



East Ocean View Civic League
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Senator Tim Kaine
231 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

October 11, 2023

2024 Federal Funding to Renourish Ocean View Beach in Norfolk VA

This letter is in reference to significant beach erosion and damage to the dune system at the eastern edge of Ocean View Beach in Norfolk, VA that has occurred since the last complete Ocean View Beach renourishment in 2017 (Attachment 1). This scheduled event was the result of the US Army Corps of Engineers' (USACE) 50 year cost / benefit analysis (damages occurring / prevented) for beach renourishment and the model predicted the next renourishment effort would be necessary in 9 years (2026). However, based on current rates of erosion it is expected the eastern end of Ocean View Beach will be lost and the dune system will sustain extensive damage as to jeopardize life and property (Attachment 2) by 2026.

In the short-term (Oct - Nov 2023), the City of Norfolk is funding a stop-gap sand renourishment effort in the areas with significant beach erosion and dune scarping between 27th Bay St (East Beach) and the terminal groin (Bay Breeze Point). The USACE recognized a major contributor to the accelerated erosion is the Little Creek Inlet terminal groin / rock jetty as this barrier disrupts the natural movement of sand that would normally replenish the beach and decelerate erosion and dune scarping. However, since Federal funding for the Ocean View Beach renourishment is not available until 2026, the USACE can't update their 50 year erosion model to reflect actual conditions and develop a realistic long-term renourishment plan. In addition they can not begin the planning, coordination, or execution of any effort for Ocean View Beach prior to 2026.

According to the 2015 Project Partnership Agreement between the Department of the Army and the City of Norfolk, ARTICLE II - OBLIGATIONS OF PARTIES, *The Government shall undertake periodic renourishment as the Government, after consultation with the Non-Federal Sponsor, determines necessary and economically justified.* The USACE, Norfolk City and 228 concerned East Ocean View Civic League members all believe the renourishment is justified, but 2026 is too late. Our membership is requesting your immediate assistance to find funding and direct the USACE to expedite the required planning to complete the Ocean View Beach renourishment in 2024.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S Chamberlin".

Stephen Chamberlin
President, East Ocean View Civic League

Attachment 1 East Ocean View Beach 2017 - 2023
Attachment 2 East Ocean View Beach TS Ophelia