



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
NORFOLK DISTRICT
FORT NORFOLK
803 FRONT STREET
NORFOLK, VA 23510-1011

August 28, 2025

SUBJECT: Scope and Schedule Updates for the Peninsula Regional Coastal Storm Risk Management Feasibility Study

Open Letter to the Public

Dear Stakeholders:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Norfolk District, in partnership with our non-federal sponsors, the cities of Hampton and Poquoson, is providing an update about the Peninsula Regional Coastal Storm Risk Management (CSRM) feasibility study.

Initially, this study aimed to address coastal storm risk across the Virginia Peninsula, including the cities of Hampton, Newport News, Poquoson and Williamsburg, and James City and York counties. In compliance with Section 1001 of Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014, feasibility studies are initially scoped to a three-year duration and \$3 million budget. We recognized early that the broad study area would likely necessitate additional time and funding. Over the past year, your valuable input through workshops, meetings, and scoping sessions helped us define a comprehensive study and a range of potential CSRM measures.

We have since learned that the funding source for the feasibility study, the Disaster Relief Act of 2019 (DRA-19), directs the completion of feasibility studies with DRA-19 funds only. Additional funds available through DRA-19 is limited, preventing us from securing federal funding beyond the initial \$3 million allocated to the study.

Therefore, we are refocusing the study to nonstructural measures within the cities of Hampton and Poquoson, prioritizing areas most vulnerable to coastal storm risk. These measures include elevating homes and dry floodproofing nonresidential buildings and critical infrastructure. These measures can be implemented more quickly and with fewer environmental impacts than large-scale infrastructure projects. While nature-based solutions like living shorelines will not be included in this focused study, they would be a key consideration in the long-term CSRM strategy.

This focused approach allows us to deliver an initial recommended plan for Congressional authorization in a future Water Resources Development Act, while we continue to pursue funding for a broader, regional study. We understand this represents

a shift from the original plan. However, we believe this focused effort is a valuable first step toward addressing coastal storm risk in the region.

We remain committed to working with our non-federal partners, including municipalities, stakeholders, and community members, to ensure that coastal storm resiliency and human health and life safety remain top priorities. This study is just the beginning, and your continued engagement is vital. We encourage you to stay involved by attending future public meetings, reviewing project updates, and providing your feedback via our project email (PeninsulaCSRM@usace.army.mil).

Thank you for your continued engagement and support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michelle L. Hamor". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Michelle L. Hamor
Chief, Planning and Policy Branch