

**CAPE COD CANAL & SANDWICH BEACHES  
SHORE DAMAGE MITIGATION PROJECT**

**APPENDIX G**

**GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE**

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# TOWN OF SANDWICH

THE OLDEST TOWN ON CAPE COD

130 MAIN STREET  
SANDWICH, MA 02563

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BOARD OF  
SELECTMEN

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TOWN  
ADMINISTRATOR

March 2, 2006

Col. Curtis L. Thalken,  
District Engineer  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
New England District  
696 Virginia Road  
Concord, MA 01742-2751

**RE: Town of Sandwich, MA Section 111 Study Request**

Dear Sir:

In accordance with the provisions of Section 111 of the River and Harbor Act of 1968, as amended, which authorizes the Federal government to indicate investigations and studies in the interest of mitigation of shore damage attributable to navigation work, the Town of Sandwich, Massachusetts is requesting a formal application for a study of the Cape Cod Canal eastern entrance located in the Town of Sandwich, Massachusetts.

The beaches in the Town of Sandwich, including Town Beach and Springhill Beach, have a history of erosion. Construction of jetties at the east end of the Cape Cod Canal in the early 1900s has been the primary reason for this coastal erosion. The two Canal jetties cause an interruption in the natural longshore sediment transport from northwest to southeast (Figure 1). This has resulted in shoreline accretion on the updrift (northwest) side of the Canal, and erosion on the downdrift (southeast) side. The material accreting on the northwest side of the Canal represents a significant portion of the sediment that would naturally have been distributed along the Sandwich shoreline.

Through implementation of a sediment management strategy (e.g., placement of dredge material, annual bypassing, fixed bypass system, etc.), a portion of the sediment that would naturally be transported will be provided to the "starved" littoral system of the Sandwich shoreline. Continued erosion of the Sandwich beaches will lead to significant infrastructure damage, upland flooding, loss of valuable natural resources (marsh) and recreational usage, and financial impacts. The reduced protection by the narrowing beach and lack of sediment source has already resulted in significant damage and in some cases complete loss of homes during storm events, as well as the breaching of the Old Sandwich Harbor Inlet from its existing stabilizing jetties.

I request that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England District, undertake an investigation under the authority of Section 111 of the River and Harbor Act of 1968, as amended. The Town of Sandwich, MA is willing to serve as the study sponsor.



**Figure 1. Eastern entrance of the Cape Cod Canal.**

The Town of Sandwich understands that the problem will be assessed through the conduct of a feasibility study. I understand that the study would be Federally financed and 100% Federally funded to the limit of \$100,000. In recent years, the Town of Sandwich has taken steps to complete a comprehensive study and sediment management plan for the Town-owned beach spanning from approximately the east end jetty of the Cape Cod Canal to the western end of Spring Hill Beach. The overall goal of the study is to improve and stabilize the entrance to Old Harbor, to provide for erosion protection, reduce potential upland flooding, and promote beach stability, and develop appropriate beach renourishment. This information can be made readily available to help assist in the Corps of Engineers study.

Thank you for your consideration of this request and please contact me at (508) 888-5144 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "George H. Dunham". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a white background.

George H. Dunham  
Town Administrator

cc: Board of Selectmen  
Natural Resources Officer  
Kirk Bosma, Woods Hole Group  
Fran Donovan, Engineer In Charge, Cape Cod Canal