

1. Administrative Details

Proposal Name: City of St. Augustine Back Bay CSRM

by Agency: City of St. Augustine

Locations: FL

Date Submitted: 08/20/2018

Confirmation Number: d76260b2-bfc9-4b75-a5e7-1cc56d57e051

Supporting Documents

File Name	Date Uploaded
ACOE application figure.pdf	08/17/2018
ACOE Letter of Support.pdf	08/20/2018

2. Provide the name of the primary sponsor and all non-Federal interests that have contributed or are expected to contribute toward the non-Federal share of the proposed feasibility study or modification.

Sponsor	Letter of Support
City of St. Augustine(Primary)	Please see attached letter of support from Mayor Nancy Shaver.

3. State if this proposal is for a feasibility study, a modification to an authorized USACE feasibility study or a modification to an authorized USACE project. If it is a proposal for a modification, provide the authorized water resources development feasibility study or project name.

Feasibility Study

4. Clearly articulate the specific project purpose(s) of the proposed study or modification. Demonstrate that the proposal is related to USACE mission and authorities and specifically address why additional or new authorization is needed.

The City of St. Augustine (COSA) is the Nation's Oldest City and is located along the waterfront in northeast Florida. The COSA is home to numerous historic, archaeological and architectural infrastructure that is irreplaceable. The City and County experience more than 6 millions visitors a year which generates over \$1 Billion in revenue. The City ranges in elevation from 4 to 6 feet and experiences back bay flooding from extreme high tides, nor'easter storms and hurricanes. The COSA is also preparing for Sea Level Rise (SLR). The City of St. Augustine recently participated in a "Community Resilience Initiative" with the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity (FDEO). The results of that initiative included two reports, both recently released in 2017 ("Coastal Vulnerability Assessment: The City of St. Augustine"; "Florida Community Resilience Initiative Pilot Project: Adaptation Plan for St. Augustine, FL"). As indicated in the reports, the City of St. Augustine, like other communities in Florida, are experiencing the impacts of more intense storms, increased frequency and intensity of rainfall events, and rising seas. As evidenced by impacts from Hurricane's Matthew and Irma, the City is keenly aware of vulnerabilities within the City's boundaries and associated infrastructure. Many historically significant buildings, monuments and structures were inundated by both storms. The purpose of the ACOE Study would be to evaluate the waterway, coastline and City infrastructure to determine possible engineered projects to help eliminate or mitigate the threats from high tide events, storm and SLR. The study would be related to the ACOE's mission to reduce the risks from natural disasters and energize the economy.

5. To the extent practicable, provide an estimate of the total cost, and the Federal and non-Federal share of those costs, of the proposed study and, separately, an estimate of the cost of construction or modification.

	Federal	Non-Federal	Total
Study	\$3,000,000	\$0	\$3,000,000
Construction	\$130,000,000	\$70,000,000	\$200,000,000

Explanation (if necessary)

6. To the extent practicable, describe the anticipated monetary and nonmonetary benefits of the proposal including benefits to the protection of human life and property; improvement to transportation; the national economy; the environment; or the national security interests of the United States.

* St. Augustine is the Nation's Oldest City. * Extensive and irreplaceable historic, archaeological and architectural infrastructure. * Over 250 structures listed on the National Register of Historic Places. * Location of Flagler College, formerly the Ponce De Leon Hotel * Over \$1 Billion in tourist related revenue annually. * Over 6 million visitors to the City of St. Augustine. * Castillo De San Marcos National Monument located in St. Augustine. * Florida National Guard Headquarters. * Over 200 acres of susceptible residential and commercial property.

7. Does local support exist? If 'Yes', describe the local support for the proposal.

Yes

Local Support Description

tbd

8. Does the primary sponsor named in (2.) above have the financial ability to provide for the required cost share?

Yes

Map Document

(This is as uploaded, a blank page will show if nothing was submitted)

ACOE application figure.pdf



Legend

- Nuisance flooding, baseline (3.75 ft)
- Nuisance flooding, +1.5 ft SLR
- Nuisance flooding, +3 ft SLR



Figure 1. Map depicting flood extents within St. Augustine Historic District and City Limits

Primary Sponsor Letter of Support

(This is as uploaded, a blank page will show if nothing was submitted)

ACOE Letter of Support.pdf



1565 – 2015
450 years

City of St. Augustine



St. Augustine, Florida
Nation's Oldest City

Office of the Mayor

August 15, 2018

Colonel Jason A. Kirk
Commander, Jacksonville District
701 San Marco Blvd.
Jacksonville, FL 32207

RE: Letter of Intent to Initiate USACE Study Partnership to Reduce Flood Damage

Dear Colonel Kirk:

As the Mayor of the City of St. Augustine, I am interested in initiating pursuit of participation as the non-Federal Sponsor for a Flood Risk Management Study in the Back Bay of St. Augustine through a Coastal Storm Risk Management analysis in partnership with the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), to cooperatively investigate long term flood damage reduction options in the historic downtown area of St. Augustine. A formal commitment from the City of St. Augustine Commission will be necessary, as will approval by the Commission for budgeting future matched funding for the study. However, given the application deadline for inclusion in WRRDA 2018, please consider this letter to serve as a letter of intent for the City's application.

We understand that a study cannot be initiated unless it is selected as a new start study with associated allocation of Federal funds provided through the annual Congressional appropriations process. If selected, I understand the need for the City to sign a Feasibility Cost Sharing Agreement (FCSA) to initiate the study with USACE. It is my understanding the FCSA targets completion of the feasibility study within three (3) years at a total cost of no more than \$3 million. After signing the FCSA, a Project Management Plan will be developed and agreed upon by the City. The study will be conducted and managed by USACE. The cost-sharing for the study is based on a 50% contribution by the Federal government with the City's 50% contribution provided by funding approved by the St. Augustine City Commission, or by a portion or all of the contribution provided through in-kind non-monetary services.

The City is aware that this letter constitutes an expression of intent to initiate a study partnership to address the specified water resources problems and is not a contractual obligation.

We understand that work cannot commence until it is included in the Administration's budget request, funds are appropriated by Congress, and an FCSA is signed and match funding or in-kind services are provided by the City Commission in our budget process. It is understood that we or USACE may opt to discontinue the study at any time after the FCSA is signed but will commit to work together as partners from the scoping phase, and subsequent decision points throughout the feasibility study, on providing the necessary support to risk-informed decision making. If it is determined that additional time or funding is necessary to support decisions to be made in order to complete the study, the City of St. Augustine will work with USACE to determine the appropriate course of action.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter and if you should require additional information, please contact: Michael G. Cullum, P.E., City of St. Augustine, Director of Public Works.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nancy E. Shaver', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Nancy E. Shaver

C: John Regan, P.E., City Manager
Mike Cullum, P.E., Director of Public Works

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0904

Commanding Officer Jacksonville District
United States Army Corps of Engineers
701 San Marco Blvd.
Jacksonville, FL32207

RE: Support for the City of St. Augustine's request for a USACE Flood Risk Management Study in 2018 Report to Congress on Future Water Resources Development

Dear Colonel:

Please accept this letter of support for the City of St. Augustine's desire to enter into a partnership with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) for a Flood Risk Management Study to analyze ways to reduce flood damage to the Nation's Oldest City. A coastal town at low elevation, St. Augustine is increasingly susceptible to storm surges from severe storms and hurricanes. The last two years have seen massive flooding in the City due to Hurricanes Matthew and Irma.

St. Augustine is home to historic archaeological and architectural infrastructure that are part of our country's early history, which are irreplaceable. The City is visited by more than 2 million tourists annually. A study to find long-term flood damage options will not only protect our heritage, but also benefit its residents and the City's many visitors.

The City ranges in elevation from 4 to 6 feet and experiences back-bay flooding from extreme high tides, nor'easter storms and hurricanes. The City is preparing for sea level rise and has participated in a "Community Resilience Initiative" with the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity. Like other Florida communities, St. Augustine is experiencing impacts of more intense storms, increased frequency and intensity of rainfall events, and rising seas. The City is keenly aware of vulnerabilities within the City's boundaries and its associated infrastructure.

It is my understanding that the purpose of the USACE study would be to evaluate the waterway, coast line and City infrastructure to determine possible engineered projects to help eliminate or mitigate the threats from high tide events and storm surges. The study would be related to the USACE's mission to reduce the risks from natural disasters and energize the economy.

Please give every consideration to the City of St. Augustine's request to have their proposal for a Flood Risk Management Study included in the 2018 Report to Congress on Future Water Resources Development. Thank you for all the USACE does for the citizens of Northeast Florida.

Sincerely,



JOHN H. RUTHERFORD
Member of Congress