



Public Notice

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

Date: December 19, 2019

Comment Period Closes: January 20, 2020

Planning Division

FAIRFIELD AND NEW HAVEN COUNTIES, CONNECTICUT **COASTAL STORM RISK MANAGEMENT PROJECT** **NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT**

Interested parties are hereby notified that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), New England District, is currently working on the Fairfield and New Haven Counties, Connecticut Coastal Storm Risk Management (CSRМ) feasibility study in New Haven, Connecticut (see Figure 1). The non-Federal project partner for the study is the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (CT DEEP). The non-Federal sponsor for project implementation has not been identified at this point in the study, but a non-Federal sponsor for the project will be required for project design, implementation, and future operations & maintenance. This study is authorized in a resolution approved by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the United States House of Representatives, dated April 29, 2010. This resolution gives the Secretary of the Army the authority to “review the report of the Chief of Engineers on Land and Water Resources of the New England-New York Region, published as Senate Document No. 14, 85th Congress, 1st Session, and other reports to determine whether any modifications of the recommendations contained therein are advisable at the present time in the interest of flood damage reduction, coastal storm damage reduction, coastal erosion, and other related purposes in the vicinity of the estuaries and shoreline of Fairfield and New Haven Counties, Connecticut.” This public notice provides information about the Fairfield and New Haven Counties CSRМ project and documents compliance with all applicable laws and regulations.

Purpose and Need for Work: The authorized study area includes approximately 1,700 square miles of coastal and riverine floodplains located within Fairfield and New Haven Counties. Five primary focused-study areas (Stratford, Milford, New Haven, West Haven, and Fairfield) were identified in partnership with the Regional Councils of Governments in Connecticut for initial review. Following site visits and coordination with the CT DEEP, the Town of Fairfield and City of New Haven were selected for further consideration based on level of local support, density of development, and vulnerability to coastal storm damages.

In early 2019, the study team presented an initial suite of coastal storm risk management alternatives to the Town of Fairfield and City of New Haven as part of the study plan formulation process. The proposed alternatives developed for Fairfield would require a significant Federal and non-Federal investment, including the non-Federal responsibility

and costs to acquire large tracts of privately owned real estate, as well as a large environmental mitigation component. In discussions with the Town of Fairfield, it was agreed that the potential solutions would be too costly for the community to support at this time but that the community could potentially be the focus of a future Corps coastal storm risk management feasibility study.

The USACE Tentatively Selected Plan (TSP) milestone presented in the Integrated Feasibility Report and Environmental Assessment (IFR/EA) addresses the coastal storm risk management issues in the New Haven, Long Wharf area. The TSP consists of the construction of a 6,425 linear-foot coastal floodwall system running parallel to the Interstate 95 embankment. The length of the system consists of 5,950 linear-feet of floodwall and a combined 475 linear-feet of closure structures. The plan includes two pump stations and five deployable roadway closure structures. The system would have a top elevation of +15 feet NAVD88. The plan also includes the potential floodproofing of commercial and residential structures located seaward of the Interstate 95 embankment. Opportunities for floodproofing structures will be further analyzed before the study is completed. Optimization of the plan will occur after public and agency review of the Draft IFR/EA. Optimization of the TSP will include refinements to the plan and design based on any additional study and consideration of comments received during the review process.

Alternatives Analysis: The feasibility study plan formulation process considered a range of structural and nonstructural measures to manage the risk of coastal storm damage in the Long Wharf study area. Through an iterative planning process, potential coastal storm risk management measures were identified and alternatives were formulated, evaluated, and compared against each other in order to establish a tentatively selected plan. Initial screening of alternatives identified structural (floodwalls and closure structures) and nonstructural alternatives (wet/dry flood proofing and elevation of residential structures) that would reduce coastal storm risk for the Long Wharf area. These alternatives potentially provide sufficient damage reduction benefits to support justification of a cost-shared coastal storm risk management project.

Coordination: Coordination has been conducted with the following agencies:

Federal

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
National Marine Fisheries Service
U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Highway Administration

State

Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection
Office of Long Island Sound Programs
Bureau of Natural Resources
Bureau of Water Protection and Land Reuse
Connecticut Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Aquaculture
Connecticut Historic Preservation Office
Connecticut Department of Transportation

Tribal Governments

Mashantucket (Western) Pequot Tribal Nation - Tribal Historic Preservation Office
Mohegan Tribe - Tribal Historic Preservation Office

Local

City of New Haven

Non-Governmental Agencies

The Nature Conservancy Connecticut Chapter

Endangered Species: There are two federally protected bird species under the jurisdiction of the USFWS that have been identified as possibly being present in the proposed project area: roseate tern (*Sterna dougallii dougallii*) and red knot (*Calidris canutus rufa*). The project area does not support suitable breeding habitat or feeding habitat for either species. Construction noise may increase the amount and duration of noise in the project area. Any transiting roseate terns will only briefly be subjected to increased noise as they fly through the area, thus no impacts to their migrations are anticipated as a result of the proposed plan. The same is true for red knots, which make one of the longest yearly migrations to Arctic breeding grounds in Canada from southern South America. During migration, red knots concentrate in massive numbers at traditional staging grounds. The project area does not support suitable staging area, breeding habitat or feeding habitat for red knots. Therefore, the USACE has made a “no effect” determination for both roseate terns and red knots in the project area.

Environmental Impacts: A Draft Integrated Feasibility Report and Environmental Assessment was prepared for the Fairfield and New Haven Counties, Connecticut CSRMA study. A preliminary determination was made that an Environmental Impact Statement is not required under the provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969.

Cultural Resources: The proposed plan will have no effect on any historic properties. This determination is being coordinated with the CT State Historic Preservation Officer and the Tribal Historic Preservation Officers of the Mashantucket Pequot and Mohegan tribes, in accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended.

Federal Consistency with Coastal Zone Management: The project will be conducted in a manner consistent to the maximum extent practicable with all applicable Connecticut Coastal Zone Management Program policies.

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

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

Availability of the Draft Integrated Report: A copy of the report can be obtained via the website below or upon request by contacting the Project Manager, Byron Rupp at 978-318-8172.

<https://www.nae.usace.army.mil/Missions/Projects-Topics/Fairfield-and-New-Haven-Counties-Coastal-Storm-Risk-Management-Feasibility-Study/>

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: Planning Division (Mr. Byron Rupp), 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.

19 DEC 2019

Date



William M. Conde
Colonel, Corps of Engineers
District Engineer

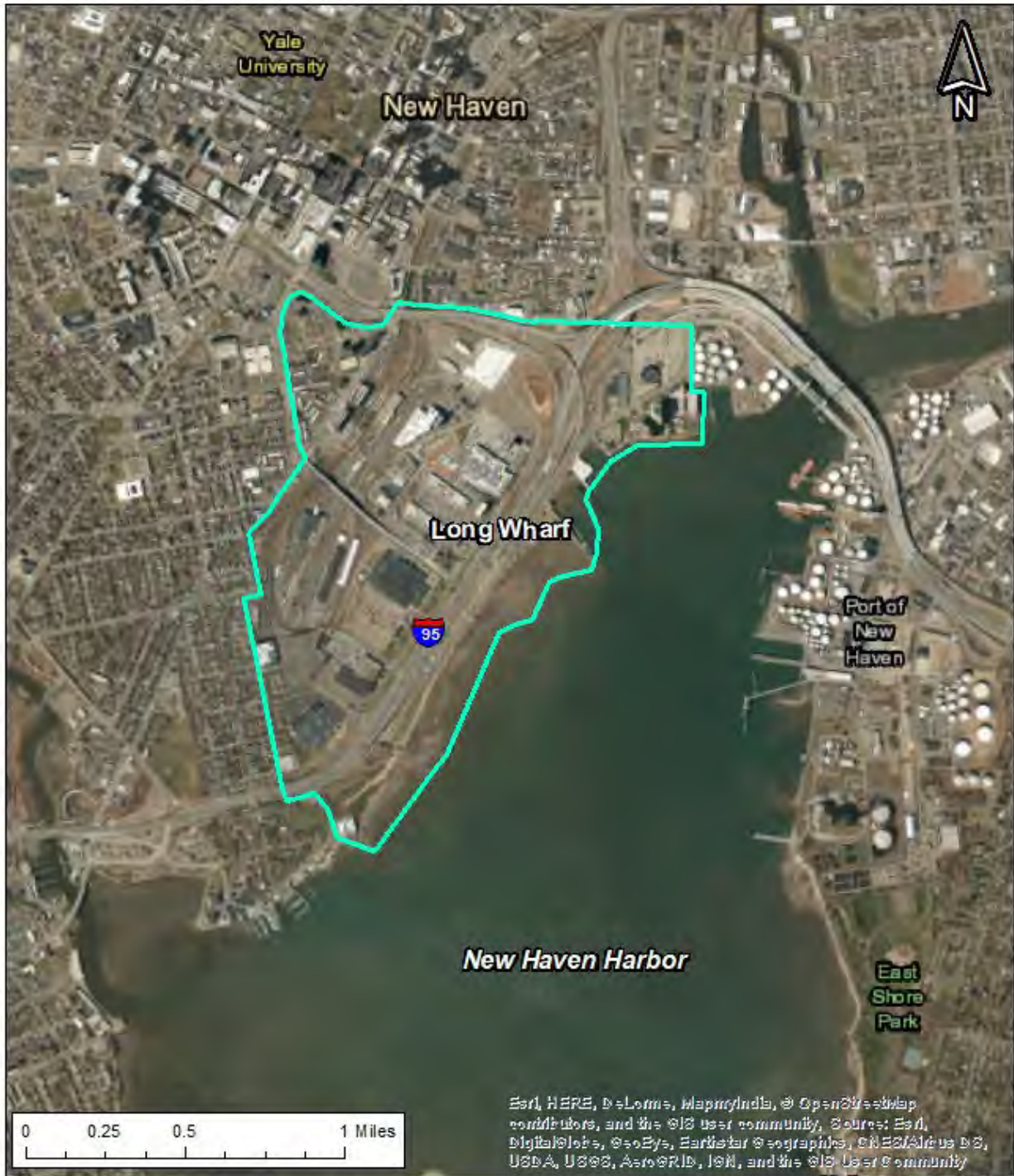
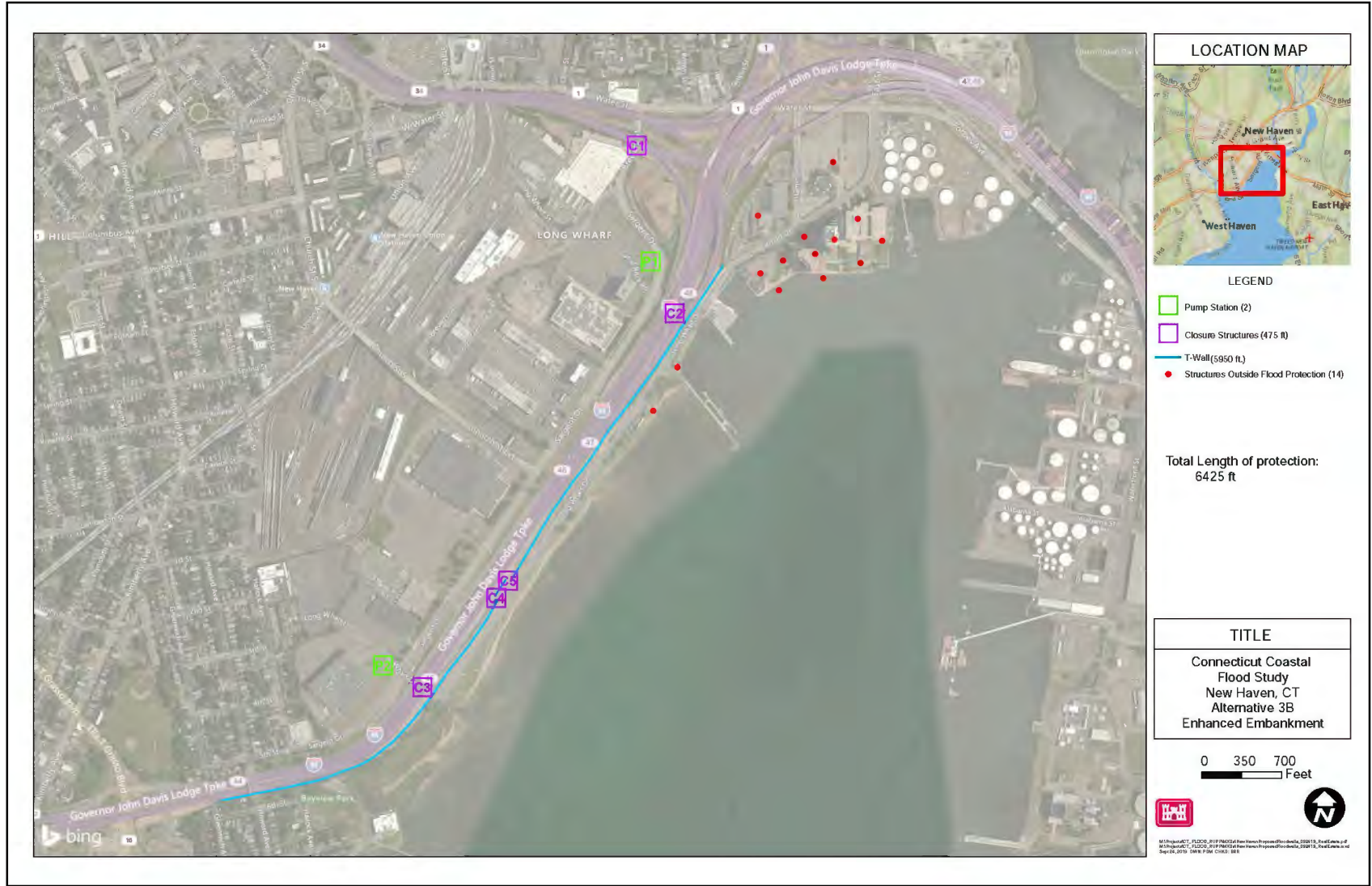


Figure 1 – Location Map

Figure 2 – Tentatively Selected Plan Details



Attachment A

PERTINENT LAWS, REGULATIONS AND DIRECTIVES

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

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

Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. §§ 1451-1464
CT Gen Stat § 22a-90 Chapter 444, as amended)

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

Executive Order 11988, Floodplain Management, 24 May 1977

Executive Order 11990, Protection of Wetlands, 24 May 1977

Executive Order 12898, Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations, 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 *et seq.*)

National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 432 *et seq.*)

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.