



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

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CHRIS CHRISTIE
Governor

KIM GUADAGNO
Lt. Governor

BOB MARTIN
Commissioner

March 12, 2013

Joseph Mancini, Mayor
Long Beach Township
6805 Long Beach Boulevard
Branch Beach, NJ 08008

Dear Mayor Mancini:

Thank you for your continued efforts to work toward the protection of our coastal communities by participating in the State's beach and dune replenishment program. A critical aspect of this program is obtaining necessary easements so that these projects can proceed. I am writing this letter to address certain issues you have raised that are concerns to some of your constituents regarding the issue of easements. In essence, some of your constituents have fears, based on past practices of the Department, that views will be blocked by growing dunes and that other activities will be allowed that may not be compatible with the nature of your community. Let me address each issue.

When beaches and dunes are constructed pursuant to the Army Corps of Engineers design, they afford a certain, defined degree of protection. It is the Department's policy that the size of both the beach and dune can and should be maintained at those levels. Toward this end the Department is developing regulations to allow municipalities to add or possibly remove sand from dunes consistent with the engineered design. To the extent that this policy would maintain views from properties, this policy should eliminate fears from property owners that dunes would be allowed to grow to heights above the design standard.

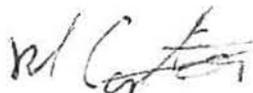
The other concerns you expressed stem from the Department's now repealed public access rules. Under the repealed rules a condition of receiving shore protection funding was the provision of bathrooms, parking, and access points at specific distances up and down the coast without regard to municipal character. As you know, the Department has since replaced these regulations with a more common sense approach, where we recognize the individual character of each community and the needs of the public from a regional perspective. Shore protection funding is no longer linked to public access requirements in the regulations. We no longer require bathrooms and parking every few blocks or access points every ¼ mile. Our new regulations will allow each

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municipality to develop its own plan, consistent with our policy goals and unique to its character. I know our staff has been working with you on developing a public access plan for your community. I look forward to completing this process.

I hope I have answered your questions and concerns and look forward to moving forward to ensuring the protection of our shore and its enjoyment by our residents. Please contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,



Ray Cantor,
Chief Advisor

C: Cindy Randazzo, Director, Local & Government Assistance