



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Office for Coastal Management
Silver Spring Metro Center, Building 4
1305 East-West Highway
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

Brian Thompson, Director
Land and Water Resources Division
Bureau of Water Protection and Land Reuse
Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection
79 Elm Street
Hartford, Connecticut 06106-5127

Dear Mr. Thompson:

The Office for Coastal Management (OCM) has completed its review of the Connecticut Coastal Management Program's Fiscal Year (FY) 2021-2025 Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) Section 309 Final Assessment and Strategy. We initially received a draft to review on April 3, 2020, and received final revisions on September 22, 2020. OCM is pleased to inform you that we approve Connecticut's 2021-2025 Assessment and Strategy and concur with the State's designated priority rankings for the nine enhancement areas. With an approved Assessment and Strategy, the Connecticut Coastal Management Program is eligible for FY 2021-2025 weighted formula (or base) funds under Section 309 of the CZMA to implement the work plans as presented in Connecticut's strategy.

States with approved strategies that address an enhancement area of national importance are also eligible to compete for Projects of Special Merit funding to further their strategies. Coastal Hazards is designated as an enhancement area of national importance for the FY 2021-2025 enhancement cycle. Therefore, you are currently eligible to apply for competitive Projects of Special Merit funding to further your *Policy and Regulatory Guidance for Adaptation* strategy. OCM may choose to designate additional enhancement areas of national importance during the FY 2021-2025 cycle to address new or emerging issues that may arise.

We appreciate the time and effort you and your staff put into this process, as well as your continued support for and participation in the Enhancement Grants Program. OCM looks forward to working together to achieve the strategy goals you have set for Connecticut over the next five years. Again, we offer our congratulations.

Sincerely,

Laura E. Petes, Ph.D.
Communities Program Manager