



BOROUGH OF HIGHLANDS  
COUNTY OF MONMOUTH

## RESOLUTION 24-222

### DECLINING TO ISSUE LETTER OF SUPPORT AND REJECTING THE UNITED STATES ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS COASTAL STORM RISK MANAGEMENT PROJECT

**WHEREAS**, the United States Army Corps. of Engineers provided information with regard to the proposed design and construction of a Coastal Storm Risk Management Project within the Borough of Highlands; and

**WHEREAS**, a presentation was made at the Borough of Highlands May 14, 2024 public meeting by the United States Army Corps. of Engineers, in conjunction with the Non-Federal Sponsor, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, with regard to the Coastal Storm Risk Management Project; and

**WHEREAS**, an additional public meeting was held on October 7, 2024, wherein the purpose of the said meeting was for the United States Army Corps. of Engineers, in conjunction with the Non-Federal Sponsor, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, to further discuss the aforesaid project and projected costs; and

**WHEREAS**, Resolution 24-137, duly adopted July 17, 2024, authorized the placement of a non-binding ballot question at the November 5, 2024 general election as to whether the Borough should accept the aforesaid large-scale Federal floodwall project, which includes the possible exercise of eminent domain to take private property, with an initial estimated cost to taxpayers of at least \$13 million dollars, in addition to annual funding to be paid by the taxpayers for maintenance estimated to be at least \$452,000 per year; and

**WHEREAS**, the residents overwhelmingly voted against the aforesaid large-scale federal floodwall project at the November 5, 2024 general election; and

**WHEREAS**, by way of correspondence dated December 9, 2024, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection ("Department"), the Non-Federal Sponsor of the Project, has advised that the Borough must indicate whether it supports the Project, in writing, to the Department, by December 20, 2024 in order to provide ample time to finalize state and local project commitments, as letters of project commitment from both the Department and Borough must be submitted to the United States Army Corps of Engineers by January 3, 2025; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to the aforesaid correspondence received from the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, the letter of project commitment will require that the Borough agree to: (1) support the Project design and construction as proposed by the United States Army Corps of Engineers at the May 14, 2024 and October 7, 2024 public meetings; and (2) enter into a State Aid agreement with the New Jersey Department of

Environmental Protection by March 14, 2025, that will establish the cost share agreement for the construction as well as operation and maintenance of the entire project; and

**WHEREAS**, after due consideration of the sentiment of the voters, as a result of the outcome of the non-binding ballot question that was held on November 5, 2024, which overwhelmingly rejected the aforesaid project, the governing body has determined that it is in the best interest of the residents of the Borough of Highlands to abide by their determination and reject the said Project and decline to issue a Letter of Support; and

**WHEREAS**, the governing body of the Borough of Highlands encourages the United States Army Corps of Engineers to propose alternative solutions to reduce the impact of flooding in the Borough, such as the construction of a protection barrier from Sandy Hook to Popamora Point, similar to a project that was done in New Bedford, Massachusetts.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Governing Body of the Borough of Highlands that the Borough hereby rejects the Coastal Storm Risk Management Project proposed by the United States Army Corps. of Engineers, as described in detail at the May 14, 2024 and October 7, 2024 public hearings, and declines to issue a Letter of Support.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the governing body of the Borough of Highlands encourages the United States Army Corps of Engineers to propose alternative solutions to reduce the impact of flooding in the Borough, such as the construction of a protection barrier from Sandy Hook to Popamora Point.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Borough officials, including but not limited to, the Mayor, the Borough Administrator and Municipal Clerk be and are hereby authorized to notify the United States Army Corps. of Engineers by and through the Non-Federal Sponsor of the Aforesaid Project, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, in writing, that the Borough is rejecting the aforesaid Coastal Storm Risk Management Project and is thereby declining to issue a Letter of Support for the aforesaid Project.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Borough Officials, including the Mayor, Borough Administrator and Municipal Clerk be and are hereby authorized to undertake such acts as are reasonable and necessary to accomplish the purposes of this Resolution.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Municipal Clerk is directed to forward a certified copy of this Resolution to the United State Army Corps of Engineers, by and through the Non-Federal Sponsor, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection.

Motion to Approve R 24-222:

	INTRODUCED	SECOND	AYE	NAY	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
CERVANTES						
CHELAK						
MELNYK						
OLSZEWSKI						
BROULLON						

This is a Certified True copy of the Original Resolution on file in the Municipal Clerk's Office.

DATE OF VOTE: December 18, 2024

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Nancy Tran, Municipal Clerk  
Borough of Highlands