assessments. Current research projects and new contributors continue to identify additional populations of species and locations of habitats of concern, as well as, enhance existing data. Such new information is incorporated into the Data Base as it becomes available.

Please contact me if you have further questions at 424-3592. Thank you for consulting the Natural Diversity Data Base. Also be advised that this is a preliminary review and not a final determination. A more detailed review may be conducted as part of any subsequent environmental permit applications submitted to DEP for the proposed site.

Sincerely,


Dawn M. McKay
Biologist/Environmental Analyst

(Printed on Recycled Paper)
79 Elm Street • Hartford, CT 06106-5127

An Equal Opportunity Employer • <http://dep.state.ct.us>

Celebrating a Century of Forest Conservation Leadership

1901  2001



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF
COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric
Administration

NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
Northeast Region
Habitat Conservation Division
Milford Biological Laboratory
212 Rogers Avenue
Milford, CT 06460

August 26, 2002

Ms. Kerry M^cWalter
Ecological Engineer
The Bioengineering Group, Inc.
18 Commercial Street
Salem, Massachusetts 01970

Dear Ms. M^cWalter:

This letter is in response to your recent request for information regarding federally listed, proposed or candidate endangered, threatened and special concern species and habitats in the Mill River at Stamford, Connecticut. There are no species present that are listed under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 and managed by our agency. There may be some modest presence of species managed under the Magnuson – Stevens Sustainable Fisheries Act or afforded consideration under the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act. In all cases, the restoration of the Mill River may facilitate an enhanced use of the waterway by both those estuarine and diadromous species.

The Mill River aquatic environment sees limited use by diadromous species and virtually no use by more marine species beyond an occasional blue fish or blue crab. The principal limitations to use are created by the dam and rubble mound structures that restrict flow and access. Those restrictions begin just up river from the Pulaski Street Bridge. During the upper half of the tidal prism, there is some use of the lower impoundment, by forage species such a Bay anchovy and northern silversides.

Should you wish to discuss this matter further, please contact me at the letterhead address, E-mail <Michael.ludwig@NOAA.gov> or by telephone at (203) 882-6504.

Sincerely,
Michael Ludwig

Michael Ludwig
Fishery Biologist



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION



April 24, 2003

Kerry McWalter
The Bioengineering Group, Inc.
18 Commercial Street
Salem, MA. 01970

APR 28 2003

RE: Mill River and Mill Pond Habitat Restoration Project in Stamford CT

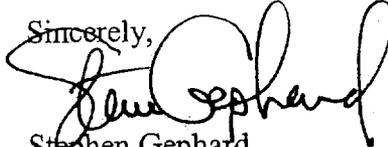
Dear Ms. McWalter,

Thank you for keeping me informed on the progress of the above-referenced project that your company is working on for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE). As you are aware, the CTDEP/Inland Fisheries Division has a keen interest in this stream, having worked on a previous project with Save the Sound (STS) to build a fishway at the Main Street Dam for the purposes of anadromous fish restoration. When the City changed its mind about the value of dam removal and the ACOE proposed the current project, we and STS withdrew our fishway project prior to construction. Dam removal is usually the best technique for anadromous fish restoration and we support the current project.

I believe that the current proposal, which includes dam restoration, selective pondbed dredging, removal of streambank armoring, restoration of a natural riparian zone, and some selective vegetative plantings, represents the best alternative to stream restoration for the Mill/Rippowam River. I have attended several meetings, exchanged emails, and have been briefed over the telephone about this project and although I have not received a copy of the latest plans, I believe that the process provides ample future opportunities to review and comment on the details of the developing project.

Our chief concern is that the project fully restores access to critical fish habitat upstream of the dam to migratory fish species and that such fish habitat is either conserved or enhanced by the project. We look forward to working with you, the ACOE, and the City in finalizing plans for this project.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Stephen Gephard
Supervising Fisheries Biologist



United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
New England Field Office
70 Commercial Street, Suite 300
Concord, New Hampshire 03301-5087

OCT 18 2002

October 17, 2002

Kerry McWalter
The BioEngineering Group, Inc.
18 Commercial St.
Salem, MA 01970

Dear Ms. McWalter:

This responds to your August 16, 2002 letter requesting our comments regarding the presence of federally-listed and proposed endangered or threatened species, as well as our review pursuant to the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, in relation to the proposed environmental restoration project for the Mill River in Stamford, Connecticut. The following comments represent the position of the Department of the Interior and are provided in accordance with the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531-1543) and the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (48 Stat. 401, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 661 et seq.).

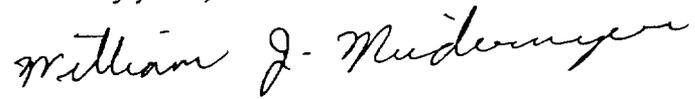
Based on information currently available to us, no federally-listed or proposed threatened and endangered species under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service are known to occur in the project area, with the exception of occasional transient bald eagles (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*). However, we suggest that you contact Nancy Murray of the Connecticut Natural Diversity Database, 79 Elm St., Store Level, Hartford, Connecticut 06102-5066, at (860) 424-3540, for information on state-listed species that may be present.

Preparation of a Biological Assessment or further consultation with us under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act is not required. Should project plans change, or if additional information on listed or proposed species become available, this determination may be reconsidered. A list of federally-designated endangered species in Connecticut is enclosed for your information.

We are unable to provide detailed comments on the potential effects of the proposed action on fish and wildlife resources at this time due to the preliminary stage of the study. However, we support the efforts of The BioEngineering Group, Inc., the Corps of Engineers, and its other partners to remove the Main Street Dam on the Mill River and to restore a natural river channel and its riparian zone in Mill Pond. We look forward to evaluating all restoration opportunities identified in this aquatic ecosystem restoration project.

Please contact Greg Mannesto of our Rhode Island office at 401-364-9124 if we can be of further assistance.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "William J. Neidermyer". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the right of the typed name.

William J. Neidermyer
Assistant Supervisor
Federal Activities
New England Field Office

**FEDERALLY LISTED ENDANGERED AND THREATENED SPECIES
IN CONNECTICUT**

<u>Common Name</u>	<u>Scientific Name</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>Distribution</u>
FISHES:			
Sturgeon, shortnose*	<u>Acipenser brevirostrum</u>	E	Connecticut River & Atlantic Coastal Waters
REPTILES:			
Turtle, bog	<u>Clemmys muhlenbergii</u>	T	Fairfield, Litchfield Counties
Turtle, green*	<u>Chelonia mydas</u>	T	Oceanic straggler in southern New England
Turtle, hawksbill*	<u>Eretmochelys imbricata</u>	E	Oceanic straggler in southern New England
Turtle, leatherback*	<u>Dermochelys coriacea</u>	E	Oceanic summer resident
Turtle, loggerhead*	<u>Caretta caretta</u>	T	Oceanic summer resident
Turtle, Atlantic ridley*	<u>Lepidochelys kempii</u>	E	Oceanic summer resident
BIRDS:			
Eagle, bald	<u>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</u>	T	Nesting: Barkhamsted Res. and Suffield; entire state- migratory/nesting
Plover, piping	<u>Charadrius melodus</u>	T	Atlantic coast, nesting
Tern, roseate	<u>Sterna dougallii dougallii</u>	E	Atlantic coast/islands, nesting
MAMMALS:			
Whale, blue*	<u>Balaenoptera musculus</u>	E	Oceanic
Whale, finback*	<u>Balaenoptera physalus</u>	E	Oceanic
Whale, humpback*	<u>Megaptera novaeangliae</u>	E	Oceanic
Whale, right*	<u>Eubalaena spp. (all species)</u>	E	Oceanic
Whale, sei*	<u>Balaenoptera borealis</u>	E	Oceanic
Whale, sperm*	<u>Physeter catodon</u>	E	Oceanic
Bat, Indiana	<u>Myotis sodalis</u>	E	New Haven County
MOLLUSKS:			
Wedgemussel, dwarf	<u>Alasmidonta heterodon</u>	E	Hartford County
INSECTS:			
Beetle, Puritan tiger	<u>Cicindela puritana</u>	T	Middlesex County
Beetle, Northeastern beach tiger	<u>Cicindela dorsalis dorsalis</u>	T	Extirpated, coastal beaches
PLANTS:			
Small whorled pogonia	<u>Isotria medeoloides</u>	T	Hartford, New Haven, Fairfield, New London, Windham, Tolland, Middlesex, Litchfield Counties
Chain gerardia	<u>Agalinus acuta</u>	E	Hartford
Chaffseed	<u>Schwalbea americana</u>	E	New London/historic

* Except for sea turtle nesting habitat, principal responsibility for these species is vested with the National Marine Fisheries Service

Rev. 1/8/02



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
CONNECTICUT HISTORICAL COMMISSION

October 2, 2002

Mr. Nathan Morphey
TRC Environmental Corporation
5 Waterside Crossing
Windsor, CT 06095-1563

Subject: Mill River Restoration Project
Stamford, CT

Dear Mr. Morphey:

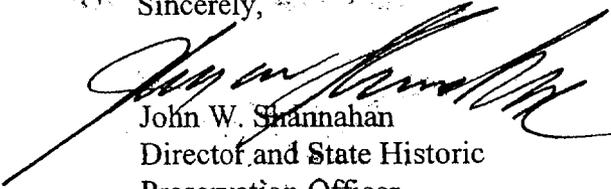
The State Historic Preservation Office has reviewed the above-named project. This office notes that the project area possesses moderate to high sensitivity for prehistoric and historic archaeological resources. Therefore, we recommend that a professional reconnaissance survey be undertaken to identify and evaluate archaeological resources which may exist within proposed project limits, including equipment storage and associated work areas. All archaeological studies must be undertaken in accordance with our *Environmental Review Primer for Connecticut's Archaeological Resources*.

No ground disturbance or construction-related activities should be initiated until this office has had an opportunity to review and comment upon the recommended archaeological survey report.

We anticipate working with TRC Environmental Corporation and all interested parties in the expeditious furtherance of the proposed undertaking as well as in the professional management of Connecticut's archaeological heritage.

For further information please contact Dr. David A. Poirier, Staff Archaeologist.

Sincerely,



John W. Shannahan
Director and State Historic
Preservation Officer

cc: Dr. Nicholas Bellantoni/OSA



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION



BUREAU OF WATER MANAGEMENT

October 30, 2002

Handwritten signature

RECEIVED

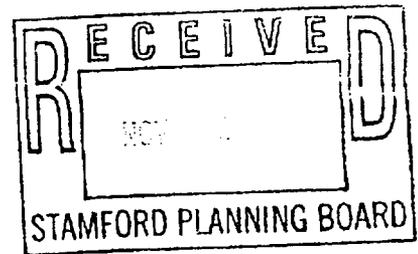
NOV - 1 2002

MAYOR'S OFFICE

City of Stamford
888 Washington Boulevard
Stamford, CT 06904

Attn: Dannel P. Malloy, Mayor

Subject: CGS Section 22a-6h Notice
City of Stamford
DIV-200102213 / SCEL-2001-13 / WQC-200102215



Dear Mayor Malloy:

Section 22a-6h of the Connecticut General Statutes (CGS), as amended by Section 3 of Public Act 98-140, requires the Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), prior to approving or denying certain permit application, to publish or cause to be published notice of his tentative determination regarding such applications. This Section also requires that "The Commissioner shall further give notice of such determination to the chief elected official of the municipality in which the regulated activity is proposed."

In accordance with this requirement, we are providing to you a copy of the tentative determination notice regarding the above-referenced application. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Jeffrey Caiola of the Inland Water Resources Division at (860) 424-4162.

Sincerely,

Robert L. Smith
Bureau Chief

OFFICE OF OPERATIONS

NOV 4 1 35 PM '02

(Printed on Recycled Paper)

79 Elm Street • Hartford, CT 06106 - 5127

<http://dep.state.ct.us>

An Equal Opportunity Employer



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION



566-7220 NOTICE OF TENTATIVE DETERMINATION

WATER DIVERSION – DIV-200102213
STREAM CHANNEL ENCROACHMENT – SCEL-2001-13
WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATE – WQC-200102215

City of Stamford
Rippowam River

The Department of Environmental Protection hereby gives notice it has made a tentative decision to approve an application submitted by the City of Stamford for permits under section 22a-368 to divert waters of the state and section 22a-342 of the Connecticut General Statutes to place an encroachment or obstruction riverward of Stream Channel Encroachment Lines, and for water quality certification under section 401(a)(1) of the Federal Clean Water Act (the "Act") for discharge(s) of material to the waters of the State. The name and address of the permit applicant are: City of Stamford, City Engineer, 888 Washington Boulevard, Stamford, CT 06904.

Specifically, the applicant proposes to dredge 9,000 cubic yards of sediment from the Rippowam River from West Broad Street to a point 380 feet north of the Mill Pond Dam. The proposed activity will affect the hydraulic capacity/floodplain of the Rippowam River and will take place adjacent to West Broad Street in the City of Stamford. Interested persons may obtain copies of the application from the applicant's agent at: Rocco V. D'Andrea, Inc., P.O. box 549, Six Neil Lane, Riverside, CT 06878.

Pursuant to Section 22a-371 of the Connecticut General Statutes, the Department has determined that application no. DIV-200102213 is complete and the proposed diversion 1) is necessary, 2) will not significantly affect long range water resource management, and 3) will not impair proper management and use of the water resources of the state. Accordingly, the department hereby publishes its intent to waive the requirement for a public hearing, provided if the Department receives a petition requesting a hearing signed by 25 persons on or before the deadline for receipt of written comments specified at the end of this notice, a hearing will be held. Notice of any hearing will be published in a newspaper having general circulation in the area where the proposed diversion will take place or have effect.

Pursuant to Section 22a-342 of the Connecticut General Statutes, the Department has determined that application number SCEL-2001-13 will not have an adverse impact on flood heights, flood storage capacity or hazards to life and property with due consideration to similar encroachments already constructed along the Rippowam River floodplain.

The application has been evaluated for compliance with the applicable provisions of sections 301, 302, 303, 306 and 307 of the Act and the Water Quality Standards and Criteria of the State of Connecticut adopted pursuant to section 22a-426 of the Connecticut General Statutes.

(Printed on Recycled Paper)

79 Elm Street • Hartford, CT 06106 - 5127

<http://dep.state.ct.us>

An Equal Opportunity Employer

All interested parties are invited to comment on the tentative determination concerning the application. Comments should be directed to Jeffrey Caiola, Bureau of Water Management/Inland Water Resources Division, 79 Elm Street, Hartford, CT 06106-5127. The application and a copy of the draft proposed permit are available for inspection at the office of the Inland Water Resources Division at the above address from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm Monday through Friday. Questions may be directed to Jeffrey Caiola of the Inland Water Resources Division at (860) 424-3019. Written comments on the application must be submitted to the Department no later than November 29, 2002.

Date: 10/30/02


Robert L. Smith
Bureau Chief



United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
New England Field Office
70 Commercial Street, Suite 300
Concord, New Hampshire 03301-5087

May 13, 2004

John R. Kennelly
Engineering/Planning Division
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
696 Virginia Road
Concord, MA 01742-2751

Dear Mr. Kennelly:

This responds to your April 15, 2004 letter requesting our review of the proposed Draft Detailed Project Report and Draft Environmental Assessment for a Habitat Restoration Project located along the Mill River in Stamford, Connecticut. The following comments are provided in accordance with the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (48 Stat. 401, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 661 et seq.) and constitutes our final Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act report on the project.

The Mill River has excellent restoration potential and this project will restore a more natural stream flow regime and improve habitat for fish and birds, including anadromous fish spawning habitat. Most of the aquatic and riparian habitat of the Mill River has been eliminated or seriously impacted by past development. This project will remove many of these man-made features and restore this historic migratory fish corridor to a higher functioning aquatic ecosystem.

We strongly support the recommended alternative to remove the Main Street Dam and concrete retaining walls, which will open 4.5 miles of riverine habitat to anadromous fish. Dam removal is usually the best method for restoring anadromous fish habitat and passage.

We recommend restoring as much riparian habitat as possible because it is an important component of restoring the aquatic ecosystem. The removal of invasive plants, such as Japanese Knotweed, and their replacement with native plant species will provide shelter and food for wildlife and shade for improving water quality.

The preferred alternative restores four acres of riparian habitat within Mill River Park. However, there was no mention of restoring part of the current pond habitat to emergent wetland habitat. The restoration of the floodplain should consider the establishment of emergent wetlands in Mill River Park.

This corridor of the Mill River has lost most of its freshwater wetlands to development. In order to re-create a fully functioning aquatic ecosystem, it is very important to restore some freshwater wetlands within the river corridor. The only large site evaluated for wetland restoration was the parking lot next to the Wright Technical School. This site has good restoration potential because it is located in the floodplain but its cost and location (next to a highly used park and school) makes it an unreasonable option. There are many less costly and valuable wetland restoration projects that should instead be included in the preferred alternative. Wetlands could be created by excavating some of the grassy fields behind the riparian trees (Restoration Sites 6,7,8, 9 and the grassy area opposite Site 9).

The riparian trees would be maintained but a small channel between trees and the grassy areas could be excavated and allowed to become wetlands. Converting the grassy areas to wetlands would discourage geese from using these grassy areas and would improve the overall health of the aquatic ecosystem by creating habitat diversity. If the Corps includes these lower-cost measures to create wetlands, the cost per habitat unit would drop drastically, and the project would be more cost effective.

In summary, we support the Corps' and the local sponsor's recommended plan, but recommend that you re-evaluate the plan to include additional wetland restorations. Thank you for your cooperation and please contact Greg Mannesto of our Rhode Island Field Office at 401-364-9124 if we can be of further assistance.

Sincerely yours,



John P. Warner
Acting Assistant Supervisor
Federal Activities
New England Field Office

May 26, 2004

Engineering/Planning Division
Planning Branch

Johnson/arw/138

Mr. Michael Bartlett, Supervisor
Department of the Interior
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Ecological Services
70 Commercial Street, Suite 300
Concord, New Hampshire 03301-5087

Dear Mr. Bartlett:

The New England District appreciates your comments on the Section 206 Habitat Restoration Project in Stamford, Connecticut in the Final Coordination Act Report dated May 13, 2004. We concur with your finding that the removal of the Main Street Dam is the best method to restore anadromous fish passage in the Mill River. Restoration of riverine habitat in the Mill River Park and habitat improvements along the Mill River will also benefit local biodiversity and improve the overall health of the Mill River ecosystem. A contiguous system of river parks, open space, and protected habitat, interlaced with a trail network, will restore a wildlife corridor and provide recreational opportunities for the residents of Stamford.

With respect to your concern over the amount of freshwater wetlands being restored in the project area, we concur that freshwater wetlands are a valuable component of the riverine ecosystem and are rare in the project area. Freshwater wetland resources have been severely impacted by urban development in the project area, which further constrained opportunities for restoration of large wetland complexes. The recommendations for restoration sites were based on a restoration rating system, which considered such variables as habitat significance, presence/absence of exotics, instream habitat, potential for habitat improvement, and educational opportunities. These scores were used as a guide to prioritize restoration sites for recommendation, as higher scores represented a greater benefit and a cost-effective approach to site selection. On-site verification, evaluation, and professional judgment were also used in the selection process.

Although the restoration of a one-acre wetland in the parking lot next to the Wright Technical School was determined to be too costly, the Corps is providing for the creation of riparian wetlands along the restored river corridor in the Mill River Park, including emergent wetlands in low velocity areas. Emergent wetlands will also be included as a component to several other wetland restoration areas upstream and downstream of Mill River Park. The proposed project includes the restoration of 1.53 acres of the riparian corridor through the regrading and planting of native woody and herbaceous vegetation and removal of exotic and invasive plant species [Site 9 (0.15 acres), Site 10 (1.02 acres) and Site 18 (0.36 acres)].

These sites will have an emergent wetland component, the details of which will be determined in the design phase of the project. Additional information was added to the Detailed Project Report to clarify this issue.

To further clarify the site selection process as it relates to your suggestion for additional freshwater restoration, the Corps initially evaluated 20 restoration opportunities within the project area. Using a balanced approach to site selection as previously described, ten of these sites met the goals of the project and provided cost-effective habitat improvements. In the case of Sites 6 and 9, all areas that could be reasonably and cost-effectively excavated were included for wetlands restoration. These sites were limited in extent by the topographic constraints of the adjacent areas. Sites 7 and 8 were not selected due to low restoration potential as reflected in the low restoration ratings. The excavation of contiguous grassy areas was not recognized as feasible due to topographical constraints similar to Sites 6 and 9. The grassy area opposite Site 9 was not selected as a potential restoration site during plan formulation because it was already functioning as an open-space/park and has a valuable recreational benefit to the downtown area. In selecting potential sites, we recognized a balance between ecosystem restoration and public recreation and open-space opportunities.

Thank you again for your input to the planning process. Should you need additional information on the proposed project, please contact the Study Manager, Mr. Adam Burnett, (978) 318-8547, or by e-mail at Adam.W.Burnett@usace.army.mil or Ms. Johnson, from Evaluation Branch at (978) 318-8138 or by e-mail at Judith.L.Johnson@usace.army.mil.

Sincerely,

John R. Kennelly
Chief of Planning

Enclosure

Copy Furnished:
Greg Mannesto
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
P.O. Box 307
Charlestown, Rhode Island 02813

MAYOR
DANNEL P. MALLOY



CITY OF STAMFORD
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

STAMFORD GOVERNMENT CENTER
888 WASHINGTON BOULEVARD
P.O. BOX 10152
STAMFORD, CT 06904-2152

Tel: (203) 977-4150

Fax: (203) 977-5845

Email: dmalloy@ci.stamford.ct.us

July 6, 2004

Mr. John R. Kennelly
Chief, Planning Branch
US Army Corps of Engineers
New England Division
696 Virginia Road
Concord, Massachusetts 01742-2751

Dear Mr. Kennelly:

The city of Stamford, as the non-federal sponsor for the Mill River and Mill Pond habitat Restoration Project, has reviewed the draft Detailed Project Report (DPR), Environmental Assessment (EA), and technical reports for this Section 206 aquatic ecosystem restoration project. The Corps has addressed comments from the city, and we are prepared to move forward to project implementation. We support the recommended plan presented in the draft DPR and EA that would provide the following restoration measures:

- Removal of the Main Street Dam and concrete retaining walls and restoration of a natural stream channel through a quarter-mile reach of Mill River, thereby opening up 4.5 miles (32 acres) of riverine habitat to anadromous fish; and restoration of 4 acres of riparian habitat within Mill River Park
- Riparian habitat restoration along the river, totaling an additional 1.53 acres
- Restoration of 0.8 acre of tidal wetlands
- Removal of abandoned concrete blocks and gate structures beneath the Pulaski Street Bridge

Mr. John R. Kennelly
Page 2

According to the DPR, the costs of the project, including the feasibility study, preparation of plans and specifications, construction, and lands, easements, rights-of-way, relocations, and disposal areas (LERRD) are estimated to total \$5,571,000. These costs include an estimated \$4,525,000 for construction and \$261,000 for LERRD.

We understand that the city of Stamford, as the non-Federal sponsor, is responsible for 35% of the total project costs relating to environmental restoration and 50% of the total cost of recreation development costs that may be cost-shared as part of the project. We also understand that we are responsible for 100% of any operations and maintenance costs. We understand that we are required to obtain any state or local permits and LERRD required for the project. It is our understanding that we will be credited at fair market value for any LERRD that we provide for the project, and that this amount will be applied toward our cost share, as appropriate. Once the final design is completed and the costs and LERRDs refined, we will obtain approval of the relevant city boards for the Project Cooperative Agreement.

The City of Stamford hereby concurs with and supports the recommended plan provided in the Draft DPR and EA. The city of Stamford also acknowledges our intention to sign the Project Cooperation Agreement (PCA) as the non-federal sponsor for the project.

Please direct any questions you may have on this letter to Robin Stein, Land Use Bureau Chief (203-977-4716, www.rstein@ci.stamford.ct.us).

Sincerely,



Dannel P. Malloy
Mayor



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
NORTHEAST REGION
One Blackburn Drive
Gloucester, MA 01930-2298

AUG 5 2004

Mr. John R. Kennedy
Chief of Planning
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
696 Virginia Road
Concord, Massachusetts 01742-2751

Re: Pre-release Draft Detailed Project Report (DDP) and Draft Environmental Assessment (DEA) for a Habitat Restoration (Dam Removal) Project along the Mill River in Stamford, Connecticut

Dear Mr. Kennedy:

We have reviewed the draft documents for this project, including the essential fish habitat (EFH) assessment, and find that they adequately characterize the existing conditions, but may be overly optimistic regarding the results of the preferred alternative (#2). However, implementing the preferred alternative of dam removal located approximately 1,000 feet upstream of Stamford Harbor would provide a number of environmental benefits to aquatic resources which we support, but with two caveats.

First, since the 2.5 miles of the Mill River system never was a fully functional estuary, a successful "restoration" to an estuarine system is unlikely. For one, there is a partial fall line consisting of bedrock located at the Pulaski Street Bridge, approximately 200 feet above the head of harbor, which limits upriver tidal mixing. Most tidal encroachments of saline water will be confined to below this fall line, with much less going upstream. For another, and as noted in the reports, much of the land adjacent to the Mill River is impermeable to saturation and water is collected and directed into the Mill River system by drainage systems for the area. That relatively quick runoff to the river can produce sudden changes in salinity and temperature as well as carry an inordinate volume of pollutants, resulting in conditions capable of stressing or killing many of the local aquatic organisms.

Second, plantings established on the landscaped riverbank within the flood plain and tidal zones may not survive during the initial period when water flows and inundation patterns are changing. Restoration has a better chance of success after soil profiles have stabilized, typically about six months after site manipulation. Also, as there is a diversity of saltwater wetland species in the West Branch of Stamford Harbor and the Mill River, natural seeding and subsequent natural selection of species on the restoration site will likely occur from this source. Using natural colonization rather than an artificial placement of biologicals should prove more successful in establishing species suited for long-term use of the new habitats. Using natural colonization has the additional benefit of significant cost savings.



Incidentally, there is no Section 6.4.3 in the DEA as referenced on Page 26 in Section 3.2.8 of the DDPR. The fisheries and EFH discussions are within Sections 6.3.5, 6.6 and Appendix "L" of the DEA.

Essential Fish Habitat Comments

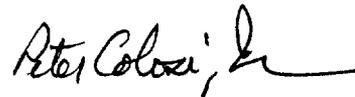
Insofar as a project involves essential fish habitat (EFH), as this project does, this process is guided by the requirements of our EFH regulation at 50 CFR 600.905, which mandates the preparation of EFH assessments and generally outlines each agency's obligations in the relevant consultation procedure. Section 305(b)(2) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA) requires all federal agencies to consult with the National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries) on any action authorized, funded, or undertaken by that agency that may adversely affect EFH. Additionally, NOAA Fisheries reported to your agency in a "Letter of Finding" dated January 18, 2000, that the existing review process used by the Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) may be used to satisfy the EFH consultation process. We offer the following comments and recommendations on this project pursuant to the above referenced construct.

Essential Fish Habitat Conservation Recommendations

The intended action supports restoration of the Mill River ecosystem and will allow its use by species denied access since 1641. One conservation recommendation is needed to meet the objectives of the MSA:

- The in-water work should be restricted to periods when water quality is not distressed and sediment migration off the site would not adversely impact the lower or tidal portions of the West Branch/Mill River system. The protective window when no work should be undertaken in the waterway to attain these objectives should extend from May 15 through September 30 of any calendar year. During this period, the West Branch of Stamford Harbor and the lower Mill River are used by species such as summer flounder, bluefish, and their forage. The redistribution of sediment and release of pollutants could degrade the EFH for these species by alternation of the seafloor, burial of prey items, and abrasion of gill tissue.

Sincerely,



Peter D. Colosi, Jr.
Assistant Regional Administrator
for Habitat Conservation

Memorandum for the Record:

Subject: Response to the Essential Fish Habitat comments provide in a letter from the National Marine Fisheries Service dated 5 August 2004

Response to General Comments:

The Corps of Engineers acknowledges the difficulty of the restoring the Mill River in an established urbanized complex. The proposed restoration plan will not eliminate all urban influences and restore the Mill River to pristine, pre-development conditions. However, the proposed plan, the removal of the Main Street Dam and floodplain and riparian habitat restoration, was determined to be the most environmentally and economically beneficial project. We remain optimistic about the outcome of this project.

With regard to the large concrete platform and abandoned weir structure that exists under the Pulaski Street Bridge. This structure is an impediment to fish passage during mid to low tides but is overtopped at high tide, tidally influencing the river to just below the Mill Street Dam. The recommended plan includes removal of this abandoned structure, which will fully restore anadromous fish passage through the reach. Modeling shows however, that inundation patterns will remain the same since the abandoned structure is currently overtopped at high tide. Therefore, tidal wetland restoration below the Main Street Dam will not be affected by changing patterns of inundation. As well, riparian and floodplain restoration in the Mill River Park area will not, for the most part, be subject to tidal influence and therefore, will not require a soil profile development period prior to planting. The planting schedule will be determined in coordination with the construction schedule and seasonal timing necessary to optimize the successful propagation of selected species.

Regarding comments on water quality effects of the urban environment on the Mill River aquatic ecosystem. The proposed project includes features that can be constructed under the Section 206 Program to attenuate some water quality impacts, such as the restoration of floodplain and riparian buffers to intercept and capture overland flows. While restoration activities may include features to detain and infiltrate storm water, overall, the community is responsible for the development of watershed and urban practices to manage their water resources. Efforts to attenuate urban impacts to the river include plans by the City of Stamford to develop a greenway along the Mill River.

With respect to the suggestion that the area be colonized naturally, the Corps prefers to develop a planting plan to provide erosion protection, accelerate habitat restoration and provide timely aesthetic results in consideration of the urban park environment. There will undoubtedly be native volunteer plants that will become established naturally which will be incorporated into the revegetation plan. However, several species of invasive plants are found in the watershed, which will have to be monitored and controlled during the plant establishment period.

Response to Essential Fish Habitat Conservation Recommendations:

In-water work will be restricted during May 15 through September 30 of any calendar year to prevent sediment migration off the site in consideration of summer flounder, bluefish and their forage. To accommodate this construction window, the use of sediment and erosion controls and best management practices will be applied during construction.



Public Notice

U.S. Army Corps
Of Engineers
New England District
696 Virginia Road
Concord, MA 01742-2751

Date: May 17, 2004

Comment Period Closes: June 17, 2004

Evaluation Branch, Engineering/Planning Division

30-DAY PUBLIC NOTICE MILL RIVER AND MILL POND STAMFORD, CONNECTICUT HABITAT RESTORATION PROJECT

Interested parties are hereby notified that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England District plans a habitat restoration project of the Mill River and Mill Pond in Stamford, Connecticut. This work is being conducted under Section 206 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1996, P.L. 104-303, as amended. Section 206 provides programmatic authority for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to carry out aquatic ecosystem restoration projects that improve environmental quality, are in the public interest, and are cost effective. Attachment 1 is a project area location map and Attachment 2 includes a list of pertinent laws, regulations, and directives considered in project planning.

Project Description: The proposed Federal action involves the removal of approximately 18,600 cubic yards of sediment from the Mill Pond, the removal of the Main Street Dam, and the concrete retaining walls around the Mill Pond. Removing these structures will create an opportunity to restore the river channel and floodplain to Mill River Park, and open 4.5 miles of the Mill River for fish passage. The sediment to be excavated may require additional testing to verify permitted disposal. All materials determined inappropriate for disposal in residential and/or industrial/commercial areas would be transported to an approved site, such as Manchester Municipal Landfill in Manchester, Connecticut. The restored channel will effectively transport sediment and nutrients, supporting aquatic, riverbank, and floodplain habitat. Additional actions included in the proposed plan include: 1) enhancing the riparian corridor through planting native woody and herbaceous vegetation and removing exotic and invasive plant species; 2) creating and restoring tidal wetlands through re-grading banks and planting native salt marsh vegetation; and 3) removing concrete blocks and remnant gate structures directly beneath the Pulaski Street Bridge. As a recreational component to the project and to replace existing sidewalks and trails in the affected areas, the proposed action also includes incorporating a trail system to connect the greenway and parks along the river corridor.

Additional Information: Additional information may be obtained from the Engineering/Planning Division of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Mr. Adam Burnett, the Project and Ms. Judith Johnson, of the Environmental Resources Section, at the return address shown. These individuals may also be reached by phone, for Mr. Burnett at (978) 318-8547 and or Email at adam.w.burnett@usace.army.mil and for Ms. Johnson at 978-318-8138 or Email at judith.l.johnson@usace.army.mil. Collect calls will be accepted weekdays between 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m.

Coordination: The proposed work is being coordinated with the following Federal, State, and local agencies:

Federal:

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

State:

Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection (CT DEP)
Connecticut State Historic Preservation Officer (will coordinate during archaeological survey)
Connecticut State Archaeologist (same as above)

Local:

Save the Sound, Inc.
Aquarion Water Company
American Rivers
City of Stamford

Environmental Impacts: An Environmental Assessment is available for public review upon request to the Engineering/Planning Division of the Army Corps of Engineers. A copy of the document is also available for review at the Stamford Public Library at One Public Library Plaza in Stamford. A preliminary determination has been made that an Environmental Impact Statement for the proposed project 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 and other coordination efforts.

Alternatives: A range of alternative plans were evaluated to determine the most practicable and cost-effective restoration plan. These alternatives included the Alternative 1 - No Action, Alternative 2 - Dam Removal and River Channel Restoration (Preferred Plan), Alternative 3 - Dam Removal and Creation of Step Pools, and Alternative 4 - Partial Removal of Concrete Retaining Walls (Mill Pond Dam and Mill Pond remain). Removal of the dam without removing the walls was also formulated, but was dropped from further consideration. This measure would create a channelized reach with walls that would need additional protection at considerable expense with no restoration benefit to the currently impounded reach. Additional restoration measures, which would occur upstream and downstream of the dam for each alternative, were included in the evaluation of alternatives (except No Action). These additional actions included:

- Creating and restoring 0.8 acres of tidal wetlands through re-grading banks and planting native salt marsh vegetation
- Removing concrete blocks and gate structures directly beneath the Pulaski Street Bridge
- Incorporating a trail system to connect the greenway and parks along the river corridor

The goal of this project is to restore the aquatic and riparian resources of the Mill River to a healthy, viable, and self-maintaining river system. To measure the environmental benefits of each alternative and determine cost-effectiveness, a series of habitat criteria were identified. Values of habitat unit outputs, measured as affected acres, were assigned to the criteria for each of the various alternatives, and the total values were calculated. The results of this analysis indicated that the predicted habitat unit outputs for each proposed alternative were considerably better than the habitat unit outputs of the no-action alternative. Habitat units ranged from 3.3 for the no-action alternative to 43.9 for Alternative 2, which had the highest level of habitat improvement for anadromous fish passage and spawning habitat, water quality improvements, riparian vegetation restoration, wetland vegetation restoration and migratory bird habitat. Additive measures provide additional habitat improvements in the project area of 1.8 for removal of the fish blockage, 3.1 for tidal wetland restoration, 5.1 for riparian corridor restoration and 4.8 for freshwater wetland creation. These additional measures were added to the alternatives (except for the no-action alternative) in a linear fashion to achieve a more comprehensive restoration goal. The added measure involving the restoration of a one-acre freshwater wetland located at the J.M. Wright Technical School grounds was eliminated from the proposed project due to its high cost.

Alternative 2 had the highest habitat unit score. The restoration proposed in this alternative is most comparable to the biological community found in a healthy watershed. A diverse array of species within a balanced community would be found on the site with the implementation of this alternative. Alternatives 3 and 4 scored lower than alternative 2. Restoration of the site following the design of Alternatives 3 or 4 would not create as much species diversity nor community diversity. The no-action alternative, Alternative 1, scored substantially lower than all the other outlined plans. With this alternative, the physical characteristics of the site would not change.

Historic and Archaeological Resources: Removal of the Main Street Dam will have no adverse impact to properties listed on the National Register of Historic Places. However, because of the potential for prehistoric and historic archaeological sites (especially mill sites) in the vicinity of the project area, it is recommended that a Phase Ib archaeological survey be conducted once more detailed designs are developed for the project. Any locations where ground-disturbing activities will be carried out will require systematic archaeological survey coverage.

The results of the Phase Ib archaeological survey will be coordinated with the State Historic Preservation Office, the Connecticut State Archaeologist, Indian Tribes with ancestral ties to the area, and any other interested parties identified in accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, and implementing regulations 36 CFR 800. The extent of the coordination efforts will be determined prior to the commencement of the archaeological study.

The proposed project will not adversely impact the seven individual properties within a 1-mile radius that are listed on the National Register, including the Main Street Bridge. Likewise,

the project will not adversely impact the two nearby historic districts - the Downtown Stamford Historic District and the Downtown Stamford Ecclesiastical Complexes.

Endangered Species: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Marine Fisheries Service and the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection have not identified any federally listed, threatened, or endangered species in the project area. Therefore, the proposed action will not have any effect on threatened or endangered species.

Federal Permit Requirements: A Water Quality certification will be acquired from the CT DEP pursuant to Section 401 of the Clean Water Act and a Coastal Zone Management (CZM) consistency determination will be submitted to the CT Office of Long Island Sound Programs pursuant to the Coastal Zone Management Act. A Section 404(b)(1) evaluation, pursuant to the Clean Water Act, is provided as an attachment to the Environmental Assessment.

Comments: Any person who has an interest that may be affected by the proposed project may request a public hearing. The request must be submitted to me within 30 days of the date of this notice and must clearly set forth the interest that may be affected and the manner in which the interest may be affected by this activity.

Please bring this notice to the attention of anyone you know to be interested in this project. Comments are invited from all interested parties and should be directed to me at, U.S. Army Corps of the Engineers, New England District, 696 Virginia Road, Concord, Massachusetts, 01742-2751, Attn: Engineering/Planning Division, within 30 days of this notice.

5/12/04

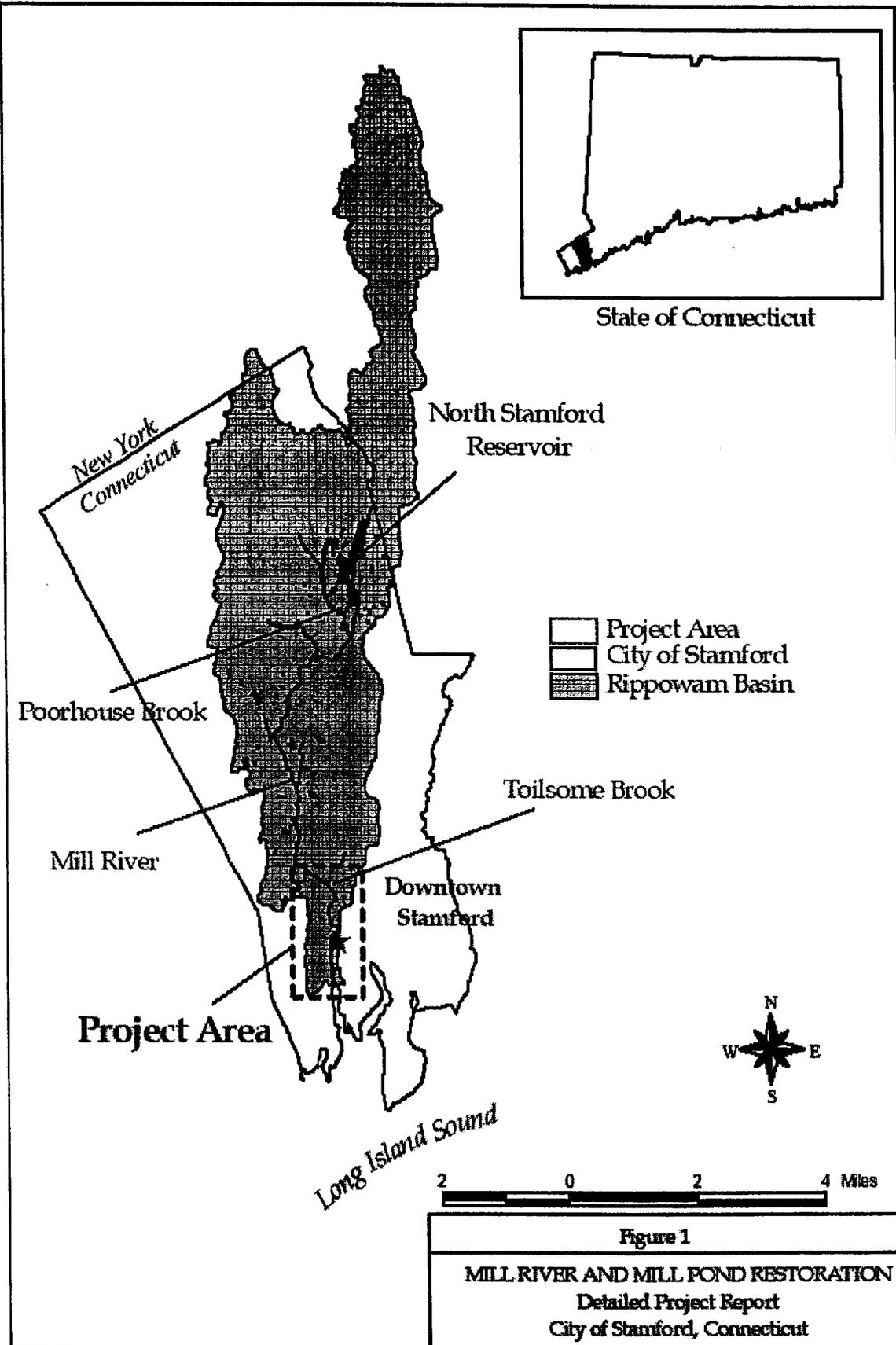
Date



Brian A. Green
Lieutenant Colonel, Corps of Engineers
Acting District Engineer

Attachments

Attachment 1 – Location Map



Attachment 2 – Pertinent Laws, Regulations and Directives

American Indian Religious Freedom Act of 1978, 42 U.S.C. 1996.

Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979, as amended, 16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.

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

Clean Water Act of 1977 (Federal Water Pollution Control Act Amendments of 1972), 33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.

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

Federal Water Project Recreation Act, as amended, 16 U.S.C. 4601-12 et seq.

Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, as amended, 16 U.S.C. 661 et seq.

Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965, as amended, 16 U.S.C. 4601-1

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

National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, 16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.

Preservation of Historic and Archaeological Data Act of 1974, as amended, 16 U.S.C. 469 et seq. This amends the Reservoir Salvage Act of 1960 (16 U.S.C. 469).

Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act, as amended, 16 U.S.C. 1001 et seq.

Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, as amended, 16 U.S.C. 1271 et seq.

Executive Order 11988, Floodplain Management, May 24, 1977 amended by Executive Order 12148, July 20, 1979

Executive Order 11990, Protection of Wetlands, May 24, 1977

Executive Order 11593, Protection and Enhancement of the Cultural Environment, 13 May 1971 (36 FR 8921, May 15, 1971).

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

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

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

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

Richard L. Emmons
Certified DEP CARE Instructor
240 Wardwell Street – Suite 22
Stamford CT 06902

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England District
Engineering/Planning Division
ATTN: Adam Burnett
696 Virginia Road
Concord MA 01742-2751

June 7, 2004

Re: Habitat Restoration of Mill River and Mill Pond, Stamford CT

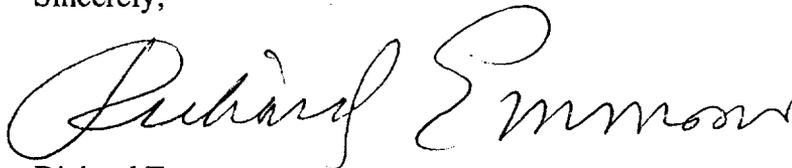
Dear Mr. Burnett:

As a lifelong recreational salt and fresh water angler and a 28 year resident of Stamford, I would like to support your proposal in toto.

Your plans are the best way to revitalize the Mill River, including removal of the dam, dredging and rebuilding the banks of the river in their natural state. With trails, natural flora and sites for recreational fishing, walking, picnicking and public enjoyment of the River and Pond.

Thank you for your efforts to date; I will be glad to help you promote your plan in any way I can.

Sincerely,



Richard Emmons

PH: 203-357-7505 FAX: 203-975-0613 email: fishermantoo@optonline.net

HOWARD STRATEMAN

June 8, 2004

US Army Corps of Engineers
New England District, Engineering/Planning Division
ATTN: Adam Burnett
696 Virginia Road
Concord, MA 01742-2751

RE: MILL RIVER AND MILL POND RESTORATION, STAMFORD, CT

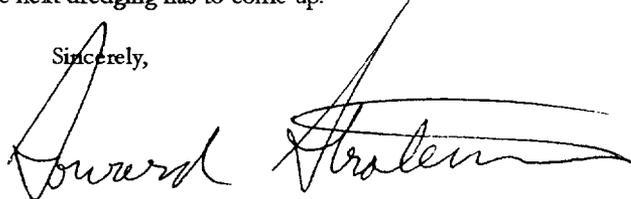
Dear Mr. Burnett:

I am writing to express my full support to the restoring the mill river and the the pond and removing the dam and concrete works.

This is an important project and will benefit the habitat as well as the recreational use of the area. I have rowed my Alden Ocean Shell part way up the river at very high tide, and it certainly would be nice to see it restored and to get farther up the river.

I have one suggestion. The riverbed and the pond are clearly not the original. We have done much to change it over the last couple centuries, and there is probably nothing original there to save. Given this, I suggest that the depth of the dredging be more rather than less. This will postpone the impact of sedimentation and thereby allow us to leave the river bottom undisturbed farther into the future than we would otherwise be able to. This will let the natural processes of the river, and the river life, exist undisturbed for a longer period of time before the question of the next dredging has to come up.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Howard Straten". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

148 Ocean Drive West
Stamford, CT 06902-8028
United States of America
Phone: 1 (203) 965-7742

Burnett, Adam W NAE

From: Carolyn Rebbert [crebbert@brucemuseum.org]
ht: Wednesday, June 09, 2004 5:28 PM
To: Burnett, Adam W
Subject: Mill River Pond

Dear Mr. Burnett,

I am a resident of Stamford, CT and just wanted to state that I support the US Army Corps of Engineer's Mill River Pond Habitat Restoration Project.

Thank you.

Truly,
Carolyn Rebbert

Tessa Ried

10 June 2004

Adam Burnett
NE District, US Army Corps of Engineers
Engineering / Planning
696 Virginia Road
Concord, MA 01742-2751

RE: Mill/Rippowam River
Stamford, CT

Dear Mr. Burnett:

It is probably a very good idea to remove the dam and give the river natural borders, as this project proposes.

However, it will be crucial for the ultimate success of the plan that the river be examined upstream, as far as the water company dam on Interlaken Road, for silt accumulation and erosion issues.

Robin Stein said that the Corps planned to do this. As far as anyone

familiar with The river can tell, it has not happened.

My neighbors and I, who live on the river just south of The Merritt Parkway, would be glad to point out problem areas that could hinder the success of the downstream work and should surely be addressed before that is undertaken.

Would your office please keep us informed?

Thank you.

Sincerely yours
Tessa Ried
Tessa Ried
203-322-2772
101 Mattbie Avenue
Stamford

Burnett, Adam W NAE

From: Jane McCune Waugh [waugh@optonline.net]
Sent: Tuesday, June 15, 2004 9:58 AM
To: Burnett, Adam W
Subject: Mill River Cherry Trees

Dear Mr. Burnett:

I'm a Stamford resident who is very much in favor of creating a spectacular downtown park and restoring the beauty and natural qualities of the Mill River.

While not an expert at reading maps and landscaping plans, it's pretty clear to me that the new plan for the river will require the destruction of nearly all of the 100 cherry trees currently in the park. While there is mention of moving some of the trees, I suspect that means the 3 to 5 trees planted within the last 5 years which would be simple to move. But the 100 trees originally planted by Mr. Nojima as a thank you to the city would be killed by any attempt to move them and the cost would be prohibitive to even try.

I understand the objective of the Army Corps project is to restore the river, not to design the park. What I don't understand is why the course of the river, its curve, has to be so drastically revised to make this happen. Why can't the dam be removed, the concrete barrier walls come down and let the river flow at a lower level on its current course? I'm sure that would impact some of the trees, but it seems that it would allow many on the gazebo side of the park to remain.

The trees are a city legacy; a plan for their removal will cause many residents to object to the overall Mill River Plan. As Vice President of the Stamford Tree Foundation, I have urged the city and the project manager to come up with a plan that would preserve the trees. As a Board, the Tree Foundation has offered the expertise of its arborists to contribute to the planning of a park that includes the trees. I restate these facts as part of the formal commentary on the project.

Perhaps you could let me know if the new shape of the river is necessary and why. I would appreciate a response since I want to be a supporter of this project.

Sincerely,

Jane M. Waugh
210 Ocean Drive East
Stamford CT 06902

203-353-8956

7/1/2004

Stamford Towers
680 Washington Boulevard
Stamford, Connecticut 06901-3709
203 325 4461 V
203 325 9868 F



Stamford Partnership

June 16, 2004

Mr. Adam Burnett, Project Manager
U. S. Army Corps of Engineers
New England District
Engineering/Planning Division
696 Virginia Road
Concord, MA 01742-2751

Dear Mr. Burnett:

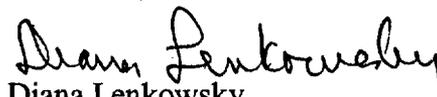
The Stamford Partnership is a public/private partnership working to enhance the quality of life for those who live, work and visit Stamford. The Partnership played a role in the planning and approval of the Mill River Corridor Plan and the formation of the Mill River Collaborative.

The Mill River and the surrounding park have been neglected and unused. They are a valuable resource that can contribute to the improved quality of life to the West Side community, the businesses and residents in the downtown and the greater community.

The Partnership endorses the recommendations to dismantle the current dam and restore the riparian and aquatic habitats that will make the Mill River a positive, self-sustaining component of the Park. The Mill River and Mill Pond Habitat Restoration Project is important to creating a park that is beautiful and inviting to all residents and visitors to Stamford. We urge the approval of this project and its implementation begin as soon as possible.

The Stamford Partnership wants to thank the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' for performing the study of the Mill River and your willingness to work with our community on this important improvement project. Your effort is a key component in advancing this important project that will have a positive impact on our community's future development.

Yours truly,


Diana Lenkowsky
Chairman

**Mill River and Mill Pond Habitat Restoration Project
Public Comment Letters and Responses on Draft Report**

Name	Date	Response
Richard Emmons	June 7, 2004	Support letter; no response needed.
Howard Strateman	June 8, 2004	The recommended plan involves removing an estimated 18,600 cubic yards of sediment from the 1,100-foot reach upstream of main Street Dam along with dam removal. This sediment represents the extent of soft sediments deposited behind the dam.
Carolyn Rebbert	June 9, 2004	Support letter; no response needed.
Tessa Ried	June 10, 2004	The scope of this Section 206 study was agreed to by the Corps of Engineers and the city of Stamford to focus on the lower 2-mile reach of Mill River for aquatic habitat restoration of the river through downtown Stamford, particularly restoration of Mill Pond. The study recognizes that the river carries a sediment load, and the channel restoration will be designed to accommodate this sediment load. Reducing and controlling excess sedimentation into the river upstream of this reach is important to the overall restoration of the Rippowam/Mill River. Localized erosion control and storm water treatment are the responsibility of local municipalities. The city of Stamford is currently working on a plan to reduce sediment inputs into the river upstream of the project reach.
Jane M. Waugh	June 15, 2004	The alignment of the river channel as shown in Figures 9 and 18 is conceptual, and the final designed channel location will be determined during the design phase of the project. The conceptual alignment was based on river curvatures typical for the size and river morphology of Mill River. The width and shape of the channel are designed to convey a two year event (Q2 flow) as a bank-full discharge. The Q2 channel width was determined to be approximately 60 to 80 feet. Stable bank slopes and floodplain surfaces require additional river corridor width, for a total required width of 160 to 240 feet (wider than the width between the existing walls). The Corps will work with the city of Stamford to determine a final channel alignment, bank slopes, and flood terrace widths. There may be an opportunity to move the designed channel location further east from that shown in Figure 18 and to increase the radius of curvature (straighten the curve somewhat) if the city of Stamford can provide needed lands in the vicinity of the western end of West Park Place.
Diana Lenkowsky	June 16, 2004	Support letter; no response needed.

City of Stamford, CT and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Public Information Meeting Notes

June 24, 2004

The following meeting notes were taken by Stamford staff. Meeting Sign-in sheet attached.

John Choate – Are Wright Tech wetlands removed from the project? (Yes)

Audrey Consentini – How deep is the water in the pond, how fast does it fill with sediment. (Mayor Malloy – 4 years, begins in 1.5 yrs.)

Walter Wheeler – Repeat the widths of Mill Pond, flood plain and new river bed. (140 ft, 200-ft., 60 ft.)

Ralph Loglisci, Board of Reps – Does this project include changes to the Main St. Bridge? (Mayor – No.)

Harry Day, Bd of Reps – In assessing this project keep in mind the economics, the park, the trees and ways to avoid a dry gulch.

Scott Thompson, Environmental Protection Board – The economics, public and financial benefits make the project a win. Consider ways to use dredged material as a resource. (A. Burnett – depending on toxicity)

Anthony DePhillipis – Enormous growth downtown requires such improvements.

Dick Emmons – Restored river will be wonderful addition to community access, opportunity for fishing classes.

Jim Brown – Project is a superior outcome to the fish ladder proposal, an environmental improvement and adds value to development in downtown.

Jeff Cordulack, Environmental Council of Stamford – Principal objective is river stewardship. What about water flow supplemented by the aquifer. (Mayor – Aquifer gets distant from river downtown.)

Walter Wheeler – The mill dam was the first industry. Build a historic replica.

Harry Day – Commemorate the dam if not rebuild it.

6/24/04

Post-it Fax Note	7671	Date	8/11/04
To	Allen Burch	From	Mill River
Co. Dept.		Co.	Mill River
Phone #		Phone #	
Fax #		Fax #	

ites

NAME	EMAIL ADDRESS	PHONE
EPB LOUIS P. LEVINE 10 CARROLL ST		324-1418
Judith Liebeskind 233 Saddle Hill Rd		
Jim Brown 97 Franklin st. Stamford, CT	jbrown55@optonline.net	324-5441
ANTHONY DEFILOPPIS 42 SPINNING AND LAKE.		322-0805
Chris Donnelly EPB 79 Elm St (to Hill)		504 243121
GARY STONE 199 WEEDS HILL RD.		
Harold PAPP URC		
Bob Cooper Stillwashed Rd.		
Scott Thompson LEPD 107 Turner Rd.	Stamps@epime.com	595-0808 ✓
A Cosentino 105 Wynn de near Lane.		✓

Mill River Park Advocates

NAME	ADDRESS	EMAIL ADDRESS	PHONE
Bill MORRIS	1127 ALVA RIVER RD		
Walter P. ...			
Walter P. ...	97 E. Hunting Ridge		203/322-5041
Gwen Garnett	1 Green St. Stamford, Ct.	Gwen@g18@yahoo.com	203-334-5928
Jason Bryman	7149 Germantown Ave. Philadelphia, PA 19119	jasonb1m@jericord.dick.com	215- 546-2432 247-7290 ext. 18
MIGUEL A PAIVA	20 JAWADPOOR FARM LA. E		324-2530
JIN CLARKE	Box 200 Old Greenwich CT 06870	Prospect112@JUNO.COM	324 6283
Denise Swanson	Town of Greenwich	denise@greenwich.org	602-644
Michael Aurelia	72 Oak Ridge St Greenwich CT 06830	maurelia@comcast.com	622-9297
Jeff Cordolack & Julia	75 Spauldion Ave Stamford 06902	jeffc@sandwich15.org	613-8813

Mill River Park Advocates

NAME	ADDRESS	EMAIL ADDRESS	PHONE
✓ <i>Wendell W. Iversen</i>		<i>W. Iversen@millriverpark.org</i>	<i>860-652-9991</i>
<i>Steve Cephand</i>	<i>DEP P.O. Box 719 O. Lyme 06371</i>	<i>Steve.gephend@ri.state.ct.us</i>	<i>434-6043</i>
<i>Thomas Whiteley</i>	<i>72 Spruce St. 10A (CITY) 06902</i>		<i>353-3390</i>
<i>Andie Green-Cathey</i>	<i>126 Lockwood Hill Ave. Stamford 06902</i>		<i>978-1538</i>
<i>Peter Conetta</i>	<i>46 Citeston Field Rd</i>		<i>912-6255</i>
<i>Sheld Corbelle</i>	<i>69 Myrtle Lane Stamford</i>	<i>Use Shacked out.com</i>	<i>323-4091</i>
<i>Stelen Ferris</i>	<i>2 Fairfield Cts. Apt 100</i>	<i>Stamford Ch</i>	
<i>Dick Eamon</i>	<i>240 WARDWELL STREET 2N STAMFORD CT 06907</i>	<i>fishermantools oftenline.net</i>	<i>203-357-2005</i>
<i>Bill Hennighan</i>	<i>224 S 110</i>		<i>475-7201</i>