



**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY**  
MOBILE DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
P.O. BOX 2288  
MOBILE, ALABAMA 36628-0001

DEC 03 1993

REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF:

Plan Development Section  
Planning and Environmental  
Division

Honorable H. L. "Sonny" Callahan  
2970 Cottage Hill Road  
Suite 126  
Mobile, Alabama 36606

Dear Mr. Callahan:

This is in response to your letter of November 19, 1993, a copy of which is enclosed for your ready reference. The enclosures to your letter were copies of letters from Mayor Mel Lucas, Town of Dauphin Island, to me and to the Dauphin Island Park and Beach Board expressing concern about our use of stone revetment to protect the public fishing pier on Dauphin Island. A copy of my response to Mayor Lucas is also enclosed.

Planning and engineering for the project to protect the fishing pier were accomplished under the authority of Section 14 of the Flood Control Act of 1946, as amended. This authority allows the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to construct emergency shoreline protection projects, but the maximum Federal investment is limited to \$500,000. In the course of our investigation a number of information meetings were held with various interests on Dauphin Island to familiarize local residents about what we had been asked to do by the Park and Beach Board and what the only viable solution was, given the funding limitations.

The Main Beach Park and the fishing pier, which our project will protect, are administered by the Dauphin Island Park and Beach Board. The operation and preservation of this public property, therefore, is the responsibility of the Park and Beach Board, not the Town of Dauphin Island. Despite his protests, Mayor Lucas has offered no financial assistance for any other plan which might meet his approval.

D-FP-Subject File

The funding for the required non-Federal share of the project cost was obtained from the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs (ADECA) by the Park and Beach Board. We understand that the Board, with further assistance from ADECA, plans to provide public access to the beach a short distance west of the pier. The beach in the vicinity of the pier is considered unsafe for public use because of a strong current that flows there and also because numerous sharp tree stumps have been exposed by erosion. The Board also administers roughly a mile of public beach west of the pier. The beach there is free of the stumps, does not experience as great a current, and is generally much more suitable for beach related recreation.

The erosion at the Main Beach Park is caused by the northward migration of Pelican Island which is forcing Pelican Passage, a channel which carries a significant portion of the ebb tidal outflow from Mobile Bay, into the shoreline of Dauphin Island. This phenomenon has occurred before during the past century. There was no alarm at that time, however, because Dauphin Island was undeveloped. At some point in the process, Pelican Island was breached, Pelican Passage swung southward into the breach, and that portion of Pelican Island north of the breach moved onshore to replace the eroded shoreline.

We estimate the economic life of the project at 15 years, based on the present rate of erosion. If the northward migration of Pelican Island has not stopped, alleviating the shoreline erosion, the bottom in the vicinity of the pier will have eroded to a depth such that the stone protection will no longer suffice and the pier will again be in danger of destruction. If, instead, Pelican Island is breached and Pelican Passage relocates, as it has in the past, the pier will still exist and the stone we place will, in all probability, be covered with sand.

If I can be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to call on me.

Sincerely,

Robert H. Griffin  
Colonel, Corps of Engineers  
District Engineer

Enclosures

Copy Furnished:

Honorable H. L. "Sonny" Callahan  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

CECW-P  
CESAD-PD  
DX

A: CALLAHAN, LTZ

BURDIN/MW/PD-FI

WILLIS/PD-FP

PD-F  
tnc for PD  
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DAD  
RE

GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1991-533-189  
FORM 2445  
CORRESPONDENCE CONTROL RECORD  
JAN 84

EDITION OF JUN 79 WILL BE USED.

SUBJECT NAME		30 NOV 1993	666
FROM		SUSPENSE DATE	NUMBER
SONNY CALLAHAN		DATE	TYPE
		19 NOV 1993	CONGRESSIONAL
		FILE DESIGNATION	
SUMMARY			
RE: DR. MEL LUCAS, MAYOR DAUPHIN ISLAND, AL			
TO	TO	TO	TO
DX	PD-FP		
DATE	DATE	DATE	DATE
22 Nov 1993	11/22		
REPLIED OR INDORSED TO		OTHER ACTION	
FILED (Place)			



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MOBILE DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
P.O. BOX 2288  
MOBILE, ALABAMA 36628-0001

23 November 1993

REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF:

Executive Office

Dr. Mel Lucas  
Mayor  
Town of Dauphin Island  
P. O. Box 610  
Dauphin Island, AL 36528

Dear Mayor Lucas,

I sincerely appreciate your concerns as expressed in your letter of November 16, 1993, regarding the rip-rap on the public beach at Dauphin Island. However, as was clearly stated at the information meetings held with various interests at Dauphin Island, rip-rap was the only economically, environmentally sound solution to saving the public fishing pier from collapse within the legal monetary limits we were authorized to use.

While you specifically indicated a strong disagreement with the rip-rap solution at several of the information meetings we held, at no time has the Town of Dauphin Island or any other entity offered to fund, or seek funds, to pay for the other possible solutions which could be developed but were beyond the legal monetary limits of our authority.

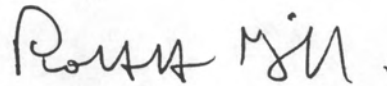
Our structural analysis indicated that the pier was in imminent danger of failure if the present erosion rate continued. The Dauphin Island Park and Beach Board, our local sponsor for this project, asked us to proceed in order to save the pier.

The purpose of the information meetings was to inform local residents, elected officials and other interested parties of what we had been asked to do by the Park and Beach Board and what the only viable solution was, given funding limits. These meetings were designed to provide the Park and Beach Board an understanding of the opinions of the above groups so they could make an informed decision as to whether to proceed with the project. The Park and Beach Board, with no other funding or assistance in sight, decided it was in the best interests of all concerned that the pier be saved.

You are correct in stating that some erosion will probably occur west of the pier area. However, by our analysis, this erosion will be minor and short term and accretion will begin again once the rip-rapped area has filled and settled in.

Again, I certainly appreciate your concern about the rip-rap solution. However, with some projects, decisions must be made based on sound engineering within a certain funding limit. The local sponsor, the Dauphin Island Park and Beach Board, looked, as we did, at all the options and realized that, with no additional funding assistance, this solution was the best way to save the pier.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert H. Griffin". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "R" and a distinct "H".

Robert H. Griffin  
Colonel, Corps of Engineers  
District Engineer



The Office of The Mayor  
Dr. Mel Lucas  
(205) 861-5525  
Fax: (205) 861-2154

November 16, 1993

Colonel Robert H. Griffin  
Corps Of Engineers  
Post Office Box 2088  
Mobile, AL 36628

Dear Colonel Griffin,

As Mayor of Dauphin Island, again I want to protest your decision to place rip-rap on our public beach.

You and your planning division held four or five meetings on Dauphin Island and I don't believe you had anyone, but, your planning division that ever considered rip-rap on the south beach. Were the "hearings" a farce? To me and others that was certainly the appearance. Your planning people had made a decision before the meeting - making it a total waste of everyone's time. Apparently, they only wanted to appear to fulfill the very legitimate need to involve the people affected in the decision. You failed miserably. Why did you have the meetings and waste our time?

Your planning division stated that the rip-rap would unequivocally cause more and worse erosion to the west of the pier and that the rip-rap was a "stop gap" solution. I still ask, why you're doing this?

You are destroying our public swimming beach because it is an easy way for you and not in the best interest for Dauphin Island and the State of Alabama. Many Alabamians will be denied the opportunity to use this beach.

I officially disapprove of what you are doing to the beach and demand that you reconsider.



**The Office of The Mayor**

Dr. Mel Lucas

(205) 861-5525

Fax: (205) 861-2154

November 17, 1993

Elizabeth Gebesen  
Member of Dauphin Island Park & Beach Board  
7241 Shiloh Drive  
Mobile, AL 36606

Henderson Young  
Member of Dauphin Island Park & Beach Board  
2761 Fountain Bleu South  
Mobile, AL 36606

John Smallwood  
Member of Dauphin Island Park & Beach Board  
Post Office Box 815  
Dauphin Island, AL 36528

Dear DIPBB Members,

In my capacity as Mayor of Dauphin Island and as a citizen of Dauphin Island, I once again want to state that your decision to place rip-rap on the public beach is a poor decision. You have taken the easy road with the Corp of Engineers to attempt to save the pier only. As we all know you are viewing the problem only to save the pier. What about the people of Alabama that need the beach for recreation? The extreme narrow view that you and the Corps have taken is broad on malicious neglect. What do you plan to do when the erosion moves down the beach as the Corps has already predicted it will do? Is the plan to put rocks all along the beach? Do you have a plan? Any thing you have done to date shows a lack of planning and short sightedness on your part. It shows that you do not have the interest of Dauphin Island or the citizens of Mobile County as a priority.

Maybe if the people of the Island and Mobile County knew what happens to the monies you make on the pier and how it benefits everyone, it would make more sense. As it is, it appears that your only interest is to make all the money you can



Members of Dauphin Island Park and Beach Board  
November 17, 1993  
Page Two

The Office of The Mayor  
Dr. Mel Lucas

on the pier without any regards for the needs or wishes of the people of Dauphin Island or the citizens of Mobile County and the State of Alabama.

Never in our lifetime (the next fifty years at least, as stated by the Corps) will we enjoy a public beach at Dauphin Island if you insist on the rocks on the public beach. Is this the legacy you wish to leave?

Sincerely,

Dr. Mel Lucas,  
Mayor

cc: Congressman Sonny Callahan  
2970 Cottage Hill Road  
Suite 126  
Mobile, AL 36606

Senator Steve Windom  
1 St. Louis Centre  
Suite 1000  
Mobile, AL 36602

Representative Taylor Harper  
Post Office Box 229  
Grand Bay, AL 36541