

ROY COOPER
Governor

ELIZABETH S. BISER
Secretary

WILLIAM E. TOBY VINSON, JR.
Interim Director



NORTH CAROLINA
Environmental Quality

April 24, 2024

North Carolina Coastal Resources Commission,

Pursuant to G.S. 113A-113(b)(4)(g), the Coastal Resources Commission is allowed to designate an Area of Environmental Concern when the State Geologist has identified that area as containing unique geological formations.

Jockey's Ridge, located within the Town of Nags Head, is an excellent example of a medano, a large, isolated hill of sand with a characteristic slip face of unconsolidated sand lacking vegetation. In fact, this unique system is not only the largest medano in North Carolina but is the largest anywhere along the Atlantic and Gulf Coasts, and one in which the majority of the surface area has been protected by the State through its dedication as a State Park.

Due to prevailing winds, sand shifts in this area already cause the natural removal of sand from the dune system, including outside the protective boundaries of Jockey's Ridge State Park. As a result, it is important to prevent incompatible development through the commercial removal of sand from this fragile system as such removal would severely threaten the integrity of Jockey's Ridge. With no new sand sources to help replenish the system, it is imperative to protect what exists instead of allowing major irreversible damage to occur. As the State Geologist, it is my opinion that Jockey's Ridge is a unique geological formation that should be designated as an Area of Environmental Concern so as to provide protection to this system and its sand to the maximum extent practicable.

I am happy to explain this issue further or provide additional information needed in your discussions to designate Jockey's Ridge as an AEC. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dr. Kenneth B. Taylor".

Dr. Kenneth B. Taylor, PG
State Geologist of North Carolina

