



For Immediate Release

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DEFEND H2O & PARTNERS END MONTAUK LITIGATION

Groups vow to defend beaches from more armoring



SAG HARBOR - Defend H2O with its partners have withdrawn a lawsuit filed in March, 2016 to stop the U.S. Army Corps of Engineer's from constructing a 0.6 mile long, geotextile-sandbag seawall at downtown Montauk. The Court's denial of an injunction to stop work moved the group to believe litigation had run its course. Sadly, construction has progressed to a point where the damages to the beach and natural protective features are too far gone.

The downtown Montauk shore-hardening project exists because of a failure to implement existing sustainable coastal policy and adhere to the law. While the Corps misrepresented the facts, officials pushed through its approval, disregarded Town Code, the LWRP, as well as, federal and state coastal management statutes. The adverse effects from shore-hardening structures are well-established in science and policy. Hardening structures lead to the disappearance of the beach.

Geotextile sandbags are defined in Town Code and state law as a form of structure. Structures are explicitly prohibited on ocean beaches. The Court's decision to allow work to continue was a disappointment to many. But, we must forge on. Defend H2O remains steadfast in defense of beaches and other natural shorelines against armoring. We thank the countless supporters who stood in solidarity against the project.

While the damages have been inflicted, the Montauk tragedy serves as a catalyst for having an honest conversation about rising seas, shoreline dynamics, hard structures, pumping beaches and coastal retreat in our region.

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