

E&R 2013-01

Resolution to Use Compensatory Mitigation Funds to Build a Breakwater at Dyke Marsh

WHEREAS, the U.S. National Park Service (NPS) announced on March 27, 2013, a proposed agreement with Ronald Reagan National Airport under which the airport may provide \$2.5 million for the first phase of Dyke Marsh restoration;

WHEREAS, NPS is seeking public comments on the proposed agreement until April 25 at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/projectHome.cfm?projectID=45963> ;

WHEREAS, these funds would represent compensatory mitigation for 1.94 acres of impacts of an airport runway extension required to meet Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) safety standards;

WHEREAS, the mitigation funds would be used to construct a breakwater in the southern part of Dyke Marsh to replace the historic promontory that was removed by dredging between 1940 and 1972;

WHEREAS, a restored promontory can protect the marsh, encourage accretion and deposition of sediment, increase buffering from storms and flooding and restore ecosystem services, and can enhance the success of additional phases of restoration by stabilizing this part of the eroding shoreline;

WHEREAS, the destabilized marsh is losing 1.5 to 2 acres a year to erosion and at that rate will be gone in 30-40 years;

WHEREAS, the Mount Vernon Council of Citizens' Associations voted on June 27, 2012, to support full restoration of Dyke Marsh, with a caveat to retain the marina concession and mooring field (E&R 2012-03);

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Mount Vernon Council of Citizens Associations supports the use of compensatory mitigation funds from runway expansion at Ronald Reagan National Airport to construct a breakwater and restore the southern promontory to protect Dyke Marsh.