



TOWN OF EAST HAMPTON

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Assemblyman Thiele and Senator Palumbo Make Appeal to Governor Hochul for Matching Funds to Combat Coastal Erosion in Montauk

East Hampton Town, February 6, 2024 – New York State Assemblyman Fred Thiele and New York State Senator Anthony Palumbo have responded to the Town of East Hampton Supervisor Burke-Gonzalez’s urgent appeal for matching funds to spearhead critical beach restoration at Ditch Plain, Montauk by making a formal request to Governor Hochul on the Town’s behalf.

The pressing need for this financial support is a result of the recent storm events occurring on December 18, 2023, January 9 and 10, 2024, and January 12, 2024, which have inflicted severe damage to the beach. The current beach profile at Ditch Plain is non-existent and down to the hard pan. These funds would help combat climate change and increase coastal resiliency in one of the Town’s most vulnerable areas.

The primary objective of this request is to protect the neighborhood from flooding and to restore the beach and dunes for the 2024 summer season.

In their letter to Governor Hochul, Assemblyman Thiele and Senator Palumbo underscored the imminent threat to public safety and infrastructure caused by ongoing coastal erosion and storm impacts.

Members of the East Hampton Town Board continue to visit the area to assess the magnitude of the damage and the need for immediate remedial action. By Town Board resolution, they have enlisted the services of Dr. Henry Bokuniewicz, Distinguished Service Professor of Oceanography at Stony Brook University, and the Director of the Institute for Coastal Ocean Strategies to consult on renourishment plans. The Town Board has also retained Robert H. Fox dba Sea Level Mapping to survey the existing beach profile to determine the quantity of sand needed to restore the beach.

East Hampton Town Supervisor Kathee Burke-Gonzalez stated, “The Town Board is grateful for Assemblyman Thiele and Senator Palumbo’s response on the Town’s behalf, and we remain committed to working collaboratively with our government partners, Ditch Plain residents, and community organizations to achieve a swift and effective restoration of this beloved beach.”

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