

1. Administrative Details

Proposal Name: Erosion Control Feasibility Report for Newbury and Newburyport, Massachusetts

by Agency: Plum Island Foundation

Locations: MA

Date Submitted: 08/20/2018

Confirmation Number: 3e61adde-14e2-47c2-9766-e404e484513f

Supporting Documents

File Name	Date Uploaded
PIF 7001 proposal signed.pdf	08/20/2018
Plum Island Map PDF.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
Plum Island Foundation(Primary)	The Plum Island Foundation is committed to investing time, money and resources to bolster the island’s resilience to flood and storm damage.

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 purpose of this project is to examine what changes to the mouth of the Merrimack River have occurred and to what extent the changes are related to the severe erosion of Plum Island. This project will determine a set of alternatives rated by priority to the locally preferred plan. The ultimate goal of this project is to provide information on local erosion and bathymetric properties that will fit into a larger regional approach to managing sediment, controlling erosion, encouraging maritime development and protecting human life and property from the seasonal storms that have degraded the Plum Island coastline over the past two centuries.

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	\$1,500,000	\$1,500,000	\$3,000,000
Construction	\$3,000,000	\$0	\$3,000,000

Explanation (if necessary)

The numerous modifications to the mouth of the Merrimack river and the resulting erosion warrants full Federal expense of the construction of a remedy. The Plum Island Foundation is prepared to bear the cost of 50 percent of the feasibility study.

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.

Erosion of the Plum Island coastline is a public safety hazard as well as a threat to public infrastructure and private property. The island has been hit by both tropical storms and nor'easters that have caused significant damage. Fortunately, a one-time measure implemented by the Corps in 2010_2011 under the Continuing Authorities Program's Section 204 authority prevented damages from being inflicted on a portion of the island and during Superstorm Sandy and several nor'easters that followed. That one-time placement has now been significantly eroded. The proposed study will be the first holistic look at the various erosion-causing dynamics impacting the island, with proposed mitigation measures for the impacts of the Federal navigation channel and its related structures. The beneficiaries of this study include the state-owned park immediately adjacent to the Federal navigation channel as well as the Federal wildlife refuge that is down-drift of the channel. The one main road on the island is the only evacuation route in the event of any type of natural disaster. There is a sewage line and drinking water pipeline located at one of the critical erosion points along that road, near the point where it joins the causeway to the mainland. Rupturing of these pipelines or damage to other vulnerable utilities would subject the island's residents to dangerous conditions. Since the channel is dredged periodically for commercial, recreational, and Coast Guard traffic, there is an opportunity to make more efficient and effective use of the available sediment.

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

Yes

Local Support Description

Plum Island has been subject to severe storms and coastal flooding over the past centuries. The Plum Island Foundation, a taxpayers association, has pledged support for the erosion control process, beginning with hiring government consultants, licensed engineers and bringing onboard members of the State's delegation to advocate for the project. There is strong support for this project from the local and state levels.

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

Yes

Primary Sponsor Letter of Support

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PIF 7001 proposal signed.pdf



Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works, R.D. James
The Pentagon
Washington, DC 22202

August 17, 2018

Mr. R.D. James,

The Plum Island Foundation is writing this letter of the Section 7001 Proposal, 'Erosion Control Feasibility Report for Newbury and Newburyport, Massachusetts', which has been completed by our consultant, Warwick Group Consultants, and is intended to be included in the 2019 Report to Congress on Future Water Resources Development.

The residents of Plum Island, working with the Plum Island Foundation, desire to bolster the island's coastal resilience and its ability to withstand weather events of increased severity. Residents have expressed strong interest in reducing their coastal flood and storm damage, which is believed to be, in part, a result of the numerous modifications made to the mouth of the Merrimack River since the 1820's. From 2008 to present, the shoreline of Plum Island has eroded 5-10 feet per year with regions to the north of the island that are in critical condition due to the erosion of several hundred feet of shoreline.

We have been working with the New England District of the Corps on this complex issue that has well over a century of history and available data. The proposal we endorse would enable the Corps to examine the various systems and structures that are affecting our shoreline. We have asked for the study to be done at full Federal expense given the significant role that the Federal navigation channel has had.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Marc Sarkady". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Marc" being particularly prominent.

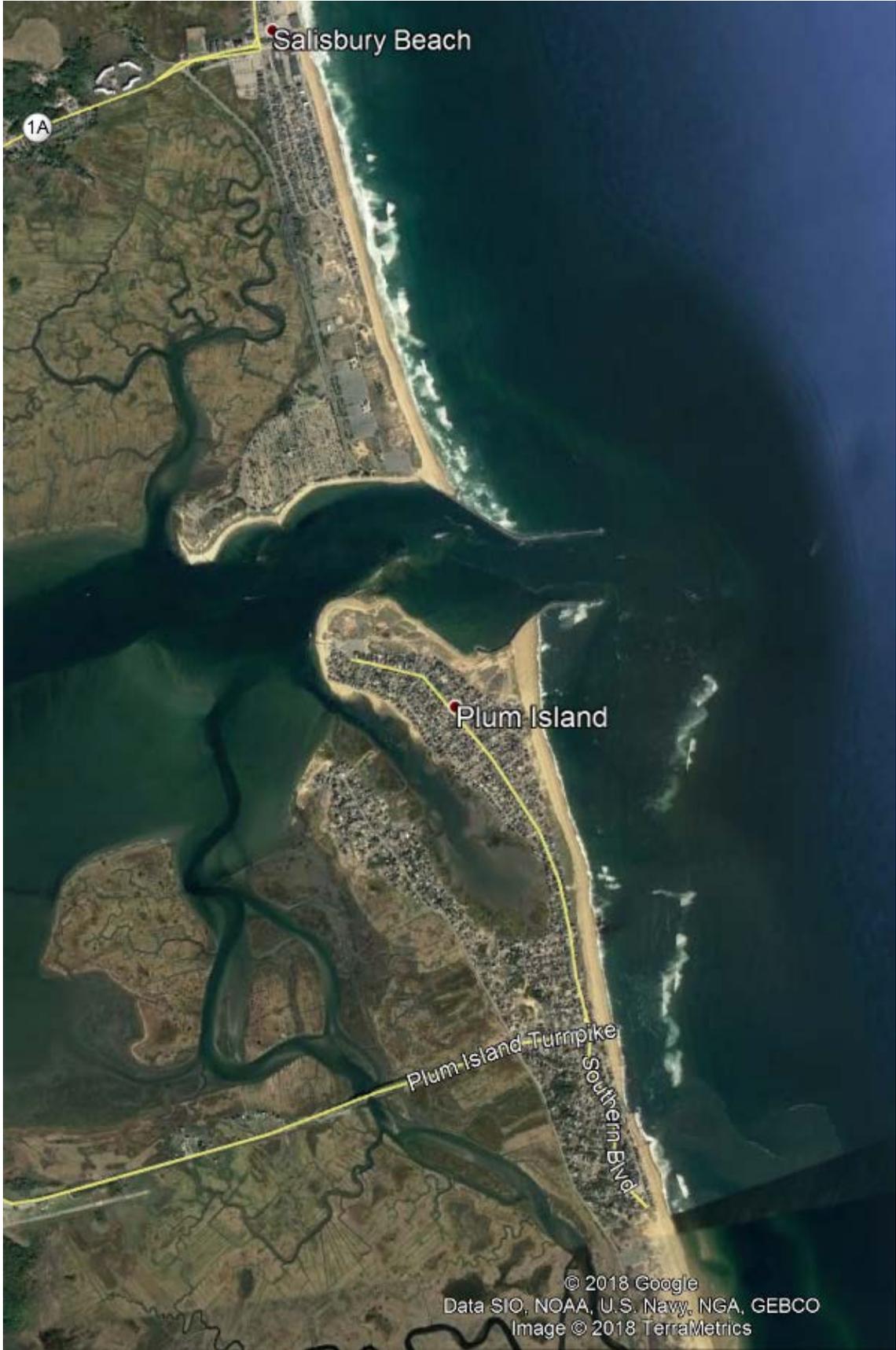
Marc Sarkady
Plum Island Foundation

CC: John Kennelly, Chief of Planning, NAE

Map Document

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

Plum Island Map PDF.pdf



Salisbury Beach

1A

Plum Island

Plum Island Turnpike

Southern Blvd

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