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U.S. Department of
Homeland Security

United States
Coast Guard



Commander
First Coast Guard District

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March 20, 2023

Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC)
Attn: Ms. Brona Simon
State Historic Preservation Officer
Executive Director
State Archaeologist
220 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, MA 02125-3314

CONCURRENCE:

4/21/23

Brona Simon
BRONA SIMON
STATE HISTORIC
PRESERVATION OFFICER
MASSACHUSETTS
HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Re: Proposed Finding of No Adverse Effect - Long Island Bridge Superstructure Replacement Project

Dear Ms. Simon:

This letter follows the Coast Guard's Consultation letter to your office dated June 30, 2022. Following public notice and consultation with the three consulting Tribes, the Coast Guard has made a proposed finding of no adverse effect for the Long Island Bridge Superstructure Replacement Project. This finding is based on the modification and conditions placed on the project by the City of Boston including the use of protective matting in the construction staging area to protect subsurface archaeological features which may be present and the completion of a Post-Review Discoveries Plan. The Coast Guard has conducted consultation with the Narragansett Indian Tribe, the Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head/Aquinnah and the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe and will stay in contact with these Tribes as the project progresses. Specifically, consultation with the Narragansett Indian Tribe resulted in a revised Post-Review Discoveries Plan that will be incorporated into the City's contract documents, which centers and prioritizes consultation with the Tribes, the preparation of a Land Acknowledgement, which will be provided to and discussed with construction supervisors and crews, and tribal monitors on site during construction on Long Island. The City has advised the Coast Guard that they intend to memorialize a Tribal Monitoring Agreement for the agreed-upon construction-period monitoring.

As stated in the Coast Guard's consultation letter of June 30, 2022, the Coast Guard has determined that the proposed Area of Potential Effect (APE) describes

the geographic area within which the undertaking may directly or indirectly affect historic properties. On June 28, 2022, The Public Archaeology Laboratory, Inc. (PAL) forwarded to your office the Revised Technical Report, Archaeological Site Examination Long Island Marsh Locus 5 Site, Long Island Bridge Superstructure Replacement Project ("Revised Report"). The Revised Report includes a map of the proposed APE (enclosed). The proposed APE is an approximately 22,500 square-foot area at the western end of Long Island, inclusive of the entire footprint of construction activities, which includes the limits of grading, placement of compost filter tubes, and the excavation associated with installation of storm water treatment and infiltration structures. The proposed APE also includes the entire area proposed for temporary access and staging of equipment and materials during construction.

In July of 2021, PAL conducted a site investigation which included the machine-assisted excavation of one hundred percent of the Limits of Excavation to the depth at which cultural materials would not be present (natural sterile C soils). The City offered tribal monitoring agreements to all of the Consulting Tribes, and the City entered into a tribal monitoring agreement with the Narragansett Indian Tribe. During the July 2021 site investigation, monitors from the Narragansett Indian Tribe Historic Preservation Office were on site to monitor the machine-assisted excavation. As soon as a cultural feature became visible, machine-assisted excavation was halted, the feature was hand-cleaned and documented, and then the feature was excavated. The site investigation documented no evidence of burial features or interments.

On August 31, 2022, the Coast Guard issued a Public Notice soliciting comments on the adverse effects of the project on historic properties. Comments received were positive in support of the project as modified and conditioned with the exception of objections received from the Chaubunagungamaug Nipmuck Tribe, the Munsee-Delaware Nation, the Muhheconneuk Intertribal Committee on Deer Island, the Abenaki Council of Odanak, the Abenaki Council of Wolinak, the Herring Pond Wampanoag Tribe, and the Penobscot Nation. The comments from the Muhheconneuk Intertribal Committee on Deer Island, the Herring Pond Wampanoag Tribe, and the Penobscot Nation were submitted after the public comment period closed on October 17, 2022, but the comments were still considered by the Coast Guard and are included in the documentation of this finding. The objecting Tribes and organizations requested identification of the

exact sites where native people were held and buried on the entirety of Long Island dating to the year 1600 be made before the Coast Guard makes a finding regarding adverse effect of the specific project. The Coast Guard does not agree with the requested approach and believes the Area of Potential Effect of the project is properly identified. The requested approach requires the Coast Guard to review future projects that are not before the Coast Guard and are beyond the Coast Guard's scope of review for this specific proposed project. Even though it is outside the scope of the Coast Guard's review, the City has represented that it will engage with Native American Tribes in advance of any other projects undertaken by the City on Long Island as part of the City's efforts to reopen the existing public health facilities on Long Island.

The proposed finding is forwarded for your review in accordance with 36 CFR 800.5(c). Should you have questions regarding this letter, or the documentation submitted please contact me at 516-241-5152 or Senior Bridge Management Specialist Jeffrey Stieb at the number above.

Sincerely,

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D. A. Fisher
Bridge Program Manager
U.S. Coast Guard
By direction

Enclosures:

Documentation for Finding of No Adverse Effect (33 CFR 800.11(e))
Area of Potential Effect Map, Figure 1-3
Coast Guard Public Notice – Section 106

Copy:

John Brown, THPO, Narragansett Indian Tribe
Bettina Washington, THPO, Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head/Aquinnah
David Weeden, THPO, Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe
Para Jayasinghe, City of Boston
Paul Sneeringer, USACE
Coast Guard Sector Boston