

LOUIS M. BACON

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Community Preservation Fund
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October 13, 2021

To the Community Preservation Fund:

I am writing to voice my support for the proposed Water Quality Improvement Project Plan (WQIPP) for the Sebonac Creek Inlet/Great Peconic Oyster Reef. The proposed Sebonac Creek project seeks to improve water quality using an eastern oyster reef in the Great Peconic Bay. As a nature-based solution for shoreline stabilization, this project will have the significant added benefit of reducing risk from storm, while fostering healthier waters and creating more biodiversity.

As a committed environmentalist, I have dedicated much of my life to preserving the natural resources on the East End and beyond through The Moore Charitable Foundation (MCF). In fact, the first grants MCF ever made were to conservation organizations on the East End. Also, MCF has supported and seen the positive impacts of similar oyster reef programs on water quality and coastal & climate resilience in North Carolina and New York City. In the Peconic Bay, MCF has supported Cornell Cooperative Extension's Suffolk Project in Aquaculture Training (SPAT) program for over 25 years, and more recently Conscience Point Shellfish Hatchery. In NYC, MCF has supported the Billion Oyster Project since 2005.

As I understand it, FEMA and DHS have already tentatively agreed to reimburse the town for nearly 60% of the project's cost. I am supportive of the nature-based solutions that will have limited interference with the existing conditions of these shorelines and may also serve as a model for future projects.

Sincerely,



Louis Bacon