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**US Army Corps
of Engineers**
Philadelphia District

Public Notice

Public Notice No.
CENAP-PL-E-17-01

Date
January 13, 2017

In Reply Refer to:
Environmental Resources Branch

DELAWARE AVENUE, CITY OF CAPE MAY CONTINUING AUTHORITIES PROGRAM SECTION 14 EMERGENCY SHORELINE EROSION PROTECTION OF PUBLIC WORKS CAPE MAY, NEW JERSEY

Pursuant to Section 102 of the National Environmental Policy Act, Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the Philadelphia District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has completed a draft Environmental Assessment, which addresses shoreline erosion protection at Delaware Avenue in Cape May, New Jersey. This environmental assessment is intended to present and evaluate potential solutions to reduce the risk of shoreline erosion for Delaware Avenue following the erosion which occurred in 2012 as a result of Hurricane Sandy. The purpose of the project is to reduce risk to Delaware Avenue, a Cape May County road which serves as the main route for the delivery of supplies to the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) Training Center. The ongoing erosion is undermining the road and threatens an underground sewer utility line that runs along the road (Figure 1).

This investigation is conducted under the authority of the Continuing Authorities Program, Section 14 of the 1946 Flood Control Act (33 U.S.C. 701r), as amended. Section 14 relates to Streambank and Shoreline Erosion Protection of Public Works and Non-Profit Public Services, which authorizes the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to study, design and construct projects to protect facilities that are used to provide public services and are open to all on equal terms. These facilities must be in imminent threat of damage or failure by natural erosion processes on stream banks and shorelines, and are essential and important enough to merit Federal participation in their protection.

The project area is an approximate 2,200 foot length of Delaware Avenue that continually experiences severe shoreline erosion due to tidal surge and wave action during hurricanes and major nor'easters. The area of concern stretches from half way between Baltimore Street and Brooklyn Avenue to half way between Commanders Way

and Buffalo Avenue. The preferred alternative for this project is the construction of an approximately 2,200 linear foot rip-rap embankment along the Cape May Harbor side of Delaware Avenue. This alternative consists of the removal of the existing concrete rubble and the placement of approximately 3,000 cubic yards (CY) of rip-rap with a minimum thickness of 24 inches with a 1.5H:1V slope. Once the rip-rap is placed, the water ward side of the structure will be backfilled with approximately 5,050 CY of beach quality sand from an elevation of +1.6 feet North American Vertical Datum of 1988 (NAVD88) to depth of closure at a slope ranging from 11H:1V to 8H:1V to reduce the risk of erosion to the structure and to promote the re-establishment of intertidal wetlands. This alternative also includes the planting of approximately 2.0 acres of *Spartina alterniflora*.

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy act of 1969, a draft Environmental Assessment (EA) has been developed for this project and is being circulated to the appropriate State and Federal agencies; local, State and Federal officials; and private organizations.

Impacts to water quality have been evaluated in accordance with the Section 404(b)(1) guidelines of the Clean Water Act, and are not adverse. In accordance with Section 401 of the Clean Water Act, Water Quality Certification is being requested from the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection.

In accordance with Section 307(c) of the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972, an activity affecting land or water uses in a State's coastal zone must comply with the State's Coastal Zone Management Program. A certification of compliance is being requested from the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection.

It has been determined that the proposed work would not affect listed species or their critical habitat pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, as amended.

Review of the National Register of Historic Places indicates that no registered properties, or properties listed as eligible for inclusion, would be impacted.

All practicable means to avoid or minimize adverse environmental effects have been incorporated into the recommended plan.

The public and all agencies are invited to comment on this proposal. The EA referenced in this public notice can be obtained by accessing the internet link: <http://www.nap.usace.army.mil/Missions/CivilWorks/PublicNoticesReports.aspx>. We are requesting that you please review this document and provide us any comments you may have no later than March 3, 2017.

Any person may request, in writing to the District Engineer, within the comment period specified in this notice (January 13, 2017 to March 3, 2017), that a public hearing be held to consider this proposal. Requests for a public hearing shall state, in detail, the reasons for holding a public hearing.

All comments on the work described in this public notice and/or in the EA discussed above should be directed to Mr. Peter R. Blum, ATTN: Environmental Resources Branch, U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, Wanamaker Building, 100 Penn Square East, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19107-3390 by March 3, 2017.

for *C. MacIntosh*
Peter R. Blum
Chief, Planning Division
Philadelphia District
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

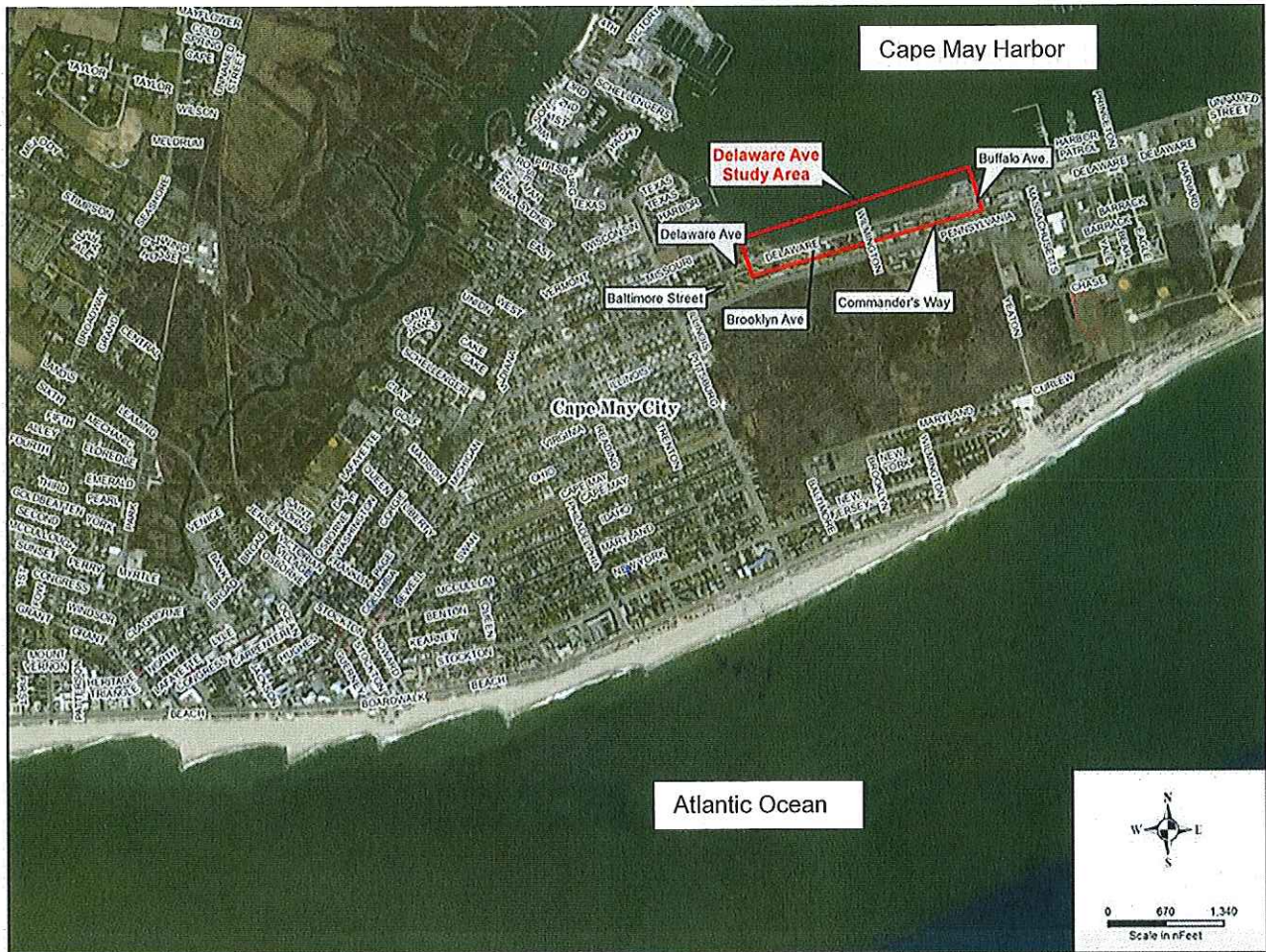


Figure 1: Delaware Avenue Project Location