

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

June 26, 2019

The Honorable R.D. James
Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works
108 Army Pentagon, Room 3E446
Washington, DC 20310-0108

Dear Mr. James:

We understand that the Mayor of the City of Oceanside, California recently urged the Commander of the Los Angeles District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, to recommend that the additional Federal funding necessary to complete the Oceanside, California Special Shoreline Study be included in the Corps of Engineers 2020 Fiscal Year (FY) Work Plan and the Administration's FY 2021 Budget Request. We are writing to you to express our strong support for this request.

Oceanside has a long and well-documented history of beach erosion resulting from Camp Pendleton Harbor construction in 1942. This erosion has raised safety issues for beach goers and resulted in lost tourism revenues. It also has reduced the value of affected properties, exposed them to storm damages, and complicated area redevelopment plans.

The cause of the damage and the need for measures to mitigate the erosion is unquestioned. The Federal Government first acknowledged responsibility for the erosion in 1953, and since that time, multiple studies have reaffirmed that conclusion. Despite the conclusions of these studies and limited attempts to nourish the beach with sand obtained from harbor maintenance dredging and a sand bypassing project, a permanent solution to this very serious problem has not been found.

Recognizing this clear need, Congress enacted legislation requiring the Army to conduct a study, at Federal expense, of plans to both: mitigate for the erosion resulting from the construction of Camp Pendleton Harbor; and restore beach conditions along the affected public and private shores to the conditions that existed before construction of the Harbor (see Section 414 of the *Water Resources Development Act of 2000*, Public Law 106-541, as amended). The mandate in the legislation is absolute. It directs the Army to complete the Study in 44 months at full Federal expense. Notwithstanding this clear mandate, the study remains unfinished, lagging far beyond the timeline for completion included in statute. We are calling on you to provide the approximately \$2 million necessary to promptly complete this urgently needed study.

Language in S. Rept. 106-362 recognizes that the Study is a "special study." Accordingly, it should not be treated like other discretionary Corps studies and be required to compete with those studies for funding purposes. This study is unique. It was to be completed quickly and entirely paid for by the Federal Government because the need to be addressed by the Study – the restoration of affected public and private shores – was triggered by the harm resulting from the Government's construction of Camp Pendleton Harbor.

Promptly completing this Study is of critical importance to us, as Federal representatives of the City of Oceanside. We urge you to favorably consider our request that the Corps provide the funding necessary to complete this Study at Federal expense as soon as possible, in accordance with the intent and wishes of Congress. We request a meeting with you to discuss the status of this Study and the Corps' plans to fulfill Congress' mandate.

Sincerely,



MIKE LEVIN
Member of Congress



KAMALA D. HARRIS
United States Senator