



Fire Island Pines Property Owners' Association

P.O. Box 5305

Fire Island Pines, New York 11782-0999

Tel: 631-597-6060 - Fax: 631-867-1331 - fipboa@msn.com

April 15, 2014

Robert J. Smith, Project Biologist
NY District, Army Corps of Engineers
26 Federal Plaza
New York, NY 10278

Dear Mr. Smith,

FIPPOA supports the Fire Island Inlet to Moriches Inlet Stabilization Project (FIMI) and we agree with the conclusions and the selected alternative in the Draft Environmental Assessment for the project. We believe the project is vital to the preservation of Fire Island and the 17 communities located on the island. The Fire Island National Seashore is unique in its mix of recreational areas and communities within a national park. The project will assure that this natural environment, recreational area and its related communities within will be available for generations to come.

The project is also vital to protecting the physical well being and the economy of Long Island. Fire Island and its dune system is the most important physical protection for Long Island. Super-storm Sandy cut the island in three places. There is every reason to believe that without beach replenishment future storms will create further inlets. This would reduce the physical protection that Fire Island provides to Long Island. The Fire Island communities also have a significant positive impact on the Long Island economy. We have estimated that Fire Island Pines contributes \$70 Million to the local economy. This number would be multiplied many times if we include all of the Fire Island communities. This includes real estate taxes, contractor expenses, merchant sales, payroll and real estate activity.

The Pines has participated with other Fire Island communities in previous beach stabilization projects going back to the early 1990s. These projects have been undertaken under extensive and intensive environmental oversight to assure that they are compatible with the natural environment. Extensive monitoring of the projects has revealed that the projects have done no harm and that they have actually provided measurable benefits to the natural environment. Following the 2009 project piping plovers and their nests reappeared in the Pines following a long period without sightings.

We urge the Army Corps to work collaboratively with FIPPOA and the FIA to implement the project. This will ensure that the interests of the homeowners who are affected by the project will be given appropriate consideration. The Army Corps and Suffolk County should work with each homeowner in a flexible and individual manner to ensure that the rights of the homeowners are respected and not impacted in ways that are not necessary to the project. Finally we urge that during the implementation of the project the engineers and contractors be given authority to make appropriate field decisions to assure that the interests of the homeowners are respected while maintaining the integrity of the project.

Fire Island Pines unequivocally supports the FIMI project.

Sincerely,
Jay Pagano, FIPPOA President