



The Family Resort

Borough of Seaside Park

BOROUGH HALL

732-793-3700

1701 North Ocean Avenue, Seaside Park, New Jersey 08752
www.seasideparknj.org

FAX 732-793-3737

February 28, 2022

Senator Robert Menendez
528 Hart Senator Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20510
VIA FAX: 202-228-2197 and regular mail

**RE.: Request For Letter of Support, And Any All Other Actions
Appropriate, As To The Borough Of Seaside Park's Appeal To The
FEMA Region 2 Regional Administrator, With Respect To A
December 27, 2021 Denial Of A Bayfront Wave Dissipation Grant**

**Request for Assistance as to Any and All Other Low Interest
Loans or Grants With Regard to Seaside Park's Bayfront Needs
As to Flood Mitigation/Living Shoreline Implementation and Habitat
Restoration**

Dear Senator Menendez:

Kindly recall that we had met on several past occasions, and that we last interacted during a very positive and pleasant telephone interaction in 2020, when the Borough of Seaside Park was provided a U.S.D.A. Infrastructure Loan for a long term water improvement project. I am writing you this time, to convey an urgent request for assistance from yourself and your staff, as to another matter of utmost importance to our community.

Specifically, on behalf of our residents, homeowners and many visitors, I am hereby asking for help from yourself and your office, in providing the Borough of Seaside Park with any and all appropriate actions, as well as a letter of support, as to our pending appeal concerning a December 27, 2021 FEMA Denial of the Borough of Seaside Park's Bayfront Wave Dissipation Project (FEMA-DR-4086-NJ-488-R). As you are aware from past correspondence, Seaside Park had previously been awarded a 1.2 million dollar FEMA Grant, to fund the above referenced Wave Dissipation Flood Mitigation Project, as to an approximately seven (7) block area along our town's bayfront.

Our well designed and comprehensive proposed project concurrently addresses numerous long terms goals as to wave energy dissipation, mitigation of flooding, habitat restoration, a living shoreline creation, and even, an upgrade in Barnegat Bay water

quality. The most essential purpose of the previously awarded FEMA Grant, naturally addresses wave energy dissipation. In addition to this necessary component, in order to satisfy the relevant parameters of the FEMA Grant, our project at the same time, implements a vital initial part of a wider visionary plan, to provide shore stabilization, and to lessen the impacts of flooding, throughout municipality's entire bayfront area.

As you may be aware, the Borough of Seaside Park has retained a widely respected team, consisting of Dr. Stewart Farrell of the Stockton University Coastal Institute and Alek Modjeski, of the American Littoral Society, to work hand and hand with RVE Engineering. Through years of hard work resulting in a fully developed change of scope design, our living shoreline project provides the same, if not a higher level of protection as a previously proposed hard structure breakwater. Our Green Infrastructure can provide a model for similarly implemented plans, on our own town's bayfront, as well as throughout other vulnerable and extremely fragile bayfront coastal areas of Barnegat Bay.

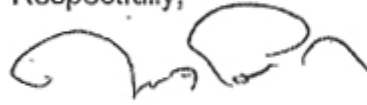
I am sure that you and your staff can appreciate the emergent nature of this entire issue, as well as all the benefits that the implementation of our green infrastructure project, consisting of the living shoreline, as well as the implementation of oyster reefs, flood mitigation work, and habitat restoration, will present to complement the essential offshore wave energy dissipation impact. Our residents, tax payers and all the countless numbers of tourists and visitors of our vulnerable bayfront area of the New Jersey Shore, would be most appreciative of any and all assistance and attention that you and your staff may be able to provide to address this critical problem facing our community.

Finally, in order to familiarize yourself with this most unfortunate and shocking denial of our project from FEMA, enclosed please find copies of the following:

1. A copy of a December 27, 2021 three (3) page denial letter from William McDonnell of FEMA, addressed to Lieutenant Bradley Waugh of the New Jersey Office of Emergency Management.
2. A copy of a January 3, 2022 letter of denial from Anthony Ricci, Project Manager, Mitigation Unit of the New Jersey State Police, in the Office of Emergency Management.
3. A copy of my own four (4) January 12, 2022 letter appealing the decision, which correspondence was addressed also to Mr. Anthony Ricci, and copied to numerous other parties in interest.

Thank you and your staff in advance for any and all assistance you may be able to provide.

Respectfully,



Mayor John A. Peterson, Jr.

cc: District Office (via fax 973-645-0502 and regular mail)
Pam Hilla, P.E., C.M.E., C.F.M., RVE engineering (via email only
Pamela.Hilla@rve.com)
Council President Matthew DeMichele, Borough of Seaside Park (via email only)
Councilwoman Faith Liguori, Borough of Seaside Park (via email only)
Tom Seaman, Administrator of Seaside Park (via email only)
Sandy Martin, Clerk, Borough of Seaside Park (via email only for distribution to
the Town Council)
Joshua Fox, Water/Sewer Superintendent (via email only)
Eric Wojciechowski, Public Works Supervisor (via email only)
Dr. Stewart Farrell, Stockton University Coastal Institute (via email only
stewart.farrell@stockton.edu)
Alek Modjeski, American Littoral Society (via email only alek@littoralsociety.org)
Steven Zabarsky, Borough Attorney (via email only)
Alan Dittenhofer, P.E., P.P., C.M.E. (via email only)
Charles Appleby, Chairperson of Seaside Park Bayfront Committee (via email
only charlesmappleby@yahoo.com)
Edie Klink, Co-President Tax Payers Assoc. of Seaside Park (via email only
edkswimmom@yahoo.com)