



NIAGARA COUNTY LEGISLATURE
 NIAGARA COUNTY COURTHOUSE
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June 11, 2020

Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo
 Governor, State of New York
 New York State Capitol
 State Street
 Albany, NY 12224

Dear Governor Cuomo:

As you have correctly pointed out numerous times during your daily press conferences, local governments across New York State have seen their budgets devastated by the COVID-19 pandemic. It is from this perspective that we write you today.

Several Niagara County localities were fortunate to receive funding through the New York State Lake Ontario Resiliency and Economic Development Initiative (REDI) for projects that will help us battle what seems to have become an annual problem of high water levels on Lake Ontario. As you know, under REDI, the state covers 95 percent of project costs with the locality responsible for the remaining 5 percent.

Local governments were already having difficulty identifying the 5 percent match BEFORE the pandemic; now it has become virtually impossible. Much like your request to the federal government to waive the 25 percent match FEMA requires of the state for federal disaster funds, we are asking you to do the same for us with REDI funds – waive the local match.

Below is a list of the projects in Niagara County. The 5 percent share for these 11 projects totals only \$1.6 million, not a lot of money to the state, but an insurmountable hurdle locally.

Asset	Project Owner	Project Name	Description	Funding	Total Project Cost	Local Share
NO.3.A	Town of Newfane	Olcott Harbor Breakwater	Outer harbor breakwater to protect the harbor and improve navigation	DASNY	\$14,000,000	\$700,000
NO.3.B	Town of Newfane	Olcott Harbor Containment Walls	Inner harbor steel sheet pile containment walls for shoreline property protection	DASNY	\$1,707,000	\$85,350
NO.4	Town of	Olcott Beach	Berm to protect low-	DASNY	\$1,814,000	\$90,700

	Newfane	Berm	lying property; enhancements to beach area			
NO.19	Town of Somerset	Somerset Multiple Use Site	Shoreline stabilization including green infrastructure	DASNY	\$1,334,000	\$66,700
NO.26	Town of Wilson	Roosevelt Beach	Installation of floating docks; public boat launch improvements	DASNY	\$125,000	\$6,250
NO.6	Town of Wilson	Sunset Island West Barrier Bar	Shoreline stabilization; access road reconstruction	DASNY	\$3,362,000	\$168,100
NO.49	Village of Lewiston	Lewiston Landing	Steel sheet pile breakwall; waterfront path; floating docks; utilities	DASNY	\$1,214,688	\$60,735
NO.8	Village of Wilson	Wilson Wastewater Treatment Plant	WWTP decommissioning; shoreline stabilization; site redevelopment	EFC	\$4,461,000	\$223,050
NO.23	Village of Wilson	Townline Pier	Raising the height of and stabilizing the existing piers	DASNY	\$1,587,000	\$79,350
NO.17	Village of Youngstown	Youngstown Waterfront	Raising the shoreline through steel sheet pile; floating docks	DASNY	\$2,103,000	\$105,150
NO.21	YMCA Camp Kenan	YMCA Buffalo Niagara	Vegetated embankment for shoreline protection	DASNY	\$87,000	\$4,350
TOTALS					\$31,794,688	\$1,589,735

Governor, the lakeshore communities in Niagara County need to get these projects done. It would be a shame if these projects lag because of the 5 percent match. Again, please consider waiving the local match requirement. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Becky Wydysz
Chairman
Niagara County Legislature



John Syracuse
Vice Chairman
Niagara County Legislature



Dave Godfrey
10th District Legislator



Irene Myers
1st District Legislator