



Public Notice

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

Date: May 3, 2006
Comment Period Closes:: June 2, 2006
Evaluation Branch, Engineering/Planning Division

LOCAL FLOOD PROTECTION, BLACKWATER RIVER SALISBURY, MASSACHUSETTS

Interested parties are hereby notified that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England District, in response to a request by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and town of Salisbury, is recommending a local flood protection project to reduce flood damages at a low lying area situated between 9th Street and Florence Avenue in Salisbury, Massachusetts. The study is being carried out under authority contained in Section 205 of the 1948 Flood Control Act (Public Law 80-8-58), as amended. Section 205 is part of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Continuing Authorities Program, and provides authority to evaluate and correct flooding problems that are economically justified and within the Federal interest. This public notice provides information about the flood damage reduction project and documents compliance with all applicable laws and regulations.

Purpose and Need for Work: The purpose of this project is to reduce the occurrence of frequent flooding of low areas along the Blackwater River estuary. This condition prompted town of Salisbury and Commonwealth of Massachusetts officials to request Corps of Engineers assistance in alleviating these conditions. Roadways are flooded as often as 1-2 times per month, and flooding to low lying homes is commonplace. This flooding causes serious safety problems as it impacts evacuation of residents, and the delivery of emergency medical, fire protection and other essential services.

Project Description: The recommended plan to reduce flood damages along the Blackwater River consists primarily of two sections of floodwall having a total length of about 2,765 feet, and two pumping stations. The floodwall is a relatively low structure, having an average height of 2-3 feet and a top elevation of 8.0 feet National Geodetic Vertical Datum (NGVD). The material currently proposed for the floodwall is vinyl sheet piling. A wooden, aluminum or vinyl cap would be placed along the top of the sheet piling. In addition, soil would be placed against the landside face of the sheet pile wall at most locations to form a slope of 1 vertical on 2 horizontal. This berm would be topsoiled and seeded with grass.

As shown on the attached map, the first section of floodwall would begin at a high point at the edge of properties on the north side of 9th Street and follow the edge of the saltmarsh to its end at a high point near the end of 12th Street. The second section of floodwall would begin behind homes on the south side of 12th Street, extend along the edge of the saltmarsh, and end at a high point behind homes on the south side of Florence Avenue.

Pumping stations will be required at two locations along the floodwall to provide for discharge of rainfall and other interior drainage during periods of high water along the Blackwater River. Both pumping stations would be located in underground concrete structures along the alignment of existing storm drains, and adjacent to existing outfalls into the saltrnarsh. The largest pump station would be located under Bayberry Lane where existing storm drains from 11th and 12th Streets converge and discharge into the Blackwater River. The second underground pumping station would be located at the western end of Lewis Avenue along the alignment of the existing storm drain. Storm drainage improvements are also included to convey roadway drainage to these two pumping stations.

Alternatives Analysis: A variety of alternatives to reduce flood damages to the low-lying area between 9th Street and Florence Avenue were evaluated. The overall goal was to develop a feasible, cost-effective and acceptable flood damage reduction plan. Alternatives that were considered include: no action; a floodwall, dike or combination floodwall and dike to elevation 8.0 feet NGVD, raising homes with first floor elevations less than 8.0 feet; purchasing and removing homes with first floor elevations less than 8.0 feet; and purchasing and removing all homes in the study area. The most feasible alternative is the proposed floodwall. This plan maximizes economic benefits, and minimizes impacts to adjacent wetland areas.

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

Federal:

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
National Marine Fisheries Service
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer

Commonwealth of Massachusetts:

Department of Conservation and Recreation (formerly DEM)
Historic Preservation Officer
Department of Environmental Protection
Department of Marine Fisheries
Coastal Zone Management Office

Town of Salisbury:

Department of Public Works
Town Manager
Town Planner

Endangered Species: The proposed project is not expected to negatively affect any Federal or State listed threatened or endangered species.

Essential Fish Habitat: The National Marine Fisheries Service will be providing comments on the project's essential fish habitat assessment pursuant to the Magnuson-Stevens Fisheries Conservation Act. The proposed project is not expected to negatively affect essential fish habitat.

Environmental Impacts: An Environmental Assessment was prepared for this flood damage reduction project. Construction impacts are expected to be minor and temporary. A preliminary

determination was made that an Environmental Impact Statement for the proposed restoration is not required under the provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969.

Cultural Resources: Construction of the proposed project is not expected to have an effect on archaeological resources. The Massachusetts Historical Commission concurs with this finding.

Federal Consistency with Coastal Zone Management: The restoration project will be conducted in a manner consistent to the maximum extent practicable with the approved coastal zone management program of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Federal Permit Requirements: An application will be submitted to the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection under Section 401 of the Clean Water Act of 1977 (P.L. 95-217). A Section 404(b)(1) evaluation, pursuant to the Clean Water Act, is provided as an attachment to the draft Environmental Assessment

Compliance: This Public Notice is being issued in compliance with several environmental laws and regulations (see Attachment A).

Public Information Meeting: A public information meeting has been scheduled to discuss the recommended plan. The meeting will be held at the Salisbury Elementary School, 100 Lafayette Road, Salisbury, MA at 7:00 PM on Wednesday, May 17, 2006. All interested parties are invited and encouraged to attend. Please bring this notice to the attention of anyone you know to be interested in the project.

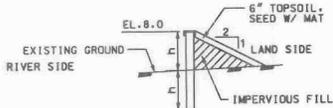
Availability of the Draft Report and Environmental Assessment: Copies of the draft report and environmental assessment are available on the Internet at www.nae.usace.army.mil (click on "Massachusetts," then "Projects"). Copies on compact disk (CD) may be obtained by contacting the project manager, Mr. Richard Heidebrecht by calling 978-318-8513.

Additional Information: Any person who has an interest that may be affected by this restoration project may request a public hearing. The request must be submitted in writing 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.

Public Comments: Comments are invited from all concerned parties and should be directed to the District Engineer at 696 Virginia Road, Concord, MA 01742, ATTN: Engineering/Planning Division (Mr. Richard Heidebrecht), within 30 days of this notice. Any person who has an interest that may be affected by the proposed project may request a public hearing. The request must be submitted in writing to me within 30 days of the date of this notice and must clearly set forth the interest and the manner in which the interest may be affected. Please bring this notice to the attention of anyone you know to be interested in the project.

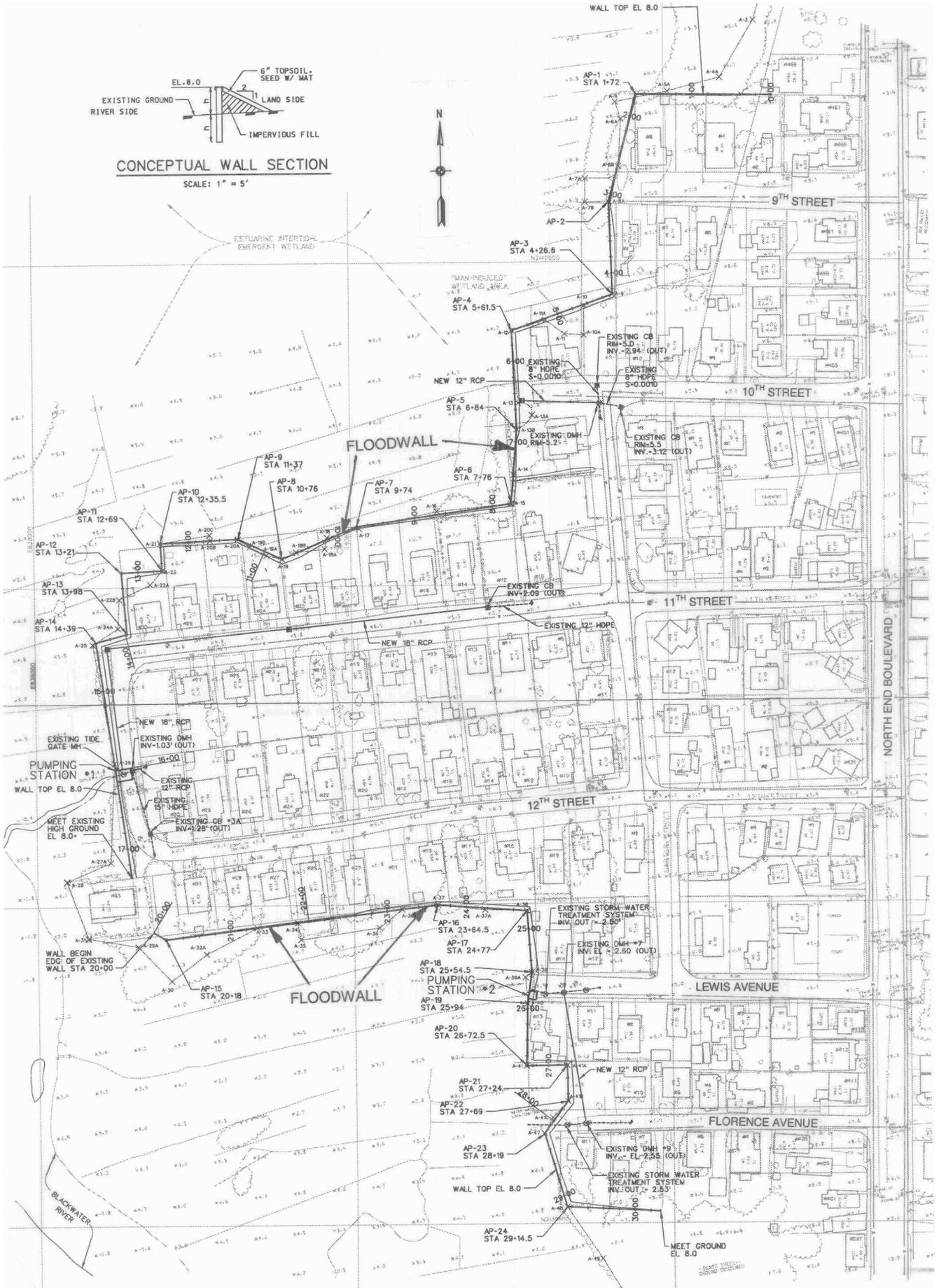
2 May 2006
Date


Curtis L. Thalken
Colonel, Corps of Engineers
District Engineer



CONCEPTUAL WALL SECTION

SCALE: 1" = 5'



**LOCAL FLOOD PROTECTION
BLACKWATER RIVER
SALISBURY, MASSACHUSETTS**

Attachment A

PERTINENT LAWS, REGULATIONS AND DIRECTIVES

Clean Air Act, as amended (42 U.S.C. 1221 et. seq.)

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

Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972, Sections 307 (c)(1) and (2)[16 U.S.C. 760c-760g]

Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 668aa-668cc)

Executive Order 11988, Floodplain Management, 24 May 1977

Executive Order 11990, Protection of Wetlands, 24 May 1977

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

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

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

Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (16 U.S.C. 661-666c)

Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act and amended by the Sustainable Fisheries Act of 1996

National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321-4347)

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

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