

SEP 28 2015



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

Elizabeth Semple
New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection
401 East State Street
Trenton, NJ 08625

Dear Ms. Semple:

The Office for Coastal Management (OCM) has completed its review of New Jersey's Coastal Management Program's Fiscal Year (FY) 2016-2020 Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) Section 309 Final Assessment and Strategy. We initially received a draft to review on May 1, 2015, and received final revisions on September 18, 2015. OCM is pleased to inform you that we approve New Jersey's 2016-2020 Assessment and Strategy. OCM also concurs with the State's designated priority rankings for the nine enhancement areas.

With an approved Assessment and Strategy, the New Jersey Coastal Management Program is eligible for FY 2016-2020 weighted formula (or base) funds under Section 309 of the CZMA to implement the work plans as presented in New Jersey's strategy. For FY 2016, both the hazards and ocean and Great Lakes resources (focusing on comprehensive planning) enhancement areas are designated as enhancement areas of national importance. Therefore you are also eligible to apply for competitive Projects of Special Merit funding to further your *Resilient and Sustainable Coastal Communities* and *Completing and Implementing a Mid-Atlantic Region Ocean Plan* strategies that support these enhancement areas of national importance.

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 New Jersey over the next five years. Again we offer our congratulations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joelle Y. Gore", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Joelle Y. Gore
Chief, Stewardship Division