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Dr. K.K. Caylor
Editor-in-chief
Earth's Future

Dear Dr. K.K. Caylor

I am pleased to submit a research article entitled '**Land Reclamation Controls on Multi-Centennial Estuarine Evolution**' by Reinier Schrijvershof, Bas van Maren, Mick van der Wegen, and Ton Hoitink. Intertidal areas are wetlands that alternate between being flooded by tides and a state of exposure. The submitted manuscript reports a study that investigates the impact of reclaiming intertidal areas on estuarine landscape development. Relatively little is known about land reclamation effects on estuary evolution, because observations taken in recent history display the effect of multiple natural and human-induced controls. Human-forced changes in intertidal areas potentially impact coastal evolution for centuries, and few studies have addressed this multi-centennial evolution.

We address this knowledge gap by focusing on the reclamation of intertidal embayments along the Ems estuary, which were mostly formed during storm surges in the 16th century. We use historical maps to build an open access digital dataset that covers the complete adaptation period since that time, and show that the present-day morphology is still adapting to the large-scale and continued land reclamation works over the past centuries.

We believe the manuscript is of interest to readers in the journal *Earth's Future*, because it emphasizes that future morphological developments of our coastal systems (estuaries and tidal basins) will still inherit the lagged effects of Medieval land reclamations. This bears relevance for coastal management, because additional interventions will cumulatively impact estuarine systems that are still adapting to past interventions.

The manuscript is original and is not under consideration for publication elsewhere. Furthermore, there are no conflicts of interest to disclose. If the manuscript is considered appropriate for the journal, we suggest the following reviewers:

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Thank you for considering our manuscript for publication in Earth's Future.

Sincerely,

R.A. Schrijvershof, MSc.