

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-2102

December 5, 2011

The Honorable Barbara Boxer
Chairman
Senate Committee on the Environment
And Public Works
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable James Inhofe
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on the Environment
And Public Works
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Boxer and Ranking Member Inhofe:

I am writing in support of Massachusetts projects for the Water Resources Development Act. I recognize the Committee is reviewing many projects, and greatly appreciate your assistance with the following requests that are of significant importance to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

I've reviewed the following requests and believe them to be of importance to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts:

Project name: Beaver Brook Section 205 Program Project Study

Location: Lowell, Massachusetts

Estimated Cost: \$250,000

Purpose: This funding would be used to conduct a feasibility study of the Beaver Brook to develop construction options. This brook does have sufficient flow to meet the minimum standard for Corps construction involvement.

Project name: Black Brook Technical Assistance Study

Location: Lowell, Massachusetts

Estimated Cost: \$75,000

Purpose: In March, 2010, this brook backed up and produced flooding to surrounding residences. This request is for a Technical Assistance Study through the Flood Plain Management Services Program (FPMS) or other federal funding source. An output of this assessment would be a list of alternatives the City could take to mitigate area flooding.

Project name: Canapitsit (Barges Beach)

Location: Cuttyhunk Island, Town of Gosnold, Massachusetts

Estimated Cost: \$4,000,000

Purpose: This funding would be used to protect the adjacent Federal channel. The Federal channel now provides the only means of access to and from Cuttyhunk Island (the Town of Gosnold's local government seat) for delivery of critical material and equipment – including food and oil (which is used as fuel for heat, electricity, and to power water supply pumps). Air service to this area has been recently discontinued.

Project name: Clay Pit Brook Technical Assistance Study

Location: Lowell, Massachusetts

Estimated Cost: 75,000

Purpose: This request is for a Technical Assistance Study of the Clay Pit Brook. An output of this assessment would be a list of alternatives the City could take to reduce the occurrences of floods.

Project name: Hoosic River Revival

Location: North Adams, MA

Estimated Cost: \$1 million

Purpose: The goal of this project is to use the naturalization of the Hoosic River, much of which is now channelized in concrete chutes, as a catalyst for community revitalization in the City of North Adams.

Project name: Lake Maspenock Dam Repair

Location: Hopkinton, MA

Estimated Cost: \$1.6 million

Purpose: The funding would be used to repair the Lake Maspenock Dam which is an earthen embankment dam with a hydraulic height of approximately 16 feet and a maximum structural height of approximately 18 feet. The dam impounds water along the Mill River to form an elongated impoundment that extends across the town/county line into Hopkinton, Middlesex County, Massachusetts. It is currently classified as a large sized, High (Class1) hazard potential dam.

Project name: Lower Quequechan River Rehabilitation

Location: Fall River, Massachusetts

Estimated Cost: \$30,000,000

Purpose: The proposed project involves the planning, design and construction for the rehabilitation of the lower Quequechan River. Portions of the lower river are culverts from the 1800's that restrict the flow volume of the river. The historic storms of March 2010 resulted in significant and dramatic damage to property in Fall River and Westport in part due to the insufficient flow capacity of the lower Quequechan River. Rehabilitation and expansion of the lower Quequechan River would increase the peak flow capacity of the river to improve the pond and river management and protect the abutting communities of Fall River and Westport.

Project name: Monatiquot River dredging

Location: Braintree, MA

Estimated Cost: \$2,000,000

Purpose: Braintree has a great need to maintain the navigational capacity in the Weymouth Fore River in the area between the Braintree Yacht Club and the Metropolitan Yacht Club. The Braintree Harbormaster reports that passing through this area is becoming increasingly difficult. As it is the only access from Braintree to Boston Harbor, losing navigational ability would effectively cut Braintree off from water access to the Harbor.

Project name: National Sustainable Rivers Program

Location: Nationwide

Estimated Cost: \$50,000,000

Purpose: The purpose of this program is to improve the health of tens of thousands of river miles and millions of acres of habitat across the nation by using science to help guide adjustments to the operation of dams and other water control structures and restore associated floodplains to better protect water quality, fish and wildlife, and habitat while preserving other benefits to society such as flood protection, hydroelectric power, water supply, and recreation. The program will help the USACE meet its Congressionally-authorized mission in ecosystem restoration and enhance the effectiveness of other public investments in environmental and natural resource health made through the Clean Water Act, Endangered Species Act, and local, state, and federal parks, wildlife refuges, and fisheries management.

Project name: North Atlantic Coastal and Marine Management Plan

Location: Entire North Atlantic Region including MA

Estimated Cost: \$25,000,000

Purpose: The proposed request would provide authority for the Corps' North Atlantic Division to a) complete a Coastal & Marine Management Plan for essential ecosystem restoration needs in the North Atlantic region and b) implement the Plan's top priority projects.

Project name: Pine Tree Brook Restoration Project

Location: Milton, Norfolk County

Estimated Cost: \$650,000

Purpose: This project would restore the capacity and water quality of the Pine Tree Brook by removing an additional 2,000 cubic yards of sediment and failing channel walls, providing a safer environment not only for wildlife and residents in Milton, but all those living in or around Boston Harbor.

Project name: Preparation of Plans and Specifications for Repair of Newburyport Harbor (MA) North Jetty

Location: Newburyport Harbor (MA), Salisbury, Essex County, MA

Estimated Cost: \$100,000

Purpose: The purpose of the project is to develop plans and specifications for repairs to the North Jetty that protects the Merrimack River entrance to Newburyport Harbor in Salisbury, MA.

Project name: Route 16 / Hopping Brook Flooding

Location: Holliston, MA

Estimated Cost: \$500,000

Purpose: The requested funding is for flood remediation at a property located downstream of the confluence of Cedar Swamp Brook and Hopping Brook in Holliston Massachusetts. These two stream systems are located within a vast protected watershed area known as the Charles River Natural Valley Storage Area (CRNVSA) comprised of over 8,000 acres of land acquired by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to preserve and protect the natural flood storage capacity of the wetlands. The frequency and the severity of recent rain events over the past several years has exacerbated flooding along all low lying areas in this location.

Project name: Scituate Foreshore Protection Repairs

Location: Scituate, MA

Estimated Cost: \$6,231,000

Purpose: The purpose of constructing foreshore protection repairs is to ensure damaged seawalls and stone revetments are returned to a structurally sound condition and function as they should to protect public and private property, town roadways and utilities located along the shoreline from storm damage.

Project name: Town Brook Enhancement Project

Location: Quincy, Massachusetts

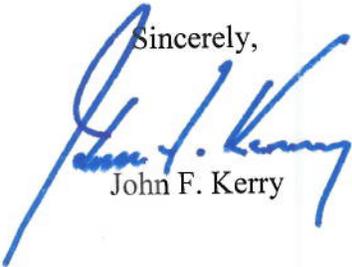
Estimated Cost: \$21,550,000

Purpose: The requested funding would go towards enhancements to the Town Brook that include: enhanced hydraulic conveyance and flood control of Town Brook; additional open channel/day-lit sections with adjacent public open space; and enhanced and expanded smelt habitat and spawning areas. In addition, it will benefit from cost effective construction through coordination with on-going construction activities on land already controlled by the City of Quincy.

I certify that neither I nor my immediate family has a pecuniary interest in the congressionally directed spending items that I have requested, consistent with the requirements of paragraph 9 of Rule XLIV of the Standing Rules of the Senate. I further certify that I have posted a description of the items requests on my official website, along with the accompanying justification.

I appreciate your consideration of these projects.

Sincerely,



John F. Kerry