

February 6, 2024

The Honorable Kathy Hochul  
Governor of New York State  
NYS Capitol Building  
Albany, NY 12224

**RE: Downtown Montauk and Ditch Plains, Montauk**

Dear Governor Hochul,

On behalf of Concerned Citizens of Montauk (CCOM), the oldest and leading, not-for-profit 501(c)(3) environmental advocacy group in Montauk, I am writing to reinforce the urgent appeal from the Town of East Hampton (TOEH) and New York State officials for help at Ditch Plains, Montauk.

Ditch Plains beach, one of the east coast's most iconic destinations and a key engine of economic activity in Montauk, has been severely compromised by consecutive storms over the past few months, specifically from storm events on December 18, 2023, January 9–10, 2024, and January 12, 2024. Right now, these areas are at grave risk of catastrophic harm from future storms, and we are only halfway through the current winter season.

Since 1971, CCOM's mission has been to preserve and protect the unique environment and ecology of Montauk and our more than 3,200 members and supporters rely on us to do so. We express this concern on behalf of our community as a matter of utmost public safety requiring the remediation and repair of the Ditch Plains beach and dune.

We are grateful for your inclusion of downtown Montauk as a priority in your announcement of emergency funding in response to the devastation wrought by this winter's storms on Long Island and urge that you include Ditch Plains in the allocation of those funds. Our representatives at the local and state level have made the case to you both why this help is urgent, as delineated by East Hampton Town Supervisor Kathee Burke-Gonzalez in her letter to Assemblyman Fred Thiele dated January 26, and the letter from Assemblyman Thiele and State Senator Anthony Palumbo to your offices on February 5. Copies of both letters are attached for your reference.

We commend Supervisor Kathee Burke-Gonzalez for proactively evaluating the damage at Ditch Plains and working to produce a plan to address immediate and short-term needs at Ditch Plains, however, this will be an unexpected and substantial cost for them to undertake. We support the request for funding in the form of matching funds, from funds available from the



State Environmental Protection Fund or another state funding source. Authority for state participation exists under current state law pursuant to Articles 54 and 58 of the State Environmental Conservation Law.

Because of the immediate danger presented by this situation, we request and appreciate the immediate attention of your administration to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kay Tyler", is written over a light blue background.

**KAY TYLER**

Concerned Citizens of Montauk  
Executive Director

cc:     Kathee Burke-Gonzalez, Supervisor Town of East Hampton  
       David Freudenthal, CCOM Chairman of the Board