

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS**  
STATE HOUSE • BOSTON, MA 02133  
(617) 725-4000

**CHARLES D. BAKER**  
GOVERNOR

**KARYN E. POLITO**  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

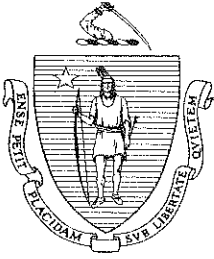
June 23, 2017

Dr. Russell Callander  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
National Ocean Service  
1305 East-West Highway  
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Dear Dr. Callender:

On behalf of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, I am writing to express my strong support for the Jones River Watershed Association's (JRWA) application to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) FY17 Coastal Resilience Grants Program. This proposal seeks to fund the next step in the Jones River Restoration: Head-of-Tide Dam Removal at Elm Street in Kingston, Massachusetts.

The proposed work at Elm Street will directly contribute to strengthening the resiliency of this coastal community with respect to climate-related hazards by removing vulnerable infrastructure and concurrently restoring valuable riverine habitat. Presently, my Executive Office of Environmental Affairs (EEA) is supporting the permitting and engineering design of this project through our Dam and Seawall Repair or Removal Grant Program, and my Division of Ecological Restoration has given Priority Project status to the dam removal and is working as an active partner. Assisting the Jones River through natural infrastructure improvements will help restore the fish of Massachusetts Bay that are so important to our fishing economy. With the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Pilgrim's landing in 1620, and the Jones River named for the Captain of the Mayflower, this is a great opportunity to advance restoration of this river that provided essential services to power the success of our Nation.



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS**  
STATE HOUSE • BOSTON, MA 02133  
(617) 725-4000

**CHARLES D. BAKER**  
GOVERNOR

**KARYN E. POLITO**  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

The removal of the Elm Street Dam will greatly enhance the resilience of the Kingston community, by eliminating the existing impacts of an obsolete dam and removing the future threat to public infrastructure from dam failure--a risk that increases with the frequency and intensity of precipitation and severity of storm-related events. Further, the removal of this head-of-tide dam will expand needed riparian wetlands, increasing the area's resiliency. When the bridge over the river was rebuilt in 2012 under the Accelerated Bridge Program, it was constructed intentionally to allow for future dam removal. The Commonwealth continues to support substantial infrastructure and water quality improvements at this important coastal river, and looks forward to achieving the complete removal of this significant impediment.

Several agencies within EEA work routinely in and around the Jones River to improve infrastructure, including Coastal Zone Management who has worked with the Town to improve stormwater discharges, Division of Marine Fisheries that does annual assessments of NOAA priority species and works to restore the natural infrastructure to support restoration and adaptation of essential fish species, and the Division of Fish and Game, which works on native trout and other resident riverine species. The Commonwealth has worked with the Town and JRWA over several decades to protect hundreds of acres of riparian land along Jones River, greatly enhancing its resiliency. We believe that removal of this dam will provide improved fish passage and habitat restoration for many key species including River Herring, Rainbow Smelt, Eastern Brook Trout, American Eel, American Shad and others. Thank you for NOAA's support of this important coastal resiliency project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Charles D. Baker".

Charles D. Baker

Governor of Massachusetts