

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, BALTIMORE DISTRICT 2 HOPKINS PLAZA BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21201

January 6, 2023

SUBJECT: Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Request from R. Myers (FOIA Number FA-22-0028)

VIA EMAIL: randolphjmyers@gmail.com

Randolph J. Myers Member, Board of Directors Friends of Dyke Marsh c/o 8709 Stockton Parkway Alexandria, VA 22308

Dear Mr. Myers:

This letter serves to respond to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request dated August 29, 2022 wherein you requested the following records: "all comments, which includes any suggested alternatives, that have been submitted to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, on its Baltimore District's <u>Metropolitan Washington District of</u> <u>Columbia Coastal Storm Risk Management Feasibility Study, Draft Integrated Feasibility</u> <u>Report & Environmental Assessment</u> (May 2022), as to its proposed Belle Haven floodwall and levee."

The responsive records pursuant to your request are maintained by the Corporate Communications Office and Project Management Division (PPMD) of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Baltimore District. It is the policy of the Department of the Army to comply strictly with the FOIA, to respond promptly, and to act cooperatively. Accordingly, the Department provides the public with the maximum amount of accurate and timely information concerning its activities, recognizing there is a presumption in favor of disclosure under the FOIA. After careful consideration, I am granting your request, however, portions of the responsive records have been withheld pursuant to Exemption 6 of the FOIA, 5 U.S.C. §552 (b)(6).

Exemption 6 provides that disclosure of personal information in agency files are not required when it would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy. The determination under this exemption requires a balancing of the public's right to disclosure against an individual's right to privacy. *Judicial Watch, Inc. v. Department of the Army*, 402 F. Supp. 2d 241, 251 (D.D.C. 2005). In accordance with Exemption 6, I am withholding certain personal information from the records you requested. All the records responsive to your request in the possession of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District, are enclosed.

You are advised of your right to appeal this determination through this office to the Secretary of the Army (Attn: General Counsel). 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(6)(A)(i). Your appeal must be postmarked or electronically transmitted to email address <u>FOIA-NAB@usace.army.mil</u> within ninety (90) days of the date of this letter. The envelope containing the appeal should bear the notation, "Freedom of Information Act Appeal," and should be sent to the letterhead address, attention: CENAB-OC.

If you have any questions about your request and this office's response, please contact Margaret Boyd-Anderson, Paralegal Specialist at 410-962-1707. Please refer to FOIA Number FA-22-0028 in any subsequent correspondences pertaining to this matter.

For further assistance, you also have the right to contact the USACE FOIA Public Liaison or the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) to inquire about FOIA mediation services. The contact information is listed below.

USACE FOIA Public Liaison:

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers FOIA Public Liaison 441 G Street, NW ATTN: CECC-G Washington, DC 20314-1000 Email: <u>foia-liaison@usace.army.mil</u> Phone: 202-761-0511

OGIS:

Office of Government Information Services National Archives and Records Administration 8601 Adelphi Road College Park, MD 20740-6001 Email: ogis@nara.gov 202-741-5770 (phone) 877-684-6448 (toll free) 202-741-5769 (fax) ogis.archives.gov (website)

Sincerely,

FRANCINE C. DIGGS District Counsel

Enclosures