



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

NAVAL SUBMARINE BASE NEW LONDON
GROTON, CONNECTICUT 06349-5000

5090
Ser N45/0682
October 9, 2015

Ms. Meghan Quinn, LIS DMMP/PEIS Project Manager
Corps of Engineers, New England District
696 Virginia Road
Concord, MA 01742-2751

Dear Ms. Quinn:

The Naval Submarine Base New London (SUBASENLON) is submitting this letter of support for approval of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Draft Dredge Material Management Plan (DMMP) and Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) for Long Island Sound (LIS) released August 17, 2015.

SUBASENLON commends the USACE on compiling ten years of data and conducting a rigorous analysis and evaluation of economic and environmental alternatives for dredge disposal options including open water disposal. Submarine operations at SUBASENLON are critical to national defense and SUBASENLON depends on dredging to maintain required depths to homeport Ohio and Virginia class submarines and provide access to our piers to support our mission.

The DMMP identifies beneficial disposal alternatives in proximity to SUBASENLON in addition to placement of dredged material in Confined Aquatic Disposal (CAD) cells or via open water disposal. Over the next three years, SUBASENLON plans to dredge approximately 60,000 cubic yards to support the demolition of two piers and construction of a new pier to accommodate the newest Virginia class submarine. In addition, SUBASENLON will require additional future maintenance dredging and concurs with the estimated volumes of material that will need to be dredged for maintenance purposes of improvement projects. While placing dredged material into a CAD cell is an option for unsuitable materials, SUBASENLON supports the option to include open water placement for disposal of dredged material that meets the strict federal and state requirements that determine eligibility of sediments to be disposed of in LIS.

The DMMP recommends that the Regional Dredging Team (RDT) engage those agencies which have not actively participated in the RDT up to this point, including the U.S. Navy. SUBASENLON

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welcomes an opportunity to engage with the RDT on reducing wherever practicable the open water disposal of dredged material.

Should you require further information, or if you have additional questions, please contact Mr. Michael Brown, at (860) 694-3976.

Sincerely,



C. A. LAHTI
Captain, U.S. Navy
Commanding Officer