

Appendix D
Biological Assessment



In Reply Refer To:
14-CPA-0029a

United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

New Jersey Field Office
Ecological Services
927 North Main Street, Building D
Pleasantville, New Jersey 08232
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Dean Amundson, Environmental Planning Program Manager
United States Coast Guard
1301 Clay Street, Suite 700N
Oakland, California 94612-5532

AUG 27 2014

Dear Mr. Amundson:

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), New Jersey Field Office has received your August 7, 2014 letter and the enclosed *Biological Assessment - Recapitalization Project - United States Coast Guard (USCG) Station Sandy Hook, New Jersey*. The USCG proposes to demolish and reconstruct office and housing units, a boathouse, wharf, piers, breakwaters, floating docks, boat ramps, and a groin; dredge the boat basin to maintenance depths; and remove a beached floating dock.

AUTHORITY

The following comments on the proposed action are provided pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA) (87 Stat. 884, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*), the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918 (MBTA) (40 Stat. 755; 16 U.S.C. 703-712), as amended, and the National Environmental Policy Act (83 Stat. 852; 42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*).

ESA SECTION 7 CONSULTATION

For project activities within or in the immediate vicinity of the shoreline during the following dates, the USCG proposes to employ a qualified monitoring biologist to avoid any potential adverse effects to the federally listed (threatened) piping plover (*Charadrius melodus*) (March 15 to the end of August), seabeach amaranth (*Amaranthus pumilus*) (May into the fall), and northeastern beach tiger beetle (*Cicindela dorsalis dorsalis*), as well as the red knot (*Calidris canutus* subsp. *rufa*; proposed for listing) (late July through October). If any of these species are observed, the USCG will stop work activities along the shoreline and contact this office immediately. With the aforementioned mitigation measures, the Service concurs that project activities are not likely to adversely affect the piping plover, seabeach amaranth, northern beach tiger beetle, or red knot.

NORTHERN LONG-EARED BAT

The northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*) is a medium-sized bat found across much of the eastern and north-central United States. The northern long-eared bat predominantly overwinters in hibernacula that include caves and abandoned mines. During the summer, this species typically roosts singly or in colonies underneath bark or in cavities or crevices of both live trees and snags. Northern long-eared bats are also known to roost in human-made structures such as buildings, barns, sheds, and under window eaves. Threats to the northern long-eared bat include disease such as white-nose syndrome, improper closure at hibernacula, degradation and destruction of summer habitat, and exposure to pesticides or other environmental pollutants.

On October 2, 2013, the Service announced a proposed rule to list the northern long-eared bat as an endangered species throughout its range (78 FR 61046). At the time of our November 15, 2013 letter, the Service did not have the data to sufficiently delineate locations of hibernacula, maternity colonies, and summer ranges in New Jersey. Newly acquired data indicate that the entire Sandy Hook peninsula is within the summer range of the northern long-eared bat.

There is no prohibition for “taking” species proposed for listing under the ESA. Notwithstanding, the Service recommends the following applicable conservation measures for the northern long-eared bat in accordance with the guidelines provided at:

<http://www.fws.gov/midwest/endangered/mammals/nlba/pdf/NLEBinterimGuidance6Jan2014.pdf>.

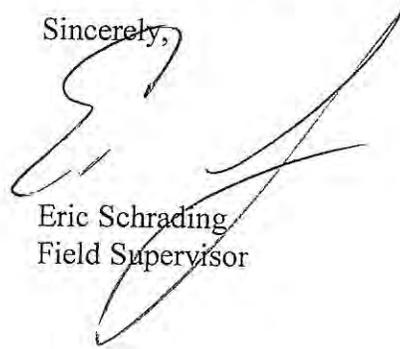
- Avoid removing trees between April 1 and September 30.
- Avoid or minimize the use of pesticides (*e.g.*, rodenticides, sticky traps) in and around structures with roosting bats.
- Avoid or minimize use of herbicides and pesticides.
- Retain and avoid impacting potential roost trees, including live or dead trees and snags equal or greater than three inches in diameter at breast height that have exfoliating bark, cracks, crevices, or cavities.
- Where possible and not a safety hazard, leave dead or dying trees standing.
- Clearly demarcate trees to be protected versus cut to help ensure that contractors do not accidentally remove more trees than anticipated.
- Employ a qualified biologist to inspect all buildings proposed for demolition. If bats are found roosting in these buildings, demolitions should be performed outside of the summer maternity season (April 1-September 30), unless there are human health or safety concerns associated with the structure. If so, consult a nuisance wildlife specialist for humane exclusion techniques.

- Contact the Service immediately if a colony of bats is found prior to or during demolition work.

No other federally listed or proposed threatened or endangered flora or fauna under Service jurisdiction are known to occur within the vicinity of the proposed project site. If additional information on federally listed species becomes available, or if project plans change, this determination may be reconsidered.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide our concurrence pursuant to Section 7 of the ESA and other recommendations on the proposal to rebuild shore facilities at the USCG Station Sandy Hook. Please contact Carlo Popolizio at (609) 383-3938, extension 32, if you require further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Eric Schradling', written over a printed name and title.

Eric Schradling
Field Supervisor

cc: angela.chaisson@urs.com
Lynn.M.Keller@uscg.mil

NJFO:ES:cpopolizio:CS:ES:cap: 8/20/14
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U.S. Department of
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United States
Coast Guard



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16475

August 7, 2014

Mr. Carlo Popolizio
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
New Jersey Field Office Ecological Services
927 North Main Street, Building D
Pleasantville, New Jersey 08232

Dear Mr. Popolizio,

The U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) is proposing to rebuild Station Sandy Hook, New Jersey, under the 2013 Disaster Assistance Supplemental Act (P.L. 113-2), which appropriated funds to replace USCG shore facilities damaged by Hurricane Sandy in October 2012 with hurricane- and flood-resilient structures.

Enclosed please find the USCG's Biological Assessment for the proposed recapitalization project at Station Sandy Hook. In compliance with Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and its implementing regulations at 50 CFR Part 402, the USCG has determined that the proposed recapitalization may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect the piping plover (*Charadrius melodus*), northeastern beach tiger beetle (*Cicindela dorsalis dorsalis*), and sea-beach amaranth (*Amaranthus pumilus*), which are federally listed as threatened, and the red knot (*Calidris canutus rufa*), which is proposed for federal listing as threatened. As described in the attached BA, the Coast Guard has included a number of best management practices in the proposed action in order to avoid or minimize the potential for effects to these species. The USCG respectfully requests the US Fish and Wildlife Service's concurrence with this determination.

Your prompt reply would be appreciated so that the USCG may meet the Congressional mandate to obligate these Hurricane Sandy recapitalization funds by September 2014. If you have any additional questions, please contact Ms. Lynn Keller at the address listed above.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dean", written over a white background.

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Date: 2014.08.07 14:31:22 -07'00'

Dean Amundson
USCG SILC
Environmental Planning Program Manager
By Direction

Enclosures: (1) Final Biological Assessment, Recapitalization Project USCG Station Sandy Hook,
New Jersey

U.S. Department of
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Dean Amundson
USCG SILC
Environmental Planning Program Manager
By Direction

Enclosures: (1) Final Biological Assessment, Recapitalization Project USCG Station Sandy Hook,
New Jersey

BIOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

RECAPITALIZATION PROJECT USCG STATION SANDY HOOK NEW JERSEY

CONTRACT NUMBER: HSCG83-07-D-3WF170
TASK ORDER NUMBER: HSCG47-13-J-A17010

Responsible Agency:

**U.S. Department of
Homeland Security**

**United States
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August 2014

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Appendix Agency Correspondence

1. INTRODUCTION

The U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) is proposing to rebuild Station Sandy Hook under the 2013 Disaster Assistance Supplemental Act (P.L. 113-2), which appropriated funds to replace USCG shore facilities damaged by Hurricane Sandy in October 2012 with hurricane- and flood-resilient structures.

Station Sandy Hook plays a vital role in ensuring public safety and providing port/waterway security and environmental protection along the New Jersey and New York coastlines. The Boat Maintenance Facility (BMF), Multi-Mission Building (MMB), Small Arms Firing Range (SAFR), and waterfront at the Station were damaged by Hurricane Sandy and required immediate repairs after the storm to allow Station operations to continue. However, these facilities are not designed for nor can reasonably be retrofitted to resist anticipated future storm and flood conditions. The purpose of the project is to improve the Station's resilience to future storms and reduce down time for mission-critical facilities after storm events by demolishing storm-damaged buildings, constructing new, hurricane-resistant facilities, and making repairs/improvements to the waterfront.

2. PROJECT AREA

The project area for this Biological Assessment (BA) includes the Station Sandy Hook property on Sandy Hook Bay, in Monmouth County, New Jersey (Figure 1). Most of the Station is developed; vegetated areas include mowed lawns, scattered areas of scrub/shrub vegetation, open spaces with coastal vegetation, and beaches. Common wildlife species in the more developed areas of the Station include squirrels, rabbits, raccoon, opossum, songbirds, and herptiles, crabs, insects, shore birds, and plant species adapted for more saline environments are found in the beach areas.

Aquatic biota such as barnacles and a variety of fish species are found in the marine environment surrounding the Station. The benthic (bottom-dwelling) ecosystem in the boat basin and surrounding underwater area is populated by organisms commonly found on muddy, sandy bottoms including invertebrates such as clams and other shellfish, crustaceans (e.g., crabs and shrimp), annelids (e.g., worms), and echinoderms (e.g., starfish). There is no submerged aquatic vegetation in the shallow marine environment within or surrounding the boat basin.



3. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The USCG plans to rebuild USCG Station Sandy Hook facilities damaged by Hurricane Sandy to include the following (Figure 2):

- Demolish the existing Boathouse and replace with a new BMF in the same location as the existing Boathouse;
- Demolish the existing Building #103 (Former Exchange/ Electronic Support Detachment [ESD] Building);
- Demolish the existing Building #123 (Former Recreation Building);
- Demolish the existing Station Building and replace with a new MMB located in the area of the existing Building #103 and Building #123 structures; Demolish the existing SAFR and construct a new SAFR in the area of the former Sycamore Circle Housing Units and playground, which were demolished immediately following Hurricane Sandy;
- Demolish 22 Borough Housing Units;
- Dredge the boat basin to maintenance depths (see below);
- Reconstruct the waterfront area, including the repair or replacement of the wharf, piers, breakwaters, floating docks, groin, utilities, and boat ramps to return them to pre-Hurricane Sandy conditions; and
- Remove a beached concrete floating dock that had washed up on the beach area to the north of the boat basin and remove a concrete pad located on the beach on the east side of the boat basin.

Onshore and nearshore construction activities associated with the project may include, but are not limited to, dismantling and removing existing structures by mechanical and/or physical means, constructing new buildings, and driving new piles for the docks and supporting structures.

The boat basin will be dredged to remove recent and accumulated sands and sediments. Dredging will be within the existing boat basin footprint to maintenance depths only. Periodic maintenance dredging is regularly conducted in the boat basin, with the last dredging occurring in 2007/2008. The NJDEP has previously determined that waterfront repairs and maintenance dredging at Station Sandy Hook are consistent with the Rules on Coastal Zone Management and New Jersey's federally approved Coastal Management Program. The exact dredging areas have not been determined, but dredging is expected to remove up to a maximum of 12,423 cubic yards of material which is greater than 90% sand and contains no contaminants (USCG 2014). The maintenance dredging will return the water depths in the boat basin to design depths which range from 10 to 14 feet deep at mean lower low water.

A closed clamshell environmental bucket dredge will be used for all mechanical dredging. The dredge will be operated to maximize the bite of the clamshell and reduce the amount of free water in the dredged material and the number of bites required to complete the dredging. The clamshell will be lifted slowly through the water column, generally at a rate of 2 feet per second or less. All dredged material will be placed in a barge of solid hull construction or sealed with concrete to prevent spillage of material. Dredge material will either be used as fill for construction activities on the Station or trucked off-site.

At present, the USCG does not know the construction period for the recapitalization work at Station Sandy Hook. The majority of the construction is likely to occur during the summer



PROJECT USCG Hurricane Sandy Recapitalization Projects	Station Sandy Hook Proposed Project	
SCALE As shown	U.S. Department of Homeland Security United States Coast Guard 	Contract No. H18CG83-07-D-3WFF170 Order No. H18CG47-18-JA-17010 Project No. 01-628982 Station Sandy Hook
SOURCE Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, i-cubed, USDA, USGS, AEX, Getmapping, Aerogrid, IGN, IGP, swisstopo, and the GIS User Community		Figure 2

months; however, for purposes of the effects analysis in this BA, it is assumed that elements of the proposed recapitalization work could occur at any time during the year.

The USCG would implement a number of best management practices to avoid or minimize potential effects to sensitive species. These include:

- Prohibit workers from accessing or driving across the beach in Action Area 1, although some worker/equipment access may be necessary remove the beached concrete dock.
- All construction materials and equipment would be staged on existing paved/developed areas.
- During all nearshore and in-water activities, the USCG would implement appropriate erosion and sediment control measures to minimize sediment released into marine waters; implement spill prevention and control measures to minimize potential for and impacts of a spill of pollutants such as fuel; and minimize the time working in the water to the maximum extent practicable.
- All construction materials which may come into contact with the water will be free of toxic materials (no creosote-coated or pressure-treated timber will be used).

4. ACTION AREA

4.1 Action Area 1

Action Area 1 consists of the sand beach adjacent to and northwest of the boat basin, and the foredune and backdune habitats. The intertidal zone and sand beach is devoid of plant life and consists of drift material and bare sand. The foredune is the most prevalent habitat.



Action Area 1 beach looking northwest from docks; photograph taken in the tidal zone during low tide to show low beach layout. (Note beached concrete dock in upper right corner of photograph.)



Beached concrete dock to be removed, looking northwest from docks.

The herbaceous vegetation within the foredune habitat consists of scattered, dense groupings of saltmeadow cordgrass (*Spartina patens*), scattered occurrences of seaside goldenrod (*Solidago sempervirens*), and eastern prickly pear cactus (*Opuntia compressa*). The backdune habitat consists of scattered tree-of-heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*), poison-ivy (*Toxicodendron radicans*) and sumac (*Rhus* sp.). The scrub/shrub habitat of the backdune area is the edge habitat between the beach and the developed areas of the base. This area is dominated by beach plum (*Prunus maritima*) with inclusions of sumac, tree-of-heaven, and poison-ivy.



Action Area 1 looking northwest from the MMB showing the back dune area vegetative cover

4.2 Action Area 2

Action Area 2 is the beach immediately adjacent to the north and east of the boat basin. The tidal zones of the beach are comprised of medium grain sand, tidal debris and cobble-gravel material. The foredune area directly adjacent to Canfield Road and Crispin Road is sparsely vegetated

with saltmeadow cordgrass and seaside goldenrod. Action Area 2 is subject to regular foot traffic because of its location between the boat basin and other station operations.



Action Area 2 beach; the concrete pad underneath the picnic tables is to be removed.

5. SPECIES/CRITICAL HABITAT CONSIDERED

On October 21, 2013, the USCG submitted a letter to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) requesting project review for the Environmental Assessment being prepared for this project. The USFWS responded with a letter dated November 15, 2013, with a list of species which occur in the vicinity of Station Sandy Hook (Appendix). URS biologists reviewed the habitat requirements of each species and conducted a site visit on January 17, 2014. Formal field surveys were not conducted, but the biologists did not observe any of the listed species discussed in this BA during the site visit.

For the purposes of this BA, suitable habitat is defined as the area that contains natural features associated with known habitat for the species and that could reasonably be expected to be occupied by the species in the reasonably foreseeable future.

Action Areas 1 and 2 provide suitable habitat for four protected species under USFWS jurisdiction: three federally listed as threatened: piping plover (*Charadrius melodus*), northeastern beach tiger beetle (*Cicindela dorsalis dorsalis*), and seabeach amaranth (*Amaranthus pumilus*); and the red knot (*Calidris canutus rufa*), which has been proposed for federal listing as threatened, is protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, and is state-listed as endangered. Resources under National Marine Fisheries Service jurisdiction, including Essential Fish Habitat and protected species, are addressed in the Environmental Assessment being prepared for this project.

According to the USFWS critical habitat mapper and critical habitat data portal, no critical habitat has been designated within the project area (USFWS 2014a).

5.1 Piping Plover

The piping plover is a small, sparrow-sized shore bird with a sandy colored back, white chest, yellow legs, and a short neck which typically has a black band. In New Jersey, piping plovers

breed on Atlantic Coast beaches along the coast from Sandy Hook to Cape May. These migratory shorebirds nest and forage in the high dune areas but favor foraging in the intertidal zone for small invertebrates like crustaceans, worms, and insects. Atlantic Coast plovers arrive on area beaches from mid to late March to early April and the males establish territories and begin courting the females. Once a mating pair establishes a territory and nest, the female will typically lay a clutch of four eggs that will hatch in about 25 days. Soon after hatching, the young are able to follow their parents onto the beach where they will forage for food. Populations of plovers have been severely affected by water level changes, development, and predation by domestic and feral cats, as well as natural predators. The presence of human activities on beaches can cause nesting pairs to abandon nests or drive them away from the nest long enough for the eggs to be permanently damaged from excessive exposure to the sun. The Atlantic Coast plover nesting season extends from March 15 to August 15. The birds normally depart in early September (NPS 2004). During fall migration, females depart from the breeding grounds first, followed by males and then juveniles.

According to piping plover nesting activity data collected by Natural Resource Management Specialists at Gateway National Recreation Area, Sandy Hook Unit, since 2000, the number of nesting pairs on the NPS property has increased steadily from 29 to 50 pairs in 2012; the number of eggs has approximately doubled from 124 eggs in 2000 to 238 in 2012; the number of eggs hatched has decreased from 92 in 2000 to 37 in 2007, and then increased steadily back to 164 eggs hatched in 2012; and the fledge rate has fluctuated throughout the 12 year period, beginning with a rate of 1.76 in 2000, hitting a low of 0.70 in 2007 and rising again to a fledge rate of 1.04 in 2012. At Station Sandy Hook, nesting piping plovers were last recorded as present on the beach in Action Area 1 in 2012, when five pairs of birds nested, fledging a total of 4 chicks (NPS 2012).

5.2 Red Knot

The red knot is a small, robin-sized shore bird with a mosaic of natural colors on the back, red-orange chest in the spring (white-gray in winter), dark legs, and a short beak that tapers to the tip. Small numbers of red knots may occur in New Jersey year-round, but most migrate from as far away as the southern tip of South America to nesting grounds north of the Arctic Circle, foraging on Atlantic Coast beaches and other similar habitats along their spring (mid-May through early June) and fall (late-July through November) migration routes. Red knots will feed on invertebrates like crustaceans, worms, and insects, although studies have shown this species is heavily dependent upon the availability of horseshoe crab eggs during migration. Horseshoe crab eggs, unlike any other food resource, are quickly metabolized into fat that allows red knots to double their body weight in about 2 to 3 weeks. This weight gain is critical for survival because Delaware Bay is the last stop before red knots reach still-frozen arctic breeding grounds where insect food is not immediately available. The fat reserves allow red knots to survive and continue courtship, mating, and egg laying until food (primarily insects) becomes available. Populations of red knot have been severely affected by overharvesting of horseshoe crabs, beach development, and beach recreation (NJDEP 2010).

5.3 Northeastern Beach Tiger Beetle

This insect belongs to the Cicindelidae family of beetles, which is characterized by large eyes, three-toothed mandibles, and a sizable head. The northeastern beach tiger beetle has a bronze-

green colored head and white to cream colored elytra (the hardened forewings) that typically have several dark lines. This beetle spends its entire life cycle on beaches and adult tiger beetles are present on New Jersey beaches from early June through early September. The adults are diurnal hunters that actively chase down their prey, which includes ants, flies, fleas, and other small invertebrates. Adults will also feed on dead crabs, fish, and other carrion that washes up on shore. The adults lay eggs on the beach during the summer (Knisley et al. 1987, Terwilliger and Tate 1995) in shallow burrows typically found within the mid to high tide zones of beach habitat. Once the eggs hatch, the larvae will establish themselves in vertical burrows. The larvae are sedentary, ambush predators and can spend up to 2 years in these burrows until they have completed three larval cycles and emerge as adults. However, some larvae that hatch early and catch an abundance of food may develop and emerge after only 1 year (USFWS 1994).

The northeastern beach tiger beetle is affected by both human and natural events. Recreational use of beaches can alter habitat and disturb the adults, driving them away from the beaches. The larvae are very susceptible to the impacts of recreational use due to their sedentary nature; impacts include compaction from motorized vehicles, disturbance/compaction from foot traffic, and alteration of habitat.

In 1994, in partnership with the USFWS, the NPS reintroduced the northeastern beach tiger beetle to its historic range on the Sandy Hook peninsula. The single known extant population in New Jersey is a result of this reintroduction of larval beetles to the Gateway National Recreation Area. According to data collected by Natural Resource Management Specialists at Gateway National Recreation Area, Sandy Hook Unit, from 1994 to 2011, northeastern beach tiger beetles were recorded on the NPS property every year from 1995 through 2008. NPS has not recorded this species as occurring on the USCG Station Sandy Hook beach in Action Area 1 during the same survey years (NPS 2012).

5.4 Seabeach Amaranth

Seabeach amaranth is an annual beach plant that exhibits a sprawling growth habit. The plant has fleshy, rounded, green leaves with indented veins. The leaves are arranged in clusters which emerge from pink- reddish stems that are prostrate in form. During the flowering season, seabeach amaranth will produce yellow flowers that originate on the leaf axils. This plant typically occurs in the zone between the high tide line and the toe of the primary dunes, but it can also occur in the back dune area. The seabeach amaranth inhabits areas of very sparse vegetation because it is extremely sensitive to competition for resources from other plants. In northern New Jersey, the core growing season of seabeach amaranth is May through October, but may extend as late as December in some years (USFWS 2005). Threats to this species include habitat alteration and destruction caused by recreational beach use.

In 2000, seabeach amaranth was documented in Monmouth County after being absent from New Jersey since 1913 (USFWS 2004). According to data collected from 2000 to 2012 by Natural Resource Management Specialists at Gateway National Recreation Area, Sandy Hook Unit, seabeach amaranth was recorded on the NPS property every year during that time. At Station Sandy Hook, seabeach amaranth was recorded as present on the beach in Action Area 1 for 7 of the 12 years surveyed, with the number of plants recorded ranging from 1 to 15 (NPS 2012).

6. EFFECTS ANALYSIS

Project activities have the potential to affect the species addressed in this BA if they are present within Action Areas 1 or 2. All of these activities will be conducted within and in the areas immediately adjacent to the boat basin (the southernmost tip of Action Area 1 and all of Action Area 2), which currently experience significant human disturbances associated with daily station operations.

Effects to protected species from onshore demolition and construction activities would include human disturbance and noise during demolition and reconstruction of the BMF and MMB, and removal of the beached concrete dock. These effects would be temporary and limited to the immediate vicinity of the construction areas. As described above, the USCG would prohibit workers from accessing or driving across the beach in Action Area 1, although some worker/equipment access to remove the beached concrete dock on the southern tip of Action Area 1 may be necessary. All construction materials and equipment would be staged on existing paved/developed areas. The USCG would also implement erosion and sediment controls on land to minimize sediment reaching the water during removal of the dock.

Nearshore and in-water project activities include repair or replacement of the wharf, piers, breakwaters, floating docks, groin, utilities, and boat ramps, and maintenance dredging of the boat basin. These activities could cause increased turbidity in nearshore waters and deposition of suspended sediments on the beaches within Action Areas 1 and 2 during high tide. As described above, during all nearshore and in-water activities, the USCG would implement appropriate erosion and sediment control measures to minimize sediment released into marine waters; implement spill prevention and control measures to minimize potential for and impacts of a spill of pollutants such as fuel; and minimize the time working in the water to the maximum extent practicable.

Options under consideration for disposal of the dredged material include:

- Fill material for construction activities. Use of dredged material for fill would occur in the immediate vicinity of the BMF, MMB, and the Exchange/ESD Building 103. All of these buildings are located in upland areas and outside of Action Areas 1 and 2.
- Truck off-site. All dredged materials would be removed from the Station property for proper disposal or reuse.

The USCG initially considered another disposal option to use the dredged materials for beach nourishment in Action Area 1. However, the USCG dismissed this option because of its potential to adversely affect the protected species addressed in this BA.

6.1 Piping Plover

The open beach of Action Area 1 provides suitable foraging and nesting habitat for piping plovers. Potential effects on piping plovers include temporary disruptions of foraging, roosting, courting, and nesting activities from nearby project activities.

Temporary noise and human disturbance during demolition and reconstruction of the nearby BMF and MMB and removal of the beached concrete dock could affect plover foraging and nesting activities in Action Area 1. In-water work during repair or replacement of the wharf, piers, breakwaters, floating docks, groin, utilities, and boat ramps, and dredging could cause temporary increased turbidity in waters adjacent to the beach and deposition of suspended

sediments on beach areas during high tide, which could disrupt foraging activities for a short while.

Removal of the concrete floating dock that has washed up onto the beach just northwest of the boat basin would occur in an area that is not likely to be used for plover nesting. Piping plovers typically nest on the stretch of beach between the dunes and the high-tide line. The area which contains the beached dock is vegetated with beach plum, sumac, tree-of-heaven, and poison-ivy and is within 150 feet of the docks. Plover nesting is more likely to occur north of where the beached dock is located where there are more suitable open dune areas and where there is less human activity associated with USCG waterfront facilities. The USCG would use existing disturbed areas for staging and execution of the dock removal, and would prohibit any vehicle or equipment access onto the dune area. Pedestrian access to this area of the beach may be required. If the dock removal is done during the nesting season, the USCG would require that a biologist survey the site prior to removal of the dock to ensure that no nesting plovers are nearby. Should any nesting plovers be found, the USCG would delay removal of the dock until the young have fledged and left the nest. The biologist would also be present to ensure that no plovers, either adult or fledged young, are within the area when the removal action occurs.

Although Action Area 2 provides potential habitat for piping plovers, it is unlikely that the birds would use this small area of beach due to the disturbance caused by daily station activities; therefore, project activities on or near Action Area 2 are not likely to cause additional disturbance to piping plovers.

6.2 Red Knot

The open beach of Action Area 1 provides suitable habitat for red knots. Potential effects on red knots within Action Area 1 would include temporary disruptions of foraging and roosting activities from nearby project activities.

Temporary noise and human disturbance during demolition and reconstruction of the nearby BMF and MMB and removal of the beached concrete dock could affect red knot foraging and roosting activities in Action Area 1. In-water work during repair or replacement of the wharf, piers, breakwaters, floating docks, groin, utilities, and boat ramps, and dredging could cause temporary increased turbidity in waters adjacent to the beach and deposition of suspended sediments on beach areas during high tide, which could disrupt foraging activities for a short while.

Removal of the concrete floating dock that has washed up onto the beach just northwest of the boat basin would occur in an area that is not likely to be used for foraging by red knots, because it is vegetated with beach plum, sumac, tree-of-heaven, and poison-ivy. Red knots typically forage along the waterline of the beach. The biologist present during the dock removal would ensure that no red knots are within the area when the removal action occurs.

Although Action Area 2 provides potentially suitable foraging habitat for red knots, it is unlikely that the birds would use this small beach due to the disturbance caused by daily station activities; therefore, project activities on or near Action Area 2 are not likely to cause additional disturbance to red knots.

6.3 Northeastern Beach Tiger Beetle

Action Area 1 provides suitable habitat for tiger beetles. Effects on adult tiger beetles within Action Area 1 would be temporary disruptions of foraging and mating/egg laying activities. Effects on larval stages would be temporary disruptions of foraging activities and an increased risk of mortality.

In Action Area 1, temporary noise and human disturbance during demolition and reconstruction of the nearby BMF and MMB and removal of the beached concrete dock could disrupt foraging by adults and larvae and may also cause larvae to burrow deeper or relocate; relocation increases their risk of mortality from foot traffic or predation by crabs or birds.

In-water work during repair or replacement of the wharf, piers, breakwaters, floating docks, groin, utilities, and boat ramps, and dredging could cause temporary increased turbidity in waters adjacent to the beach and deposition of suspended sediments on beach areas during high tide, which could disrupt foraging activities by adults and larvae for a short time.

The area which contains the beached concrete dock to be removed is not likely to be used by the beach tiger beetle, because it is vegetated and is within 150 feet of the docks. The beetles are more likely to occur in open dune areas and where there is less human activity associated with USCG waterfront facilities. The USCG would use existing disturbed areas for staging and execution of the dock removal, and would prohibit any vehicle or equipment access onto the dune area. Pedestrian access to this area of the beach may be required. However, foot traffic in this area could pose a risk to adults (accidental trampling) or larvae (accidental compaction) if present. Prior to removal of the concrete dock, a biologist will survey the area within 150 feet of the beached dock for the presence of adults or larvae. The biologist will monitor the removal of the dock to ensure any adults or larvae present are avoided. The biologist will collect data on any specimens found including photo documentation, apparent health, and location.

Although Action Area 2 provides some foraging habitat for adult tiger beetles, it is unlikely that adults would use the area on a regular basis or deposit eggs there due to the disturbance caused by daily station activities. Project activities on or near Action Area 2 are not likely to cause additional disturbance to tiger beetles.

6.4 Seabeach Amaranth

Action Area 1 provides suitable habitat for seabeach amaranth in the sparsely vegetated areas located primarily between the high tide line and the dunes. Nearby demolition and construction activities and dredging in the boat basin would have no effect on the seabeach amaranth.

The removal of the beached concrete dock in the southern portion of the beach in Action Area 1 is not likely to support seabeach amaranth, as this area is vegetated with beach plum, sumac, tree-of-heaven, and poison-ivy. Prior to removal of the concrete dock, a biologist will survey the area within 150 feet of the dock for the presence of seabeach amaranth. Any plants present will be fenced off for protection. The biologist will monitor the removal of the dock to ensure any plants present are avoided. The biologist will collect data on any specimens found including photo documentation, apparent health, size, location and number of plants. The fenced areas will be avoided to the greatest extent practicable to prevent damaging or destroying the plants.

Action Area 2 is heavily vegetated with saltmeadow cordgrass, seaside goldenrod, eastern prickly pear cactus and beach plum; seabeach amaranth does not compete well with these plants and is not likely to occur in Action Area 2.

7. SECTION 7 DETERMINATION

Based on the location and type of onshore activities proposed for this project, and in consideration of species' habits and habitat requirements, the USCG has determined that, with the mitigation measures described in Section 6, the project activities may affect, but are not likely to adversely affect the piping plover, red knot, northeastern beach tiger beetle, and seabeach amaranth.

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Personal communications:

Carlo Popolizio, Biologist, USFWS New Jersey Ecological Field Office. Telephone conversation with Brad Burford, Biologist, URS Group, Inc. February 18, 2014.

Jeanne McArthur-Heuser, Natural Resource Management Specialist, Gateway National Recreation Area, Sandy Hook Unit. Fort Hancock, NJ. Electronic mail correspondence with Regina LaCaruba, Biologist, URS Group, Inc. August 6, 2014.

Appendix
Agency Correspondence



In Reply Refer To:
14-CPA-0029

United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

New Jersey Field Office
Ecological Services
927 North Main Street, Building D
Pleasantville, New Jersey 08232
Tel: 609/646 9310
Fax: 609/646 0352
<http://www.fws.gov/northeast/njfieldoffice>



John Poland, Environmental Management Division Chief
United States Coast Guard
300 East Main Street, Suite 800
Norfolk, Virginia 23510-9104

NOV 15 2013

Dear Mr. Poland:

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), New Jersey Field Office has received your October 21, 2013 letter regarding the *Hurricane Sandy Proposed Recapitalization Projects to Rebuild the United States Coast Guard (USCG) Station Atlantic City, USCG Manasquan Inlet, and USCG Station Sandy Hook, New Jersey*. The USCG intends to prepare environmental assessments for re-placing damaged facilities with those that are hurricane and flood resilient.

AUTHORITY

The following comments on the proposed action are provided pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA) (87 Stat. 884, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*) and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918 (MBTA) (40 Stat. 755; 16 U.S.C. 703-712), as amended, to ensure the protection of federally listed endangered and threatened species, and migratory birds. Additional comments are provided as technical assistance for the draft Environmental Assessment and do not preclude further comment pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (83 Stat. 852; 42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*).

FEDERALLY LISTED AND CANDIDATE SPECIES

The following species occur in the vicinity of the subject USCG Stations. Please review the habitat requirements of each species to evaluate whether the project's impact area (*i.e.*, the action area) contains potentially suitable habitat for any federally listed species. If existing information or field surveys demonstrate that no potentially suitable habitat is located within the project's action area, no further action is required. The Service recommends retaining documentation of your determination in your project files. If available information or field surveys demonstrate that potentially suitable habitat is or may be located within the action area, submit your determination and all relevant project information to this office.

Piping Plover

There are known nesting occurrence of the federally listed (threatened) piping plover (*Charadrius melodus*) located at Sandy Hook. These small, territorial shorebirds are present on the New Jersey shore between March and August. Piping plovers nest above the high tide line, usually on sandy ocean beaches and barrier islands, but also on gently sloping foredunes, blowout areas behind primary dunes, washover areas cut into or between dunes, the ends of sandspits, and deposits of suitable dredged or pumped sand. Piping plover nests consist of a shallow scrape in the sand, frequently lined with shell fragments and often located near small clumps of vegetation. Piping plover adults and chicks feed on marine invertebrates such as worms, fly larvae, beetles, and crustaceans. Feeding areas include the intertidal zone of ocean beaches, ocean washover areas, mudflats, sandflats, wrack lines (organic ocean material left by high tide), and the shorelines of coastal ponds, lagoons, and salt marshes.

Threats to the piping plover include habitat loss, human disturbance of nesting birds, predation, and oil spills and other contaminants. Habitat loss results from development, as well as from beach stabilization, beach nourishment, and other physical alterations to the beach ecosystem. Human disturbance of nesting birds includes foot traffic, sunbathing, kite flying, pets, fireworks displays, beach raking, construction, and vehicle use. These disturbances can result in crushing of eggs, failure of eggs to hatch, and death of chicks. Predation on piping plover chicks and eggs is intensified by development because predators such as foxes, gulls, and raccoons, thrive in developed areas and are attracted to beaches by food scraps and trash. Unleashed and feral dogs and cats also prey on piping plover chicks and eggs.

Seabeach Amaranth

Known occurrences of the federally listed (threatened) plant seabeach amaranth (*Amaranthus pumilus*) are found at Sandy Hook and in the vicinity of the Manasquan Inlet. Seabeach amaranth is an annual plant endemic to Atlantic Coast beaches and barrier islands. The primary habitat of seabeach amaranth consists of overwash flats at accreting ends of islands, lower foredunes, and upper strands of non-eroding beaches (landward of the wrackline), although the species occasionally establishes small temporary populations in other habitats, including sound-side beaches, blowouts in foredunes, inter-dunal areas, and on sand and shell material deposited for beach replenishment or as dredge spoil. Seabeach amaranth usually is found growing on a nearly pure sand substrate, occasionally with shell fragments mixed in.

Seabeach amaranth occupies elevations from 8 inches to 5 feet above mean high tide. The plant grows above the high tide line and is intolerant of even occasional flooding during its growing season. The plant is dependent on a terrestrial, upper beach habitat that is not flooded during the growing season from May into the fall. The habitat of seabeach amaranth is sparsely vegetated with annual herbs and, less commonly, perennial herbs (mostly grasses) and scattered shrubs. Vegetative associates of seabeach amaranth include sea rocket (*Cakile edentula*), seabeach spurge (*Chamaesyce polygonifolia*), and other species of open, sandy beach habitats. However, this species is intolerant of competition and does not occur on well-vegetated sites. Seabeach

amaranth is often associated with beaches managed for the protection of beach nesting birds such as the piping plover and least tern (*Sterna antillarum*). Threats to seabeach amaranth include beach stabilization efforts (particularly the use of beach armoring, such as sea walls and riprap), intensive recreational use, and herbivory by webworms.

Northeastern Beach Tiger Beetle

There are known occurrences of the federally listed (threatened) northeastern beach tiger beetle (*Cicindela dorsalis dorsalis*) within the upper portion of Sandy Hook. Northeastern beach tiger beetles inhabit the intertidal zone through upper beach along wide, sandy ocean beaches. Adults prey and scavenge on amphipods, flies, and other beach arthropods along the water's edge. Eggs are deposited in the mid- to above-high tide drift zone. Larval beetles occur in a relatively narrow band of the upper intertidal to high drift zone, taking nearly two years to develop from eggs to adults. Larvae dig vertical burrows in the sand and wait at the burrow mouth to capture passing prey, primarily small amphipods. The primary threat to the northeastern beach tiger beetle is habitat disturbance and destruction from development, beach stabilization activities, and recreational beach uses including pedestrian and vehicle traffic, all of which affect the larvae. Other threats include spills of oil or other contaminants, pesticide use, natural or human-induced beach erosion, and natural factors such as predation and storms.

The northeastern beach tiger beetle was found historically along New Jersey's undeveloped Atlantic coastal beaches from Sandy Hook to Holgate, but was eliminated (extirpated) from the State. In 1994, a population of the northeastern beach tiger beetle was re-established at the Gateway National Recreation Area, Sandy Hook Unit. If project implementation will involve activities or disturbance in beach, dune, intertidal or nearshore areas, or may result in increased human use of these areas, further consultation pursuant to Section 7 of the ESA is required to avoid adverse effects to the northeastern beach tiger beetle.

Red Knot

The red knot (*Calidris canutus* subsp. *rufa*) was added to the list of Federal candidate species in 2006. A proposed rule to list subspecies *rufa* as threatened under the ESA was published on September 30, 2013. Red knots are federally protected under the MBTA, and are State-listed as endangered.

At 9 to 10 inches long, the red knot is a large, bulky sandpiper with a short, straight, black bill. During the breeding season, the legs are dark brown to black, and the breast and belly are a characteristic russet color that ranges from salmon-red to brick-red. Males are generally brighter shades of red, with a more distinct line through the eye. When not breeding, both sexes look alike—plain gray above and dirty white below with faint, dark streaking. As with most shorebirds, the long-winged, strong-flying knots fly in groups, sometimes with other species. Red knots feed on invertebrates, especially small clams, mussels, and snails, but also crustaceans, marine worms, and horseshoe crab eggs. On the breeding grounds knots mainly eat insects.

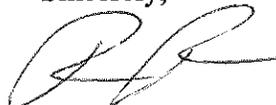
Small numbers of red knots may occur in New Jersey year-round, while large numbers of birds rely on New Jersey's coastal stopover habitats during the spring (mid-May through early June) and fall (late-July through November) migration periods. Smaller numbers of knots may spend all or part of the winter in New Jersey. Threats to the red knot include sea level rise; coastal development; shoreline stabilization; dredging; reduced food availability at stopover areas; disturbance by vehicles, people, dogs, aircraft, and boats; and climate change.

Other Federally Listed and Candidate Species

No other federally listed or proposed threatened or endangered flora or fauna under Service jurisdiction are known to occur within the vicinity of the proposed project site. If additional information on federally listed species becomes available, or if project plans change, this determination may be reconsidered.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide initial comments on the proposal to rebuild shore facilities at three USCG stations in New Jersey. Please contact Carlo Popolizio at (609) 383-3938, extension 32, if you require further assistance.

Sincerely,



for Eric Schradung
Field Supervisor

Appendix E
Memorandum of Agreement



Preserving America's Heritage

July 22, 2014

Mr. Dean Amundson
Environmental Planning Program Manager
United States Coast Guard
Shore Infrastructure Logistics Center
300 East Main Street, Suite 800, EMD(da)
Norfolk, VA 23510-9104

**REF: Proposed Hurricane Sandy Proposed Recapitalization Project
U.S. Coast Guard Station Sandy Hook
Highlands, New Jersey**

Dear Mr. Amundson:

Enclosed is your copy of the fully executed Memorandum of Agreement for the referenced project. By carrying out the terms of the agreement, you will fulfill your responsibilities under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and the regulations of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation. The original agreement will remain on file at our office.

We commend the United States Coast Guard for working closely with the New Jersey State Historic Preservation Officer, the National Park Service, and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation toward the preservation of this important National Historic Landmark. We are confident that the Communications Plan the U.S. Coast Guard develops will enhance timely consultation for future undertakings.

If we may be of further assistance as the agreement is implemented, please contact Mr. Brian Lusher at (202) 517-0221, or via e-mail at blusher@achp.gov.

Sincerely,

Caroline D. Hall
Assistant Director
Office of Federal Agency Programs
Federal Property Management Section

Enclosure

ADVISORY COUNCIL ON HISTORIC PRESERVATION

401 F Street NW, Suite 308 • Washington, DC 20001-2637

Phone: 202-517-0200 • Fax: 202-517-6381 • achp@achp.gov • www.achp.gov

**MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT
AMONG THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD,
THE NEW JERSEY STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE,
AND THE ADVISORY COUNCIL ON HISTORIC PRESERVATION**

REGARDING

**THE HURRICANE SANDY RECAPITALIZATION PROJECT AT COAST GUARD
STATION SANDY HOOK, MONMOUTH COUNTY, NEW JERSEY**

WHEREAS the United States Coast Guard (USCG) plans to fund and execute the Proposed Recapitalization Project to Rebuild USCG Station Sandy Hook, pursuant to the *Disaster Relief Appropriations Act, 2013* (P.L. 113-2); and

WHEREAS Congress passed a Hurricane SANDY appropriation requiring obligation of funds by September 2014, which allocated funding for rebuilding and improving resiliency at USCG facilities affected by the storm, and the rebuilding of USCG facilities to improve resiliency constitutes an undertaking subject to review under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), 16 U.S.C. § 470f, and its implementing regulations, 36 CFR Part 800; and

WHEREAS the undertaking consists of rebuilding facilities at the damaged USCG Station Sandy Hook, New Jersey to include the following:

- Demolish the existing non-historic Boathouse and replace with a new Boat Maintenance Facility (BMF) in the same location as the existing Boathouse;
- Demolish the existing non-historic Building #103 (Former Exchange/ESD Building);
- Demolish the existing historic Building #123 (Former Recreation Building), which is a contributing structure to the Fort Hancock and Sandy Hook Proving Ground National Historic Landmark District;
- Demolish the existing non-historic Station Building and replace with a new Multi-Mission Building (MMB) located in the area of the existing Building #103 and Building #123 structures;
- Demolish the existing non-historic Small Arms Firing Range (SAFR), which was constructed on top of and around the historic Casemate Structure 541, in a way that shall not damage the historic casemate structure;
- Construct a new SAFR in the area of the former Sycamore Circle Housing Units and playground, which were demolished immediately following Hurricane SANDY;
- Demolish twenty-two non-historic Borough Housing Units;
- Dredge and reconstruct the waterfront area; and

WHEREAS the USCG is operating within the following constraints and requirements for the planned rebuilding of USCG Station Sandy Hook:

- Following Hurricane SANDY, the mission critical need to restore the form and function of the USCG Station Sandy Hook facility at its present location, within a National Historic Landmark (NHL) District in order to support Search and Rescue and Law Enforcement in and around the Sandy Hook Bay;
- Rebuild three mission critical structures (BMF, MMB and SAFR) to support modern USCG mission requirements and meet Department of Defense Anti-Terrorism/Force Protection criteria;
- All new structures must be built to meet the FEMA 500-year flood plain elevation, requiring all new structures to be elevated above existing site structures, such that critical equipment and facilities remain at the proper elevation to sustain hurricanes, floods and storms;
- Due to the location of Station Sandy Hook within FEMA Flood Zone V and A and the associated foundational requirements to support hurricane-prone structures, it is cost prohibitive to construct new facilities that are one story high in order to reduce the height of the new structures;
- All new structures and rebuilt facilities must comply with the Office of Management and Budget Memo M-12-12 of 11 May 2012, mandating that all Federal agencies freeze their real estate footprint; therefore planning and space allowances for the new Station Sandy Hook structures are of the most efficient configuration and design to reduce space and associated costs;
- Rebuild the BMF on the site of the existing Boathouse, which is the only suitable location at USCG Station Sandy Hook, due to waterfront access and pier locations, proximity to the boat basin, and existing utilities;
- Rebuild the MMB on the site currently occupied by Buildings #103 and #123, since it is the only site available at Station Sandy Hook that provides a view of the waterfront, piers, and BMF, which is a mission requirement for the operations center, and is in close proximity to the BMF and waterfront, which is a mission requirement for time critical deployments;
- Rebuild the Station in a manner to reduce overall disturbance to the site by reusing utility lines, parking lots, sidewalks and other structures to the extent practical as well as avoiding construction in undisturbed areas and areas known to have archaeological and/or environmentally sensitive resources;
- Site and orient the new structures in locations that allow reuse of the existing geothermal well system, which allows USCG to utilize a renewable energy resource and reduce the overall energy footprint of the facility;
- Repair the waterfront in a timely manner, which currently is operating at 20% capacity due to damage sustained by Hurricane SANDY, resulting in USCG vessels being relocated until facilities can be restored and in USCG being unable to meet time critical deployments while construction awaits;
- USCG must obligate recapitalization funds by September 2014, as mandated by Congress; and

WHEREAS the Sandy Hook Request for Proposal (RFP) solicitation was issued to the design-build contractors on 14 May 2014, an advance copy of the draft RFP dated 27 March 2014 was made available on 03 April 2014 to the design-build contractors to ensure their interest. The draft RFP included the building elevation drawings that were provided to SHPO on 13 March 2014 for comment, two months prior to the issuance date of the solicitation. Since the contract is for a design-build, the RFP did not include a 30% design; rather the RFP included performance and prescriptive specifications; and

WHEREAS, USCG defined an Area of Potential Effect (APE) for both Architectural and Archaeological resources; and

WHEREAS the APE is within the Fort Hancock and Sandy Hook Proving Ground Historic District, which was previously listed on the New Jersey and National Registers of Historic Places, and designated as a National Historic Landmark; and

WHEREAS, USCG identified the presence of archaeological site 28-MO-409 within the APE during an archaeological survey conducted in April of 2014, pursuant to 36 C.F.R. Part 800.4: Identification of Historic Properties of the NHPA; and

WHEREAS USCG has determined that the undertaking will have an adverse effect on the Fort Hancock and Sandy Hook Proving Ground National Historic Landmark District, and has consulted with the New Jersey State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) pursuant to 36 C.F.R. Part 800, of the regulations implementing Section 106 of the NHPA (16 U.S.C. § 470f); and

WHEREAS USCG has agreed to avoid, minimize and mitigate impacts to historic resources by employing careful planning, communication, and construction measures throughout the recapitalization effort and beyond; and

WHEREAS USCG notified a series of Indian tribes, Tribal Historic Preservation Officers, and other Native American groups about the undertaking, including: 1) the Absentee Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma; 2) the Delaware Tribal Historic Preservation Officer; 3) The Delaware Tribe of Indians; 4) the Nanticoke-Lenni Lenape Indians of New Jersey; 5) the Powhatan Renape Nation; 6) the Ramapough Lenape Indian Nation; 7) Sand Hill Band of Indians; 8) Sand Hill Indian Historical Association; 9) Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma; 10) Stockbridge-Munsee Band of the Mohicans; 11) The Cherokee Nation of New Jersey; 12) The Cherokee Tribe of New Jersey; and 13) The Delaware Nation, asked all whether they would like to consult under 36 CFR Part 800.(c)(i)(A) and (B), and no tribe or group indicated its intention to do so, and

WHEREAS, USCG has consulted with the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP), pursuant to 36 C.F.R. Part 800.10 (b) regarding resolution of adverse effects on National Historic Landmarks, and the ACHP has agreed to participate in the consultation; and

WHEREAS, USCG has consulted with the National Park Service (NPS) regarding the effects of the undertaking on historic properties per the NHPA Section 106 regulations for

National Historic Landmarks, 36 CFR 800.10; and NPS has agreed to participate in the consultation; and

WHEREAS the USCG held an interagency meeting at USCG Station Sandy Hook to continue historic consultation between USCG, ACHP, SHPO and NPS stakeholders and discuss the planned recapitalization effort, issues with compatibility of the new construction to the NHL district, and identify mitigation measures as detailed in this Memorandum of Agreement (MOA); and

WHEREAS the USCG sent notification letters regarding the proposed project to multiple municipal and historic groups such as Middletown Township, Monmouth County, Monmouth County Historical Association, Fort Hancock 21st Century Advisory Committee, New Jersey Lighthouse Society, Preservation New Jersey, Sandy Hook Foundation, and the Nike Historical Society; and no comments were received; and

WHEREAS, the USCG shall continue to consult with the public about this Project as a part of the ongoing Section 106 process; and

NOW, THEREFORE, USCG, SHPO, and ACHP agree that the undertaking shall be implemented in accordance with the following stipulations in order to take into account the effect of the undertaking on historic properties.

STIPULATIONS

USCG shall ensure that the following negotiated measures are carried out in order to avoid, minimize and mitigate impacts to historic resources. USCG and the SHPO agree to work cooperatively and efficiently in order to complete all Stipulations within five years of the execution date of this MOA.

I. USCG shall shift the foundation of the new MMB further west to avoid, to all practical extents, archaeological site 28-MO-409, as identified during the USCG April 2014 Archaeological Survey, and the existing geothermal wells. USCG shall re-orient the shipping/receiving paved area from the northern corner to the southeast corner of the new MMB structure to avoid archaeological site 28-MO-409; refer to the Site Plan included with this MOA as Appendix A. USCG shall submit Preliminary Civil Site Plans for the new MMB structure to SHPO, with archaeological site 28-MO-409 depicted on the plans relative to the structure footprint. USCG and SHPO shall then have a teleconference within seven (7) days to discuss the proposed layout and identify any concerns and room for flexibility. If SHPO and USCG believe there is room for flexibility at this point to adjust the MMB site plan in order to better address archaeological concerns, SHPO may provide an onsite representative to Station Sandy Hook while the design-build contractor is laying out foundation plan for the MMB. SHPO will be provided with one (1) week's notice of the onsite meeting at Station Sandy Hook. A copy of the as-built civil site plans will be made available to SHPO.

II. In consultation with SHPO, USCG shall prepare an Archaeological Resources Avoidance Plan with the design-build contractor in order to address potential impacts to archaeological

resources at Station Sandy Hook. This Avoidance Plan shall build on the USCG April 2014 Archaeological Survey and detail avoidance of areas identified by SHPO as potentially archaeologically significant or not yet surveyed for archaeological historic properties. At a minimum, this plan shall include the following: 1) A description of the purpose and need for the avoidance plan; 2) An outline and description of any physical barriers to be employed and observed during project implementation. This shall include descriptions of the proposed methodology for installation of these barriers; 3) An outline and description of any construction/demolition techniques and minimization measures to be observed during project implementation; 4) A description of how this avoidance plan will be implemented as part of this undertaking; and 5) A graphical representation of where avoidance and minimization measures are to be observed.

As part of the Archaeological Resources Avoidance Plan, a component for discovery of additional archaeological resources and appropriate protocol shall be included. At a minimum, a plan for unanticipated discoveries shall include: 1) A stipulation for training contractors to recognize potential archaeological historic properties; 2) A description of procedures for stoppages of work, including stoppage durations; 3) An outline of notification procedures, including a chain-of-command outlining the contact information and responsibilities of each party involved; 4) Provisions for the discovery of human remains, including information on all necessary regulations that apply; and 5) Provisions for documentation and final reporting of all unanticipated discoveries.

USCG shall prepare a Draft Archaeological Resources Avoidance Plan and submit it to SHPO; SHPO shall review the Draft Archaeological Resources Avoidance Plan and provide any comments back to USCG within thirty (30) days. The Archaeological Resources Avoidance Plan shall be finalized and implemented prior to USCG conducting any ground disturbing work at the site.

III. In consultation with SHPO, USCG shall relocate the proposed communications tower from the east side of the new MMB to the northwest corner of the new MMB, where there are no archaeological concerns. Refer to the Site Plan included with this MOA as Appendix A.

IV. USCG shall prepare a demolition plan, for SHPO review, to remove non-historic SAFR components from the historic casemate structure. The new SAFR shall be constructed in the former Sycamore Circle housing area, away from the historic casemate structure and in a previously disturbed area with no archaeological concerns. USCG will prepare a Draft SAFR Demolition Plan and submit to SHPO for review. SHPO shall provide any comments back to USCG within thirty (30) days. The SAFR Demolition Plan shall be finalized and implemented prior to USCG starting SAFR demolition.

V. In addition to the architectural design components included in the preliminary design-build RFP drawings, USCG shall continue to work with SHPO and NPS in order to make the new structures more compatible with the surrounding National Historic Landmark district. These items will include a lowering of the MMB building height by reducing the roof pitch, appropriate architectural finishes for the screening of the pilings for the new structures, and a mutually acceptable landscaping plan.

Furthermore, after the USCG awards the Design Build contract in September 2014, the USCG will consult with SHPO and NPS on the possibility of changing the MMB roof design to a flat roof. The USCG will provide ACHP, NPS, and SHPO the related contract schedule, after receipt from the Design Build contractor. USCG will make a good faith effort to make changes to the roof design within the Design Build contract cost. The USCG will document and implement all changes resulting from these consultations.

VI. USCG has included a requirement in the design-build contract for the contractor to have a qualified Historical Architect on staff. The design-build contractor shall retain the services of a qualified Historical Architect meeting the Secretary of Interior's Professional Qualification Standards as authorized by NHPA Section 101(h), and described on the National Park Service's Archaeology and Historic Preservation Professional Qualifications Standards web page: http://www.nps.gov/history/local-law/arch_stnds_9.htm

VII. As mitigation for the proposed demolition of Building # 123 (former Recreation Center), USCG shall perform Level II historic recordation of the contributing structure in accordance with Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) Standards, which include the HABS Guidelines for Historical Reports and the Guide to Preparing HABS/HAER Photographic Documentation (July 2007 and November 2011, respectively). All materials submitted as documentation will follow the most recent requirements and review time lines as stated by the Heritage Documentation Program. Parties will make a good faith effort to meet the requirements of the NPS Northeast Regional Office's schedule of documentation. The draft historic recordation documents shall be provided to SHPO and NPS for concurrent review; SHPO and NPS shall provide any comments to USCG within thirty (30) days. USCG shall revise the documents, if needed, and resubmit to SHPO and NPS; SHPO and NPS shall provide a determination that the documentation is adequate within one (1) week, or detail required changes needed to the documentation. The USCG shall finalize the documentation and submit the final package to the NPS for acceptance. No demolition work shall be conducted on Building # 123 until the documentation is accepted by the NPS, or the USCG, NPS, and SHPO have mutually agreed that documentation of Building #123 has been satisfactorily completed to a level to allow demolition to proceed prior to finalization of the full documentation package. All parties acknowledge that the recordation of Building #123 needs to be completed by January of 2015 and will make all good faith efforts to meet this time frame.

VIII. USCG shall continue to work with the NPS GNRA to minimize disruptions to GNRA operations during USCG construction work. NPS will be invited to periodic onsite meetings with the contractor, and together, prior to the commencement of construction, USCG and GNRA shall: create guidelines for appropriate work hours, routes of ingress/egress for hauling materials, site restrictions on weekend work during 15 May – 15 September each year (or during special events), and develop a road condition monitoring plan to help prevent and correct as necessary damage sustained to NPS roads from USCG construction activities.

IX. USCG shall develop a vibratory monitoring plan for seven historic structures near the proposed new construction work. The seven historic structures that shall be included in the Vibratory Monitoring Plan include the following:

- Bldg #109 (USCG structure, former Chem Lab, near proposed new MMB)
- Bldg # 108 (NPS structure, across the street from proposed new MMB)
- Bldg # 102 (NPS structure, across the street from proposed new MMB)
- Bldg # 528 (USCG structure, historic Victorian house near proposed new SAFR)
- Bldg # 504 (USCG structure, historic Victorian house near proposed new SAFR)
- Bldg # 526 (USCG structure, historic Victorian house near proposed new SAFR)
- Bldg # 503 (USCG structure, former Railroad Bldg)

USCG shall prepare a Draft Vibratory Monitoring Plan for Station Sandy Hook Recapitalization Construction Activities and submit to SHPO and NPS for review. SHPO and NPS shall provide any comments to USCG within thirty days. The Vibratory Monitoring Plan shall be finalized and implemented prior to construction work starting at Station Sandy Hook.

X. In consultation with SHPO, ACHP and NPS, USCG shall develop a collaborative Communications Plan for Station Sandy Hook to better facilitate future work, and mutual coordination of projects and planning efforts, as well as foster better agency partnership and preservation of historic resources through early Section 106 consultation. This Communications Plan shall include points of contact, chains of command, addresses, phone numbers, electronic mail addresses, and a requirement for periodic stakeholder meetings. The Draft Communications Plan shall be submitted to GNRA, SHPO and ACHP for review; GNRA, SHPO, and ACHP shall provide any comments to USCG within thirty (30) days. USCG shall finalize the Communications Plan within five years of the MOA execution date, and/or before any new demolition or construction projects are developed, other than those covered in this MOA, and shall distribute copies to GNRA, SHPO and ACHP. The USCG Station Sandy Hook Communications Plan shall be implemented as part of the USCG Station Sandy Hook Cultural Resources Management Plan (CRMP), as addressed in Stipulation XI. The Communications Plan shall be updated periodically by USCG as needed.

XI. In consultation with SHPO, ACHP and NPS, USCG shall create a CRMP for USCG Station Sandy Hook, given its designation as a National Historic Landmark District. This CRMP shall evaluate all USCG historic structures and prioritize the best candidate structures to promote for reuse/rehabilitation/stabilization, as well as provide a basis to make better educated development choices and funding decisions for future projects. This CRMP shall incorporate requirements for USCG to consult early on NHPA Section 106 and Section 110, and shall include the USCG Station Sandy Hook Communications Plan as components. The Draft CRMP shall be submitted to SHPO, ACHP and NPS for comments; SHPO, ACHP and NPS shall provide any comments to USCG within thirty (30) days. USCG shall finalize and implement the CRMP within five years of the MOA execution date, and/or before any new demolition or construction projects are developed, other than those covered in this MOA, and shall distribute copies to GNRA, SHPO and ACHP. The CRMP shall be updated periodically by USCG as needed.

XII. USCG will initiate early Section 106 consultation with SHPO and NPS for future USCG Station Sandy Hook projects, prior to project selection and prioritization. This requirement shall be incorporated into the USCG Station Sandy Hook Communications Plan and the USCG Station Sandy Hook CRMP, which USCG shall develop in accordance with Stipulations X and XI.

XIII. All commitments made by USCG in this MOA are subject to the availability of appropriated funds, as required by the Antideficiency Act, 31U.S.C. 1341 and 1342. Nothing in this MOA, in and of itself, obligates USCG to expend appropriations or to enter into any contract, assistance agreement, interagency agreement, or incur other financial obligations that would be inconsistent with Agency budget priorities. USCG agrees to make a good faith effort to obtain the necessary funds to fully implement this MOA.

XIV. DURATION

This MOA will be null and void if its terms are not carried out within five (5) years from the date of its execution. Prior to such time, USCG may consult with the other signatories to reconsider the terms of the MOA and amend it in accordance with Stipulation XVIII below. All milestone dates for Stipulations refer to calendar days, not business days.

XV. POST-REVIEW DISCOVERIES

If additional historic properties are discovered all work shall cease in the vicinity of the discovery and USCG shall implement the unanticipated discovery plan developed as part of Stipulation II of this MOA.

XVI. MONITORING AND REPORTING

Each year following the execution of this MOA until it expires, all Stipulations are complete, or is terminated, USCG shall provide all parties to this MOA a summary report detailing work undertaken pursuant to its terms. Such report shall include any scheduling changes proposed, any problems encountered, and any disputes and objections received in USCG's efforts to carry out the terms of this MOA.

XVII. DISPUTE RESOLUTION

Should any signatory to this MOA object at any time to any actions proposed or the manner in which the terms of this MOA are implemented, USCG shall consult with such party to resolve the objection. If USCG determines that such objection cannot be resolved, USCG will:

A. Forward all documentation relevant to the dispute, including the USCG's proposed resolution, to the ACHP. The ACHP shall provide USCG with its advice on the resolution of the objection within thirty (30) calendar days of receiving adequate documentation. Prior to reaching a final decision on the dispute, USCG shall prepare a written response that takes into account any timely advice or comments regarding the dispute from the ACHP and signatories, and provide them with a copy of this written

response. USCG will then proceed according to its final decision.

B. If the ACHP does not provide its advice regarding the dispute within the thirty (30) calendar day time period, USCG may make a final decision on the dispute and proceed accordingly. Prior to reaching such a final decision, USCG shall prepare a written response that takes into account any timely comments regarding the dispute from the signatories and concurring parties to the MOA, and provide them and the ACHP with a copy of such written response.

C. USCG's responsibility to carry out all other actions subject to the terms of this MOA that are not the subject of the dispute remain unchanged provided they may be suspended if execution of one or more acts is contingent on the outcome of a dispute being resolved.

XVIII. AMENDMENTS

This MOA may be amended when such an amendment is agreed to in writing by all signatories. The amendment will be effective on the date a copy signed by all of the signatories is filed with the ACHP.

XIX. TERMINATION

If any signatory to this MOA determines that its terms will not or cannot be carried out, that party shall immediately consult with the other parties to attempt to develop an amendment per Stipulation XVIII, above. If within thirty (30) days (or another time period agreed to by all signatories) an amendment cannot be reached, any signatory may terminate the MOA upon written notification to the other signatories.

Once the MOA is terminated, and prior to work continuing on the undertaking, USCG must either (a) execute an MOA pursuant to 36 CFR § 800.6 or (b) request, take into account, and respond to the comments of the ACHP under 36 CFR § 800.7. USCG shall notify the signatories as to the course of action it will pursue.

Execution of this MOA by the USCG, SHPO, and ACHP, and implementation of its terms evidence that USCG has met all responsibilities under the National Historic Preservation Act for this undertaking and has taken into account the effects of this undertaking on historic properties and afforded the ACHP an opportunity to comment.

SIGNATORIES:

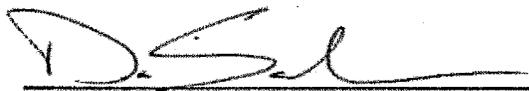
UNITED STATES COAST GUARD

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Date: 20 Jul 2014

James K. Ingalsbe, Captain
Chief, Office of Civil Engineering, Commandant (CG-43)

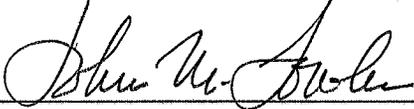
NEW JERSEY HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE



Date: 7/21/2014

Daniel Saunders
New Jersey Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

ADVISORY COUNCIL ON HISTORIC PRESERVATION



Date: 7/22/14

John M. Fowler, Executive Director

CONCURRING SIGNATORY:

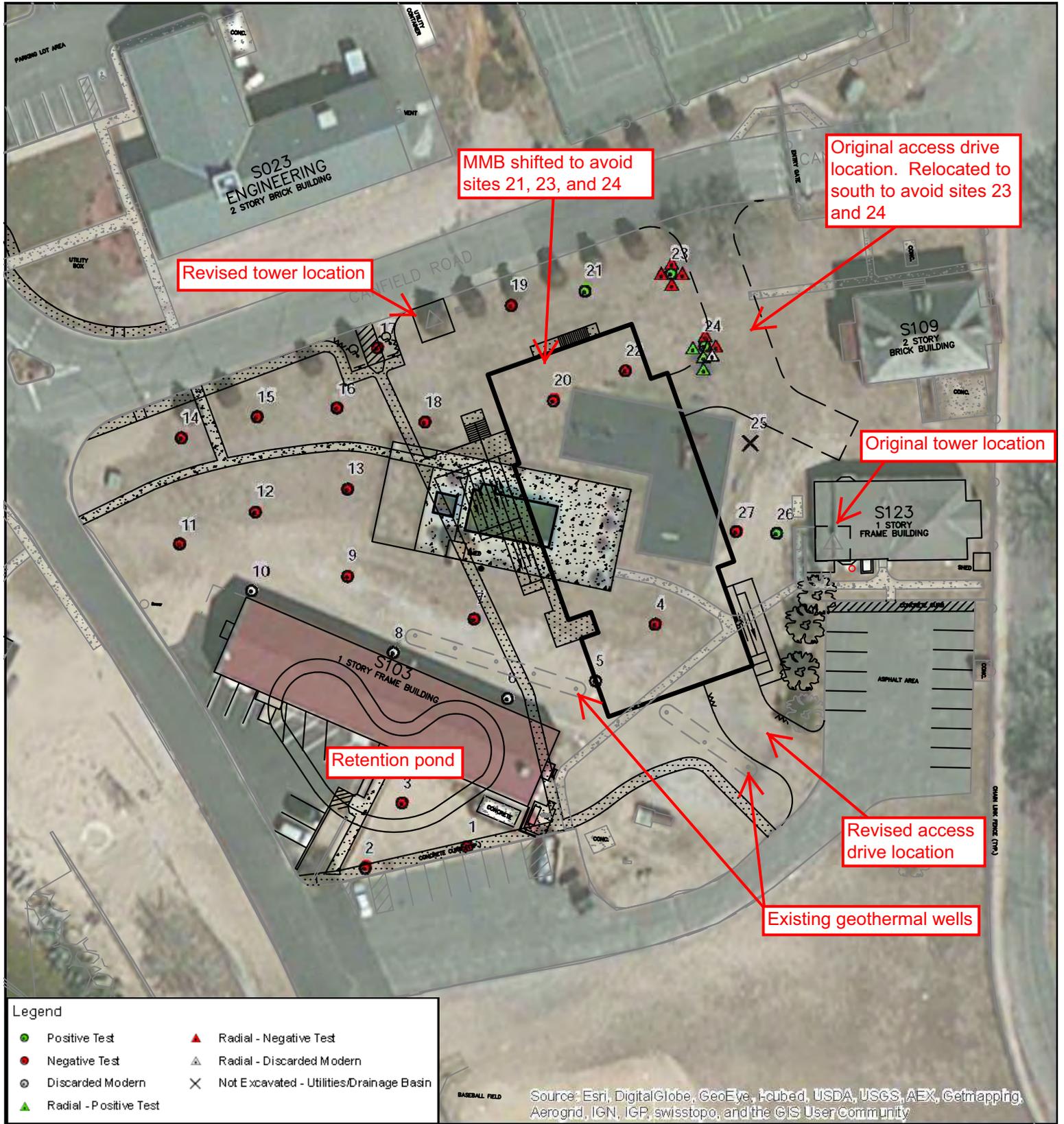
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

M. Gerbauckas

Date: 07-21-14

Maryanne Gerbauckas, Associate Regional Director, Resource Stewardship
Northeast Region

Appendix A: Site plan with revised MMB and Communications Tower locations



Appendix F
Public Involvement

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY
Final Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact
Hurricane Sandy Proposed Recapitalization Project
Rebuild USCG Station Sandy Hook, New Jersey

The US Coast Guard (USCG) proposes to construct a new Multi-Mission Building, Boat Maintenance Facility, and Small Arms Firing Range (SAFR), and dredge and reconstruct the waterfront area, at Station Sandy Hook, New Jersey. The USCG would also demolish existing structures including the non-historic Boathouse, non-historic Building #103 (Former Exchange/ESD Building), the historic Building #123 (Former Recreation Building), the non-historic Station Building, the non-historic SAFR, and twenty-two non-historic Borough Housing Units. The 2013 Disaster Assistance Supplemental Act (P.L. 113-2) appropriated funds to rebuild USCG shore facilities damaged by Hurricane Sandy in October 2012 and to prevent damage from future storms by replacing damaged facilities with those that are hurricane and flood resilient. The Coast Guard has prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) that evaluates the Proposed Action and the No Action Alternative, and provides information and comparative analyses. Based on the analysis in the EA, the Coast Guard has issued a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the proposed action. The final EA, including public and agency comments, and the FONSI, are available for review online at <http://www.uscg.mil/d5/PublicNotices.asp>, or copies may be requested from Lynn Keller, US Coast Guard, SILC EMD, 1301 Clay St., Suite 700N, Oakland, CA 94612-5203, or by email at Lynn.M.Keller@uscg.mil.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice of Availability of the Draft Environmental Assessment

Hurricane Sandy Proposed Recapitalization Project
Rebuild USCG Station Sandy Hook, New Jersey

Interested persons are hereby notified that the United States Coast Guard (USCG) has prepared an environmental assessment (EA) to rebuild critical shore facilities at Station Sandy Hook, New Jersey, pursuant to the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, the President's Council on Environmental Quality Regulations (40 CFR parts 1500-1508), and the Coast Guard's NEPA implementing procedures (COMDTINST M16475.1D). The 2013 Disaster Assistance Supplemental Act (P.L. 113-2) appropriated funds to rebuild USCG shore facilities damaged by Hurricane Sandy in October 2012 and to prevent damage from future storms by replacing damaged facilities with those that are hurricane and flood resilient.

Proposed Action: The USCG proposes to:

- Demolish the existing non-historic Boathouse and replace with a new Boat Maintenance Facility in the same location as the existing Boathouse;
- Demolish the existing non-historic Building #103 (Former Exchange/ESD Building);
- Demolish the existing historic Building #123 (Former Recreation Building), which is a contributing structure to the Fort Hancock and Sandy Hook Proving Ground National Historic Landmark District;
- Demolish the existing non-historic Station Building and replace with a new Multi-Mission Building located in the area of the existing Building #103 and Building #123 structures;
- Demolish the existing non-historic Small Arms Firing Range (SAFR), which was constructed on top of and around the historic Casemate Structure 541, in a way that shall not damage the historic casemate structure;
- Construct a new SAFR in the area of the former Sycamore Circle Housing Units and playground, which were demolished immediately following Hurricane Sandy;
- Demolish twenty-two non-historic Borough Housing Units;
- Dredge and reconstruct the waterfront area.

The USCG has consulted with the State Historic Preservation Officer to avoid and/or mitigate adverse effects on historic properties at the site and a Memorandum of Agreement has been executed.

The Draft EA describes the need for the project, the alternatives, and the environmental impacts of the alternatives. The Draft EA also contains a comparative analysis of the alternatives, a statement of the environmental significance of the impacts of the alternatives, and a list of the agencies and persons consulted during EA preparation. The Draft EA will serve as a concise public document to briefly provide sufficient evidence and analysis for determining the need to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) or a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI).

The Draft EA is available for comment and can be viewed and downloaded from the USCG's website at <http://www.uscg.mil/d5/PublicNotices.asp>. A paper copy of the Draft EA is available for review at the Middletown Township Public Library located at 55 New Monmouth Road, Middletown, NJ, 07748, during normal business hours (Monday through Thursday 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., and Saturday 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.).

The comment period for the Draft EA will end 15 days after the initial notice publication date of August 17, 2014. Written comments on the Draft EA may be submitted no later than August 30, 2014, via USPS mail, fax, or electronic mail to:

Lynn Keller, EI, PMP
Project Manager
Environmental Protection Specialist
USCG SILC EMD (det) Oakland
1301 Clay Street, Suite 700N
Oakland, CA 94612
510-637-5513 (fax)
Lynn.M.Keller@uscg.mil

AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

Publisher's Fee \$126.00 Affidavit \$35.00

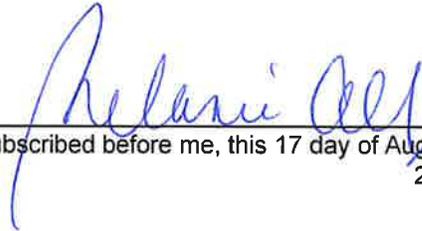
**State of New Jersey } SS.
Monmouth/Ocean Counties**

Personally appeared 

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08/17/14 A.D 2014




Sworn and subscribed before me, this 17 day of August, 2014

Ad Number: 0000060975

Kathleen A. Gibson
Notary Public State of New Jersey
My Commission Expires Dec. 18, 2014

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Assessment Hurricane Sandy Proposed Recapitalization Project Rebuild USCG Station Sandy Hook, New Jersey

The United States Coast Guard (USCG) intends to prepare an environmental assessment (EA) for the proposal to rebuild shore facilities at Station Sandy Hook, New Jersey, pursuant to the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, the President's Council on Environmental Quality Regulations (40 CFR parts 1500-1508), and the Coast Guard's NEPA implementing procedures (COMDTINST M16475.1D). The EA will also fulfill the requirement for project review under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (36 CFR Part 800). The 2013 Disaster Assistance Supplemental Act (P.L. 113-2) appropriated funds to rebuild USCG shore facilities damaged by Hurricane Sandy in October 2012 and to prevent damage from future storms by replacing damaged facilities with those that are hurricane and flood resilient.

Proposed Action: The USCG proposes to repair and rebuild structures at the waterfront at USCG Station Sandy Hook, including repairs or replacement of the wharf, piers, breakwaters, floating docks, groin, utilities, and boat ramp to return them to pre-Hurricane Sandy conditions. The boat basin will also be dredged. The existing non-historic Multi-Mission Station Building (MMB) will be demolished and a new storm-resistant MMB will be constructed. A new Boat Maintenance Facility (BMF) will be constructed and the existing non-historic BMF will be demolished. The existing Small Arms Firing Range (SAFR) will be demolished and a new indoor SAFR constructed. The new SAFR will include space for administrative functions, classroom space, toilet/shower rooms, virtual range, ammunition/weapon storage, and facility support spaces. It will serve all USCG units located in the Sector New York Area of Operations (AOR) and will have the capacity to serve operational partners. Damaged non-historic housing units may also be demolished. Building 103 (Exchange/ESD) is also proposed for demolition to allow room for new construction. USCG will consult with the State Historic Preservation Officer to avoid and/or mitigate adverse effects on historic properties at the site. The Proposed Action includes options to construct additional housing and a combined Exchange and Community Center.

Alternatives will be evaluated by the USCG in the EA, including the No Action Alternative and the above-described Proposed Action. The USCG may consider other reasonable alternatives identified during the public scoping process.

The EA will describe the need for the project, the alternatives, and the environmental impacts of the alternatives. The EA will also contain a comparative analysis of the alternatives, a statement of the environmental significance of the impacts of the alternatives, and a list of the agencies and persons consulted during EA preparation. The EA will serve as a concise public document to briefly provide sufficient evidence and analysis for determining the need to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) or a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI).

Public Scoping Period: The Coast Guard is seeking public input on the scope of environmental issues to be addressed in the EA. Please submit your written comments by October 20, 2013, via USPS mail, fax, or electronic mail to:

Lynn Keller, EI, PMP
Project Manager
Environmental Protection Specialist
USCG SILC EMD (det) Oakland
1301 Clay Street, Suite 700N
Oakland, CA 94612
510-637-5513 (fax)
Lynn.M.Keller@uscg.mil

OTHER HEADINGS

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Hurricane Sandy Proposed Recapitalization Project
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(\$126.00)

Affidavit of Publication

Publisher's Fee \$112.50 Affidavit \$35.00

State of New Jersey

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Monmouth/Ocean Counties

Personally appeared

Anna Pugliese

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10/06/13

Kathleen A. Gibson

Notary Public State of New Jersey

My Commission Expires Dec. 18, 2014

A.D. 2013

Kathleen A. Gibson

Notary Public of New Jersey

[Signature]
Sworn and subscribed before me, this
8 day of October, 2013

OTHER HEADINGS

PUBLIC NOTICE

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Proposed Action: The USCG proposes to repair and rebuild structures at the waterfront at USCG Station Sandy Hook, including repairs or replacement of the wharf, piers, breakwaters, floating docks, groin, utilities, and boat ramp to return them to pre-Hurricane Sandy conditions. The boat basin will also be dredged. The existing non-historic Multi-Mission Station Building (MMB) will be demolished and a new storm-resistant MMB will be constructed. A new Boat Maintenance Facility (BMF) will be constructed and the existing non-historic BMF will be demolished. The existing Small Arms Firing Range (SAFR) will be demolished and a new indoor SAFR constructed. The new SAFR will include space for administrative functions, classroom space, toilet/shower rooms, virtual range, ammunition/weapon storage, and facility support spaces. It will serve all USCG units located in the Sector New York Area of Operations (AOR) and will have the capacity to serve operational partners. Damaged non-historic housing units may also be demolished. Building 103 (Exchange/ESD) is also proposed for demolition to allow room for new construction. USCG will consult with the State Historic Preservation Officer to avoid and/or mitigate adverse effects on historic properties at the site. The Proposed Action includes options to construct additional housing and a combined Exchange and Community Center.

Alternatives will be evaluated by the USCG in the EA, including the No Action Alternative and the above-described Proposed Action. The USCG may consider other reasonable alternatives identified during the public scoping process.

The EA will describe the need for the project, the alternatives, and the environmental impacts of the alternatives. The EA will also contain a comparative analysis of the alternatives, a statement of the environmental significance of the impacts of the alternatives, and a list of the agencies and persons consulted during EA preparation. The EA will serve as a concise public document to briefly provide sufficient evidence and analysis for determining the need to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) or a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI).

Public Scoping Period: The Coast Guard is seeking public input on the scope of environmental issues to be addressed in the EA. Please submit your written comments by October 20, 2013, via USPS mail, fax, or electronic mail to:
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