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CAPE COD
COMMISSION

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October 16, 2015

Rodney C. Collins
Town Manager
Town of Mashpee
16 Great Neck Road North
Mashpee, MA 02649

Dear Mr. Collins:

On September 15, 2015 the Region 1 Administrator for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) approved the Cape Cod Water Quality Management Plan Update (208 Plan Update). As a result, local water quality management plans, and material changes to existing plans, must be reviewed by the Cape Cod Commission (Commission) to ensure consistency with the 208 Plan Update.

The Town of Mashpee's Comprehensive Watershed Nitrogen Management Plan (CWNMP) is currently before the Commission for a 208 Plan Update consistency review. Because the Commission has not yet issued guidance setting forth the requirements for a town to obtain a 208 Plan Update consistency determination (guidance is due to be completed within 90 days of EPA's acceptance of the 208 Plan Update), the Commission is providing this expedited review of the Mashpee CWNMP for 208 Plan Update consistency. Although a formal 208 Consistency document will be forthcoming, this letter expresses my determination that the Phase I activities proposed in the CWNMP are consistent with the 208 Plan Update and should be implemented for the benefit of the town and the region.

It is in the best interest of Mashpee and Cape Cod residents, businesses and visitors that the Town of Mashpee begin to implement the actions set forth in Phase 1. In general, the CWNMP proposes certain Phase I activities in the Popponesset Bay watershed, such as deploying aquaculture and providing higher levels of wastewater treatment for existing development, which the Commission anticipates will appropriately be the subject of a future watershed permit. The CWNMP Phase I activities also include certain projects in the Waquoit Bay watershed, including the deployment of aquaculture and the investigation of a pilot project for potential environmental restoration in the Quashnet/Moonakis river system. All of these Phase I activities will advance water quality goals.



The town's planning process weighed various traditional and non-traditional technologies to address nitrogen pollution. Consideration and adoption of decentralized sewer options and the proposed use of oysters and quahogs to achieve direct environmental mitigation are consistent with the 208 Plan Update. Other proposed activities such as potential natural resource restoration, permeable reactive barriers, bog restoration, stormwater best management practices, fertilizer management, and land management are also consistent with the 208 Plan Update.

Nitrogen management is one of the most significant regional concerns affecting Cape Cod. The Commission supports the efforts of the Town of Mashpee to develop both a comprehensive and targeted plan to address nitrogen pollution. The Commission also recognizes the efforts the Town of Mashpee has made to coordinate its planning with its neighboring Towns of Barnstable, Sandwich and Falmouth, and with Joint Base Cape Cod. The Commission looks forward to continuing to partner with the Town of Mashpee as the CWNMP develops.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paul Niedzwiecki', written over a circular stamp or seal.

Paul Niedzwiecki
Executive Director

cc: John J. Cahalane, Chairman, Mashpee Board of Selectmen
F. Thomas Fudala, Chairman, Mashpee Sewer Commission