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

DEC 0 6 1993

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

Plan Development Section
Planning and Environmental
Division

Honorable Richard Shelby
United States Senator
113 St. Joseph Street
438 U.S. Courthouse
Mobile, Alabama 36602

Dear Senator Shelby:

This is in response to your letter of November 22, 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.

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.

PD-FP-SUBJECT FILE COPY

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 Richard Shelby
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

CECW-P
CESAD-PD
DX

A:SHELBY.LTI
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EDITION OF JUN 79 WILL BE USED.

	1 DEC 93 SUSPENSE DATE	671 NUMBER	
SUBJECT NAME	DATE	TYPE	
FROM	22 NOV 93 FILE DESIGNATION	CONC LTR	
RICHARD SHELBY MC			

SUMMARY

re: ltr from Mayor Mel Lucas regarding, placing rip-rap on the south beach of Dauphin Island

TO	TO	TO	TO	TO
DX	PD	PD-F		
DATE	DATE	DATE	DATE	DATE
24 Nov 93	11/24			
REPLIED OR INDORSED TO	FILED (Place)	OTHER ACTION		

DOUGLAS M. WICKS, PRESIDENT
LIVETH M. ARCHER, COMMISSIONER
JAMES L. "JIM" MASON, COMMISSIONER

W. C. HELVESTON
ADMINISTRATOR
DOUGLAS L. MODLING
DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR

MOBILE COUNTY COMMISSION
POST OFFICE BOX 1443 MOBILE, ALABAMA 36633

January 23, 1987

Mr. Mike Henderson
Dauphin Island Park & Beach Board
P. O. Box 97
Dauphin Island, Alabama 36528

Dear Mr. Enderson:

Enclosed is copy of a letter from the Governor of Alabama authorizing the creation of the Dauphin Island Park and Beach Board.

Yours very truly,

W. C. HELVESTON
Administrator

WCH/bw

Enclosure

STATE OF ALABAMA

EXECUTIVE OFFICE

MONTGOMERY

GORDON PERSONS
GOVERNOR

January 25, 1954

Mr. E. C. Doody
Administrative Assistant
Revenue and Road Commissioners
Mobile, Alabama

Dear Mr. Doody:

Thank you for your letter of January 22nd, enclosing certified copy of resolutions adopted by the Board of Revenue at the meeting on January 12th, creating the Dauphin Island Park and Beach Board and naming the trustees to the Board.

I am delighted to approve the action of the Board as set out in the resolutions.

Sincerely

Gordon Persons

GORDON PERSONS

GP:S

Dauphin Island Park and Beach Board

P. O. Box 97 • Dauphin Island, Alabama 36528 • 205-861-3607

Elizabeth A. Gebsen (Chairman)
John E. Smallwood (Member)
Henderson Young (Member)
Michael Henderson (Executive Director)

April 14, 1993

N.D. McClure Iv
Chief, Planning &
Evironmental Division

Dear Chief McClure,

I have recently received the detailed Section 14 Project report entitled Dauphin Island Shoreline, Alabama. I feel it is an excellent study, but I did notice a few items which should be changed.

On page 3 estimated value of improvements to the main beach site (pier, bathrooms, pavilions, etc.) is given as $600,000.00. We feel the replacement cost of all facilities should be closer to $800,000.00.

On page 5, item 12, it states the bathhouse has had to be closed to the public due to the increasing loss of dune support. This was correct, but due to the large number of visitors to this site, we decided to re-open the bathrooms this spring. The situation is being constantly monitored, and may well result in closing them again, but at this time they are being provided to the public.

On page 14, under "cost sharing", it states the 25% local match will be $63,250.00. I believe this is the match for the east end project and instead should be $115,275.00.

Finally, just for the record, I must restate my belief that there is evidence of Corps responsibility for some of our erosion problems in this area due to the dredging of the Mobile Ship Channel. This is not the forum for arguing this case, but I feel I should add this point.

In conclusion, I feel it is an excellent study and wish to thank your office for all their hard work.

Yours truly,

Michael H. Henderson
Executive Director

MHH/jg

Dauphin Island Park and Beach Board

P. O. Box 97 • Dauphin Island, Alabama 36528 • 205-861-3607

Elizabeth A. Gebsen (Chairman)
John E. Smallwood (Member)
Henderson Young (Member)
Michael Henderson (Executive Director)

April 14, 1993

N.D. McClure IV
Chief, Planning &
Evironmental Division

Dear Chief McClure,

This letter is in response to the Detailed Section 14 Project Report involving the east end of Dauphin Island. For the record, I have examined this report and am not aware of errors or misstatements.

We would again like to thank you and your staff for all the hard work.

Yours truly,

Michael H Henderson
Executive Director

MHH/jg

Dauphin Island Park and Beach Board

P. O. Box 97 • Dauphin Island, Alabama 36528 • 205-861-3607

Elizabeth A. Gebsen (Chairman)
John E. Smallwood (Member)
Henderson Young (Member)
Michael Henderson (Executive Director)

April 12, 1993

N. D. McClure IV
Cheif, Planning and
Enviromental Division
Department of the Army
Mobile District, Corps of Engineers
P. O. Box 2288
Mobile, Alabama 336628-001

Dear Cheif McClure,

The purpose of this letter is to assure your office we are doing all we can to provide the local match ($63,200.00) required as part of the Section 14 project protecting the east end of Dauphin Island and Historic Fort Gaines.

Although this effort has been ongoing since the earliest project cost were obtained, our situation has just recently become much more promising. I am now very optimistic these matching funds will be provided.

In conclusion, I'd like to thank your office again for doing all they can to assist us with these diffculties.

Yours truly,

Michael Henderson

MH:hg

Dauphin Island Park and Beach Board

P. O. Box 97 • Dauphin Island, Alabama 36528 • 205-861-3607

Elizabeth A. Gebsen (Chairman)
John E. Smallwood (Member)
Henderson Young (Member)
Michael Henderson (Executive Director)

April 12, 1993

N. D. McClure IV
Cheif, Planning and
Environmental Division
Department of the Army
Mobile District, Corps of Engineers
P. O. Box 2288
Mobile, Alabama 336628-001

Dear Cheif McClure,

The purpose of this letter is to assure your office we are doing all we can to provide the local match ($115,275.00) required as part of the Section 14 project protecting the Dauphin Island Pier and Beach bath house.

Although this effort has been ongoing since the earliest project cost were obtained, our situation has just recently become much more promising. I am now very optimistic these matching funds will be provided.

In conclusion, I'd like to thank your office again for doing all they can to assist us with these difficulties.

Yours truly,

Michael Henderson

MH:hg

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Dauphin Island Park and Beach Board

P. O. Box 97 • Dauphin Island, Alabama 36528 • 205-861-3607

Elizabeth A. Gebsen (Chairman)
C. M. Roberts (Member)
Gerald Kitchens (Member)
Michael Henderson (Executive Secretary)

August 5, 1992

Walter W. Burdin, P.E.
Corps of Engineers
P.O. Box 2288
Mobile, Al. 36628-0001

Dear Walter,

Thought I would touch base with you on our efforts toward the Non-Federal Match needed for the two Section 14 projects.

I have informed the town, the Property Owners Association and the Business Association of this situation. The Chairman of the Board and I have personally met with the Chairman of the Ways & Means Committee and other state legislators as well as the Govenor's representative. We also gave a personal tour of the main beach to some legislators and Adeca representatives. Finally we have submitted a written request for help to the State Legislature.

In all honesty Walter, I have no idea if these efforts will result in funding. As I mentioned to you earlier, the election of town officials is in August, and I'm sure no decisions will be made until these positions are settled.

We and others are also still trying to persuade Washington to provide this help.

In conclusion, I've been asked to invite a representative of your Section 14 team to attend the next meeting of the East End Committee. This group is composed of representatives of the town, Property Owners Ass., Adeca, etc. The meeting will be held Thursday 8/13 at 10:00 in the Sea Lab conference room. (Sea Lab is the educational facility just west of Fort Gaines.)

I hope you or a team member can attend.

Yours truly,

Michael H Henderson
Executive Director

MHH/jg