

The Honorable Maura Healey
Massachusetts State House.
Office of the Governor, Room 280
Boston, MA 02133

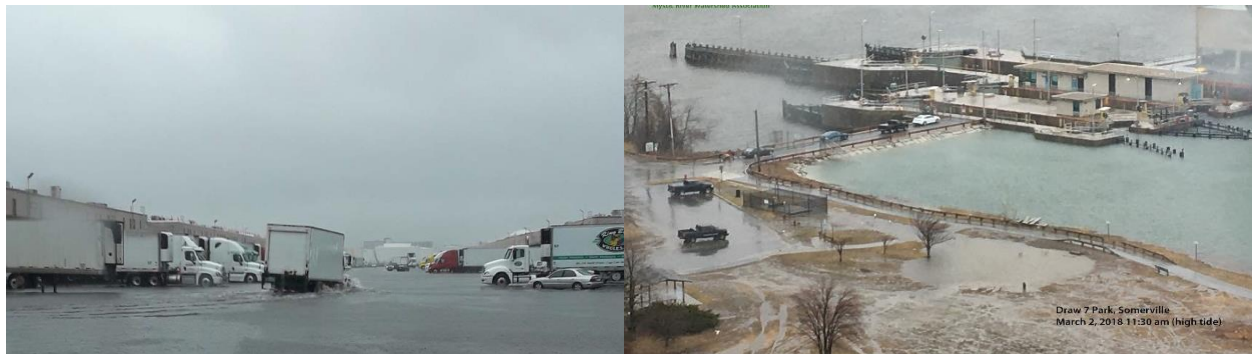
Cc:

February 17, 2023

Dear Governor Healey,

On behalf of the 21 municipalities and over 600,000 residents of the Mystic River Watershed, we the undersigned mayors and city and town managers urge you to **program into this year's capital plan** funding for local climate resilience projects earmarked in the Massachusetts Transportation and Climate (MassTRAC) legislation signed into law on August 10, 2022. These funds will **leverage over \$70 million in federal funding** to protect Greater Boston's infrastructure, residents, and businesses from coastal flooding.

Three projects earmarked in the MassTRAC legislation are critical to protecting our communities from coastal flooding. The record Nor'easters in 2018 flooded the New England Produce Center (left) in Chelsea and Everett and Draw 7 Park in Somerville with seawater and came within two feet of overtopping the Amelia Earhart Dam (right). According to Cambridge's Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment, the dam could be flanked as early as 2045 or overtopped as early as 2055 by storms similar in strength to the 2018 Nor'easters. These projects are part of a larger regional effort to protect over \$60 billion in property and 100,000 residents from harm from sea level rise and extreme coastal storms through 2070.



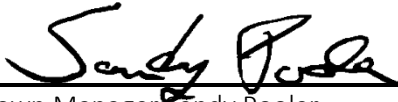
The three projects needing inclusion in the capital plan are:

- The **Amelia Earhart Dam** and adjacent **Draw 7 Park**, both owned by Mass DCR: engineering studies have found that the dam and adjacent park need to be elevated four feet to prevent coastal flood damage to upstream communities. Co-benefits include multi-modal transit connections between a new pedestrian bridge and the Assembly Row and a living shoreline. Elevating the dam is projected to cost approximately \$31 million; elevating and renovating Draw 7 cost is projected to cost \$13 million. We will apply for federal grants to cover approximately 50% of these costs. **Current year request: Please fund the draft Mass DCR capital budget for the Amelia Earhart Dam and Draw 7 Park as submitted.**

- **Island End River:** Forming the border between Everett and Chelsea, the Island End River represents a major flood pathway that already threatens the New England Produce center and other regional food distribution businesses. Co-benefits include a new river walk, restored wetland, and daylighting of formerly culverted sections of the river. Completing this project will cost \$50 million in federal grants and \$16.7 million in state funding to be used by the Cities of Everett and Chelsea. **Current year request: \$400,000 to match nearly \$4 million in secured grants to bring the project to the point of construction.**

We ask that you include these requests in your capital investment plan. We are committed to working with the Commonwealth to secure additional sources of funding in order to complete these critical projects. Attached are fact sheets with more information on these critical projects.

Sincerely,



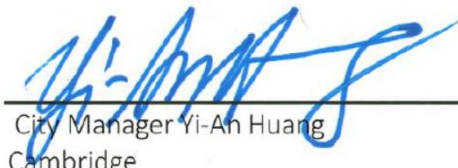
Town Manager Sandy Pooler
Arlington



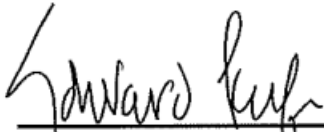
Mayor Katjana Ballantyne
Somerville




Mayor Breanna Lungo-Koehn
Medford



City Manager Yi-An Huang
Cambridge



Interim City Manager Edward Keefe
Chelsea



Mayor Carlo DeMaria
Everett



Mayor Gary Christenson
Malden