



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs
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Kathleen A. Theoharides
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March 24, 2021

Erika Mark
Project Manager, Northeast Region
USACE, New England District
696 Virginia Road
Concord, MA 01742

Dear Ms. Mark:

On behalf of the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA), I am providing this commitment of funds to support the non-federal funding requirements for the planned US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Portsmouth Harbor Federal Navigation Project (FNP) expected to begin construction in the fall of 2021.

For the past three years, EEA and the USACE have coordinated closely on the planning and permitting for the beneficial use of dredged material from the Portsmouth Harbor FNP for beach nourishment and to reduce the risk of coastal storm damage. To this end and with the support of multiple regulatory agencies, the permitting is complete for the beneficial use of about 300,000 cubic yards (CY) of material for the nourishment of state-owned Nantasket Beach and the nearshore placement of about 300,000 CY of material off Newbury and Salisbury. However, because the proposed beneficial use of dredged material is a deviation from the USACE baseplan, cost sharing agreements with non-federal partners which account for the increased expense are required to implement the beneficial use projects. The Commonwealth along with the communities of Newbury and Salisbury commit to enter into cost sharing agreements with the USACE for the beneficial use of dredged material from the Portsmouth Harbor FNP at Nantasket Beach and in nearshore areas off Newbury and Salisbury.

In closing, I want to reiterate the Commonwealth's commitment to ensuring the beneficial use of dredge sediment to support nourishment needs in the Commonwealth. I appreciate your collaborative efforts and look forward to continuing this positive relationship on this and other projects in the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "K. Theoharides". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kathleen A. Theoharides
Secretary

cc:

Senator Bruce Tarr, Senator DiZoglio, Representative Mirra, Representative Kelcourse
Jim Montgomery, Priscilla Geigis, MA DCR
Lisa Engler, Robert Boeri, MA CZM
Mayor Holaday, City of Newburyport
Neil Harrington, Town of Salisbury
Tracy Blais, Town of Newbury