



REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF:

**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
SAVANNAH DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
100 W. OGLETHORPE AVENUE  
SAVANNAH, GEORGIA 31401-3640**

**NOV 15 2010**

Planning Division

Mr. Charles Sutlive  
Executive Director  
Savannah Maritime Association  
33 Bull Street, Suite 550  
Savannah, Georgia 31401

Dear Mr. Sutlive:

The Savannah District, US Army Corps of Engineers has prepared a Draft Tier II Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) and General Reevaluation Report (GRR) to incrementally evaluate deepening the Savannah Harbor Federal Navigation Project to a maximum authorized depth of -48 feet Mean Lower Low Water (MLLW) as authorized by the Water Resources Development Act of 1999 (Public Law 106-53, Section 102(b)(9)). The studies evaluated the engineering, environmental, and economic acceptability of various alternatives for the present and future harbor conditions over a 50-year analysis period. The DEIS is being circulated to agencies and the public for a 45-day comment period.

Recommended improvements as outlined in the Maximum Authorized Plan and the tentative National Economic Development (NED) Plan include: channel deepening from the sea through the Harbor Entrance Channel to the Garden City Terminal; channel widening to create meeting areas at Long Island and Oglethorpe Ranges; widening and deepening of the Kings Island Turning Basin; and channel widening at three bends.

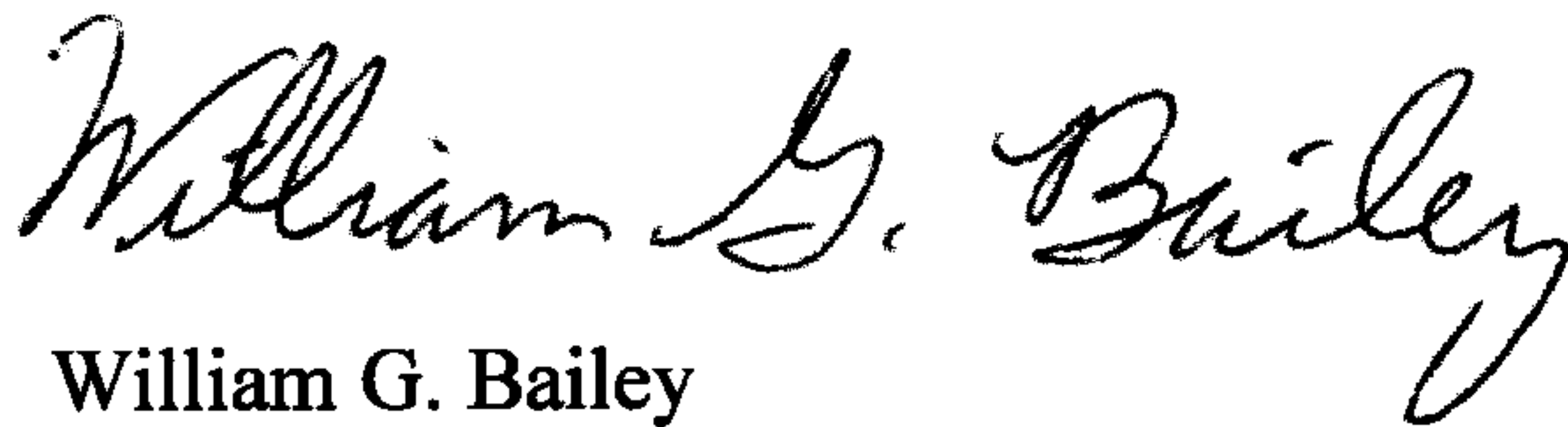
In order to avoid, minimize, or compensate for adverse environmental impacts associated with the proposed action, the following mitigation features are proposed:

- (1) Acquire and preserve lands adjacent to the Savannah National Wildlife Refuge
- (2) Construct a diversion structure, deepen, and close the lower arm of McCoys Cut
- (3) Close Rifle Cut
- (4) Remove the Tidegate abutments and piers
- (5) Construct a rock sill at the mouth of Back River
- (6) Fill a broad berm in the Sediment Basin
- (7) Construct a sill in Middle River near Disposal Area 2A

- (8) Construct a boat ramp on Hutchinson Island
- (9) Construct a fish passage structure at the New Savannah Bluff Lock and Dam
- (10) Mitigate for striped bass (stocking)
- (11) Construct and operate a dissolved oxygen system
- (12) Restore brackish marsh in Disposal Area 1S
- (13) Recover data from the Ironclad CSS Georgia and other significant archaeological resources
- (14) Monitor and adaptively manage the river ecosystem

Please review the enclosed digital video disc (DVD) of the Draft EIS and GRR and provide your comments no later than 45 days from the date of this letter to Mr. William Bailey, ATTN: PD, US Army Corps of Engineers, Savannah District, 100 West Oglethorpe Avenue, Savannah, Georgia 31401-3640 or by email to CESAS-PD@usace.army.mil.

Sincerely,



William G. Bailey  
Chief, Planning Division  
Savannah District

Enclosure