



Contact: Mara Altman
Public Outreach Coordinator

Buzzards Bay Project

For Immediate Release: BUZZARDS BAY CCMP BECOMES STATE POLICY

Boston: On September 11, Governor William Weld signed the Buzzards Bay Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP) into state policy. The Plan, which was developed by the Buzzards Bay Project, a National Estuary Program (NEP) member, outlines detailed strategies to clean and protect Buzzards Bay through Federal, state and local cooperative efforts. As one of the first National Estuary Programs (NEPs) to complete its CCMP, the Project is being viewed as a model for estuary protection throughout the country.

The Governor congratulated the Buzzards Bay Project Staff on the successful completion of the regional Bay protection plan, stating that it "provides a thorough, well-researched analysis of the environmental and related economic problems of the Buzzards Bay region and, even more importantly, outlines a clear set of achievable solutions to solve them."

Buzzards Bay, a federally designated estuary of "national significance", is surrounded by 210 miles of coastline that contains swimming beaches, salt marshes, barrier beaches, 25% the states coastal shellfish catch, commercial and recreational fisheries, and diverse wetland and wildlife habitats. These resources are threatened primarily by the impacts of development and other non-point pollution sources, and significant revenue losses have been experienced by such water-dependent industries as commercial and recreational fisheries, real estate, tourism and nautical businesses.

Six years in the making, the Plan has received favorable support from all concerned state, local and Federal government agencies. Says Massachusetts Secretary of Environmental Affairs Susan Tierny, "It's clear that implementation of this Plan is crucial to protecting Buzzards Bay natural resources and the local economies that depend on them."

The Plan is now being reviewed by U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator William Rielly and Federal approval is expected within 60 days. Says Buzzards Bay Project Manager Dr. Joseph Costa, "Completion of the CCMP marks the first step in cleaning up and protecting the Bay. Now its time to turn plans into reality. But," he cautioned, "to do that, adequate Federal funding mechanisms must be put into place."

Currently, Federal Funds are provided to NEPs only to develop plans (CCMPs) to clean up these estuaries, not to actually implement the cleanup actions contained in these Plans. At press time, Congress is considering legislation to amend and reauthorize the Clean Water Act to provide the necessary funds to implement CCMPs. How this policy is decided will ultimately affect the health not only of Buzzards Bay, but that of all the nation's most valuable estuaries.

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Manager

NEWS RELEASE



Contact: Coalition for Buzzards Bay
Dr. Joseph Costa,
Buzzards Bay Project

(508) 748-3600 or
Mimi McConnell,
Coalition for Buzzards Bay
Executive Director
(508) 759-1440

For immediate release:

FIRST CITIZENS' WATER QUALITY MONITORING RESULTS ARE RELEASED

The Buzzards Bay Project and the Coalition for Buzzards Bay have jointly released the first water quality test results based on data collected last summer by Citizens' Water Quality Monitoring Program volunteers. These results are being hailed as an important step in prioritizing areas for non-point source pollution management, as recommended in the Buzzards Bay Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan.

The first season's tests evaluated the degree of "nitrogen loading" at 89 sites in 30 Buzzards Bay embayments. High nitrogen inputs, which come from such sources as septic systems, fertilizers and animal wastes, harm marine life by stimulating excessive algal growth and depleting oxygen supplies in surface waters (eutrophication).

Among the 89 sites evaluated for dissolved oxygen, the stations with the worst (lowest) mean oxygen concentrations were Barlows Landing (Bourne), Acushnet River (New Bedford Inner Harbor), and Upper Aucoot Cove (Marion). The stations with the best (highest) oxygen concentrations were Megansett Harbor (Falmouth), Planting Island Cove (Marion) and West Falmouth Harbor. Oxygen concentrations were measured by citizen volunteers during early morning hours, when oxygen concentrations are generally at their lowest levels.

17 of the 89 sites monitored were also ranked on a "Eutrophication Index" which was based on measurements of water transparency, chlorophyll, nitrogen and oxygen concentrations. The embayments with the best scores in this group were Megansett Harbor (Falmouth), the mouth of Red Brook (Bourne), and the mouth of the Westport River. The embayments with the worst scores on this index were the Westport River's upper East Branch, Apponagansett Bay, and Sippican Harbor.

Says Buzzards Bay Project Manager Dr. Joseph Costa, "the results are still preliminary, but will give citizens and town officials a sense of how their embayments compare to others around the Bay." Costa also

-more-

lauded Eileen Gunn of the Coalition for Buzzards Bay for her work in coordinating the more than 100 volunteers who participated in last summer's monitoring effort. The Project and the Coalition will expand the monitoring program this summer to include more sites and begin testing for sources of fecal coliform contributing to shellfish bed closures.

The Buzzards Bay Project is continuing to review the results from last summer's testing and is currently developing another index that will include shellfish bed closure data to rank the overall water quality of each embayment. Ultimately, the results from the Citizens' Water Quality Monitoring Program will be used to establish priorities for funding pollution remediation within specific areas of each embayment.

The Citizens' Water Quality Monitoring Program is one of the first Buzzards Bay environmental protection programs involving the efforts of local volunteers. This week the Coalition announced that it is also launching a program to facilitate citizen monitoring of environmental decisions by local planning, zoning, health and selectmen boards and conservation commissions. According to Coalition Executive Director Mimi McConnell, the program is intended, "to encourage the very best environmental decisions by all these boards and identify potential environmental abuses while there is still time to avert them."



BUZZARDS BAY PROJECT

Massachusetts Executive Office
of Environmental Affairs
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Marion, MA 02738
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US Environmental Protection Agency
Water Management Division
WQE-1900
John F. Kennedy Federal Building
Boston, MA 02203-2211
(617) 565-3514 [fax:(617) 565-3468]

COMMUNITY NOTICE

April 1, 1991

Funding available for mobile boat pump-outs in Buzzards Bay

Dear Municipal Official:

The Buzzards Bay Project has \$20,000 available to assist communities implement municipal mobile boat pump-out programs for boat sewage collection in the bays and harbors of Buzzards Bay. The Project will consider funding requests of up to \$5000 per community to implement mobile boat pump-out facilities for this coming boating season. Funds can only be used for the initial capital costs of the program such as pumps, hoses, holding tanks, and retrofitting boats. Funds will not be available for the purchase of boats, or the operation and maintenance of the pump-out.

Requests can only be made by municipalities bordering Buzzards Bay. Funding requests should be concise and not exceed seven pages, and should include the following information:

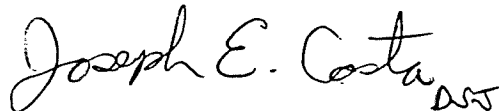
- a description of the need for a boat pump-out facility within your community,
- a description of the proposed mobile boat pump-out program,
- a demonstration of the community's long-term commitment for the operation and maintenance of the program,
- a summary of the enforcement mechanisms that will be employed to help ensure pump-out use,
- a detailed budget including a description of all local contributions to the program whether in-kind or cash,
- the location and final method of disposal and treatment for the boat sewage.

Requests must be submitted no later than 4:00 pm, May 1, 1991 and will be evaluated on a competitive basis by the Project. Only one proposal may be submitted by a community. The Project reserves the right to fund any or all proposals.

If you have questions regarding this request for proposals contact David Janik at the Buzzards Bay Project.

The Project has additional funds to assist in the construction of land based pump-out facilities which will be made available to Buzzards Bay municipalities at a later date when design standards for these facilities are available.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joseph E. Costa" followed by a small, illegible mark.

Joseph E. Costa, Ph.D.
Project Manager

BPOFND.CG4



Buzzards Bay Project

February 1992

Legislative Alert

Enabling Boards of Health to enter into Betterment Agreements

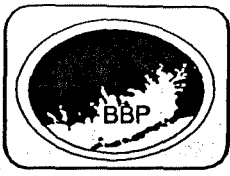
The Massachusetts Association of Health Boards, the Buzzards Bay Action Committee, and the Buzzards Bay Project are supporting legislation introduced by Senator Irving Wall (S895) to amend Chapter 111 Section 127B to enable Boards of Health to enter into betterment agreements with property owners whose septic systems are inadequate and pose a health risk.

Background and issues.

Many septic systems now in place do not meet State sanitary codes or local Board of Health regulations. Despite this fact, many boards of health have failed to take action to require compliance with health regulations because the cost of replacing a septic system--often \$10,000 or more--is beyond the financial ability of many homeowners. The lack of a system to enable property owners to make manageable the financial burden of replacing or repairing of inadequate septic systems is a severe obstacle to environmental managers trying to meet public health and environmental protection goals.

This legislation would enable Boards of Health to enter into betterment agreements to help finance the cost of complying with state and local codes. To ensure payment, a lien would be placed against the property. A betterment agreement would enable the homeowner to finance the costs of system upgrades and replacement over 10 or more years at lower municipal interest rates. While entering into betterment agreements would be voluntary on the part of the homeowner, the betterment mechanism is expected to make Boards of Health less reticent about applying enforcement orders against inadequate systems.

The use of betterments could not only apply to septic system upgrade, but could also apply to stormwater remediation, manure management programs, or any "source of filth, nuisance, or cause of sickness". In addition, where nitrogen from on-site wastewater disposal has been documented to threaten or impact groundwater supplies, Boards of Health could require modifying existing septic systems to allow nitrogen removal when these new technologies are approved by the Commonwealth.



BBAC

Buzzards Bay Action Committee

2 Spring Street
Marion, MA 02738
(508) 748-3600
fax. (508) 748-2845

Edwin H.B. Pratt, Jr., Marion, *Chairman*
Dennis F. Luttrell, *Executive Director*

Contact: Dennis Luttrell
BBAC Executive Director

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

BBAC orchestrates new public-private boat pump-out program

Acushnet

Bourne The BBAC has announced the beginning of a new joint venture with
Dartmouth the Boston Whaler Company and the town of Marion to implement
Fairhaven Marion's first mobile boat pump-out program. The Boston Whaler
Falmouth Company is donating the use of both the boat and all necessary
Gosnold pump-out equipment, while the town of Marion has agreed to maintain
Marion the facility and offer pump-out service to all town boaters free of
Mattapoisett charge, throughout the 1991 boating season.

Gosnold

Marion Indiscriminate boat waste dumping in Buzzards Bay can cause disease
Mattapoisett and contaminate shellfish resources, and has been cited as a
New Bedford potentially significant factor in beach and shellfish bed closures.
Plymouth However, according to harbor managers, many boaters continue to
Rochester dump their wastes into the Bay, not realizing the cumulative impact
Wareham of their actions. It is hoped that this program will prevent the
Westport direct discharge of boat wastes into Buzzards Bay, by making pump-
out services easily accessible.

Rochester

Wareham

The boat wastes collected in this program will be used by Ocean
Arks International's Center for the Restoration of Waters in a
study to develop safe, effective sewage treatment methods that
utilize natural processes.

Westport

The Boston Whaler Co. is providing the pump-out facility to the
town at no charge, beginning 8/14/91. Says BBAC Executive Director
Dennis F. Luttrell, the program is "an excellent example of the
kind of innovative private-public partnerships that are needed to
help save Buzzards Bay."

Marion joins the other BBAC member towns of Fairhaven, Westport and
Dartmouth in providing pump-out services for boaters. Commented
Luttrell, "we're working to have enough pump-out facilities around
the Bay, so that eventually all BBAC towns can join with the EPA in
prohibiting illegal boat discharges baywide.

PRmobile.PO



NEWS RELEASE

Contact: Mara Altman



KENNEDY, STUDDS TO APPEAR AT PRESS CONFERENCE ON MULTI-LEVEL GOVERNMENT PARTNERSHIP TO PROTECT BUZZARDS BAY

Buzzards Bay Project and BBAC commend lawmakers on funding victory & town of Bourne for Hen Cove clean up project

On Monday, October 19 at 10:30 AM, the Buzzards Bay Project and the Buzzards Bay Action Committee (BBAC) will hold a press conference at Cedar Point Association Beach, located at the end of Cedar Point Road in Bourne. In case of rain, the event will be held at Bourne Town Hall, 24 Perry Avenue in Buzzards Bay.

The event is being held to commend recent local, state and federal government efforts to implement the Buzzards Bay Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP), the estuary management strategy developed by the Buzzards Bay Project. In particular, the Project and BBAC will recognize the efforts of Sen. Edward Kennedy and Rep. Gerry Studds for their success in working to pass the recent \$400,000 federal appropriation for Buzzards Bay CCMP implementation activities.

The event site is on the shores of Hen Cove, where the town of Bourne, with Project funding and technical assistance from U.S. Soil Conservation Service (SCS) and the Cape Cod Conservation District (CCCD), is now constructing a stormwater remediation project intended to protect Hen Cove shellfish beds from contamination. Says Buzzards Bay Project Manager Dr. Joseph Costa, "This project is one of the first of many new local water quality protection projects to come." The Project is now planning other stormwater remediation projects for Sprague Cove in Marion and Broad Marsh River and Red Brook in Wareham.

BBAC Executive Director Dennis F. Luttrell notes that "The Hen Cove project exemplifies the kind of local actions that the BBAC is trying to foster in other bay towns." The Project, the BBAC, SCS, and CCCD will present an award to the town of Bourne for their initiative and commitment to this initial CCMP implementation effort.

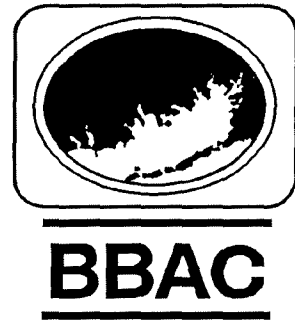
Featured speakers at the event will include: US Sen. Edward Kennedy, US Rep. Gerry Studds, State Rep. Tom Cahir, Buzzards Bay Project Manager Dr. Joseph Costa, Buzzards Bay Action Committee Chairman Ted Pratt and Bourne Selectwoman Marie Oliva.

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**Buzzards Bay
Project**



**BUZZARDS BAY
COMPREHENSIVE CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT
PLAN IMPLEMENTATION:
A Local, State and Federal Partnership in Resource Protection**



On Monday, October 19 at 10:30 a.m., the Buzzards Bay Project and the Buzzards Bay Action Committee (BBAC) will host a press conference at Cedar Point Association Beach to commend efforts by the Town of Bourne for its ongoing program to cleanup Buzzards Bay by implementing key aspects of the Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan.

The event is being held on the shores of Hen Cove, where the town of Bourne, with Project funding and technical assistance from the U.S.D.A. Soil Conservation Service (SCS), is now constructing a series of stormwater leaching chambers to improve water quality and prevent further contamination of Hen Cove shellfish beds.

Pollution in Hen Cove is contributing to the closure of shellfish beds and has closed a swimming beach in the past. Since stormwater runoff is a major cause of these closures, the Buzzards Bay Project is assisting the Town of Bourne in treating the discharge of three stormdrain systems. The targeted stormdrain systems currently allow direct discharge of untreated stormwater from Hill Street, Cedar Point Drive and Spruce Drive into the Cove.

Local initiatives, such as the Hen Cove project, are important first steps towards fulfilling Buzzards Bay CCMP recommendations, and are an outstanding testament to what can be accomplished when municipalities work closely with other government agencies, under the guidance of the Buzzards Bay Project.

Buzzards Bay water quality and living resources are primarily threatened by the cumulative impacts of non-point sources of pollution such as stormwater runoff. Since Massachusetts municipalities have broad authority to plan and manage the effects of growth, it is only through local efforts such as those in Hen Cove that the future integrity of the Bay will be assured. The town of Bourne has been a leader in this regards for other Bay towns.

Already a number of local precedent-setting environmental management milestones have been achieved in Buzzards Bay. These include: the establishment of the nation's first intermunicipal nitrogen overlay protection district, the creation of the first EPA marine No Discharge Area in the town of Wareham, the reopening of Clarks Cove, the richest shellfish area in Buzzards Bay, after nearly a 100 year closure, and the Electric Avenue stormwater remediation project, also in Bourne.

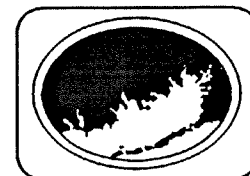
Over the next year, the Project will receive \$400,000 that will be dedicated to local implementation efforts. This will provide technical assistance and grants to Bay municipalities for such pollution remediation and prevention activities as: stormwater control, toxic use reduction, and development of land use regulations. To fully implement CCMP recommendations and cleanup all of Buzzards Bay, an expenditure of approximately \$20 million over the next 10 years is needed. For example, although the new leaching chambers will combat bacterial pollutants in part of Hen Cove, we must not lose sight of other areas around the cove that will need to be addressed and why we need \$20 million.

The accomplishment of the Buzzards Bay communities in remediating the negative efforts of stormwater run off and other non-point discharges, will soon be echoed by the 49 other coastal communities comprising the Mass Bay Program.

As the current federal Clean Water Act does not provide funding for CCMP implementation, this new appropriation is viewed as a funding stop-gap measure until the Clean Water Act is reauthorized hopefully providing full CCMP implementation funding. In order to maintain momentum, all levels of government will need to work together to ensure that adequate funding is made available and that local and state commitments to CCMP implementation are continued.



Buzzards Bay Project



BBAC

TO BUZZARDS BAY MUNICIPALITIES

December 16, 1993

Request for Proposals for Funding Implementation of an Oil Spill Mutual Aid Program in Buzzards Bay

Dear Municipal Official:

The Buzzards Bay Project, in cooperation with the Buzzards Bay Action Committee, has allocated \$20,000 of National Estuary Program implementation funds to implement an oil spill mutual aid program. These funds will assist Buzzards Bay municipalities in purchasing oil spill equipment.

Only those Buzzards Bay municipalities that have signed the baywide mutual aid agreement and who have agreed to have at least three representatives of the community attend an EPA Oil Spill Response Training Course to are eligible for funding. This course will be provided free of charge to the towns representatives.

There is a minimum requirement of 50 percent matching funds for the total project cost. (This equals 100 percent of the National Estuary Project funds being requested.) This match can be satisfied with cash or in-kind services. Time for town employees (full time or part time) who will be attending EPA Oil Spill Response Training is a valid in-kind match.

In an effort to standardize the format and content of proposals received, the Buzzards Bay Project has developed a standard application form (Buzzards Bay Implementation Proposal Application.) Municipalities should either use this form or follow its format when preparing proposals. If the existing application form does not provide adequate space, attach additional sheets as needed.

It is the intent to widely distribute these funds to bay-area municipalities. With this underlying intent, any community that meets the minimum requirements of this request for proposal - minimum match, mutual aid participation, and training of at

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Buzzards Bay Project

Contact: David Janik
Phone: (508) 748-3600
Date: April 18, 1995

For Immediate Release
Stormwater Remediation Grants Announced

The Buzzards Bay Project announced that more than \$230,000 in grants will be awarded to four Buzzards Bay municipalities to remediate stormwater discharges contributing to shellfish bed closures in Buzzards Bay.

Joseph Costa, PhD
Executive Director

Bruce Rosinoff
EPA Project Officer

David Janik, RS
Environmental Analyst

dette Taber
*Stormwater Specialist,
USDA-SCS*

John Rockwell
Wetlands Specialist

Frederick Kalisz, Jr.
*Toxics Reduction Program
Coordinator*

Tracy Warncke
Administrative Assistant

The Town of Wareham will receive a grant of \$100,000 to treat stormwater discharges in Onset Bay, the Town of Dartmouth will receive \$70,000 to eliminate sewage cross connections to a stormwater discharge to Clarks Cove, the City of New Bedford will receive \$35,000 to eliminate sewage cross connections to stormwater pipes discharging into Clarks Cove, and the town of Bourne will receive \$17,975 to remediate stormwater discharges to Eel Pond and the Back River.

The Town of Wareham will install a stormwater collection and treatment system in the Onset Heights and Riverside areas of town. This construction is expected to coincide with sewerage of the area. By the town addressing the wastewater disposal and stormwater problems in the area, they are expecting to improve the shellfish classification in Broad Cove/East River and Muddy Cove and open a shellfish resource that will be valuable to commercial as well as recreational shellfishermen. Mark Gifford, Wareham's Director of Municipal Maintenance will coordinate this project for the Town [Editor: Mr Gifford's phone number is 295-5300].

The Town of Bourne will remediate three stormwater discharges in the Eel Pond area. The stormwater will be treated by infiltrating it within road right-of-way along Eel Pond Road, North Beach Avenue, and Cedar Avenue. According to the town Eel Pond is a valuable shellfish resource area that is currently closed during most of the year, and open during the winter. Remediation of these pollution sources is expected to allow an increase in the seasonal opening of this valuable shellfishing area, and possibly a year-round opening of the area. Selectman Haydon Coggeshall, is coordinating this project for the Town.

The City New Bedford will identify and eliminate cross-connections between sewer and stormwater lines in the Rockdale Avenue area discharging to Clarks Cove on the Western End of the Hurricane Barrier through a combined sewer overflow (known as CSO #3) and at another site in the upper Acushnet River in the Mill St. area (known as CSO #27). Elimination of these sources of wastewater into the City's storm sewer system will significantly reduce the loading of fecal coliform and other pollutants to these areas.

Complimenting the New Bedford award is the funding to the Town of Dartmouth to sewer certain streets in the town that are serviced by a stormwater collection system that discharges to Clarks Cove at the base of Merrimac Street. The Town of Dartmouth will
2 Spring Street, Marion, Massachusetts 02738 (508) 748-3600 Facsimile (508) 748-2845 ■ 3962



also eliminate illegal cross connections between the septic systems and the stormwater lines in this area. It is believed that illegal cross-connections into the stormdrain and failing septic systems in the area account for the Merrimac Street stormdrain pipe being one of the most polluted with fecal bacteria in Buzzards Bay, and responsible for a 57 acre closure near the stormdrain discharge in Clarks Cove. The Buzzards Bay Project funds will cover only a portion of the towns activities, and will help reduce betterment costs to homeowners in the area. The remaining funds for the town's initiative are expected to come from other local and state sources.

In 1993, largely because of the efforts of New Bedford Wastewater Division under the guidance Wastewater Superintendent Ron Labelle, dry weather CSO discharges to Clarks Cove were eliminated, and portions of Clarks Cove were reopened to shellfishing for the first time in more than 80 years. Some of these repairs in 1993, such as the installation of a new CSO sluice gate, were funded by the Buzzards Bay Project. The new funding from the Buzzards Bay Project to the City of New Bedford and Town of Dartmouth is expected to increase the area of Clarks Cove open to shellfishing. The area near Merrimac Street is especially valuable because it contains a productive nearshore shellfish bed that is accessible to recreational shellfishermen.

Michael O'Reilly, Environmental Affairs Coordinator for Dartmouth will coordinate Dartmouth's work [Editor: 999-0722] and Wastewater Superintendent Ron Labelle will coordinate activities for the City of New Bedford.

This is the second round of grants this year to be awarded by the Buzzards Bay Project for the remediation of stormwater. Earlier this year, \$45,000 in grants were awarded to the towns of Falmouth, Wareham, and Fairhaven as part of the first phase of funding. The earlier Wareham grant funded the design of the stormwater remediation project in Onaset Heights funded for construction in Round II. Funding to the Town of Falmouth was to treat stormwater from Nashawena St. discharging to West Falmouth Harbor. Funding to the Town of Fairhaven was to enable the town to treat stormwater from Grand View Avenue discharging to upper Nasketucket Bay. This summer, the Buzzards Bay Project will award an additional \$250,000 in grants to Buzzards Bay municipalities in a third phase of stormwater remediation grants.

The Buzzards Bay Project has identified stormwater discharges from streets, driveways, parking lots, and other surfaces as one of the principal pollution problems contributing to shellfish bed and swimming beach closures in Buzzards Bay. Rain falling on roads, parking lots, and other surfaces washes pet and other animal wastes, sewage from failing septic systems, oil and other pollutants from cars, and fertilizers from lawns and farms into the bays, rivers, and ponds surrounding Buzzards Bay. According to Buzzards Bay Project Executive Director Joe Costa there is considerable support and interest for these competitive funds. Costa stated "treating or eliminating stormwater inputs around Buzzards Bay in order to open shellfish beds is one of our top priorities, and one of the major goals in the Buzzards Bay Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan for Buzzards Bay." The Buzzards Bay Management Plan, which was endorsed by the state and federal government and the municipalities around Buzzards Bay was completed by the Buzzards Bay Project in 1991. The Buzzards Bay Project is an advisory and planning unit administered by Massachusetts Coastal Zone Management and the US EPA.

[Note to editor: The Buzzards Bay Project, a National Estuary Program and unit of Massachusetts Coastal Zone Management is often confused with two non-profit corporations: the Buzzards Bay Action Committee (BBAC- a lobbying organization composed of municipal officials), and the Coalition for Buzzards Bay (a citizens group). The Coalition is most widely recognized for its "Report Card" on Buzzards Bay municipalities, its "Town Watch" program, and a citizen-based water quality monitoring program conducted in partnership with the Buzzards Bay Project. All three organizations are working together to implement the Buzzards Bay Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan.]

File

To: Paula Charbano



**For Immediate Release
November 28, 1994
Contact: Joe Costa**

**Buzzards Bay Project
Buzzards Bay Project awards computers, technical assistance
to Buzzards Bay towns**

The Buzzards Bay Project announced that it will provide computers and software to ten Buzzards Bay area Boards of Health to enable them to better track septic system maintenance and inspections. The computers will also assist Boards of Health's in adopting regionally-consistent approaches for complying with the new state requirements for onsite sewage disposal (Title 5). These include septic system inspections at time of property transfer, and recommendations that towns implement septic system inspection and maintenance programs. The new Title 5 regulations take effect in March 1995. The computer systems will also help towns track septic system, lead paint, and oil tank betterment programs for those towns that want to take advantage of the "Betterment Bill" that was passed by the Massachusetts Legislature earlier this year.

Joseph Costa, PhD
Executive Director

Bruce Rosinoff
EPA Project Officer

David Janik, RS
Environmental Analyst

Madette Taber
*Stormwater Specialist,
USDA-SCS*

John Rockwell
Wetlands Specialist

Frederick Kalisz, Jr.
*Toxics Reduction Program
Coordinator*

Tracy Warncke
Administrative Assistant

The Buzzards Bay Project will provide training to town personnel in the operation of the computers and data base software, and help the towns incorporate relevant lot information from each town's Assessors files. The communities receiving the computers and software are Falmouth, Wareham, Marion, Mattapoissett, Acushnet, Rochester, Fairhaven, New Bedford, Dartmouth, and Westport. The Bourne Board of Health indicated it already had a computer, and requested only the septic system tracking software and technical assistance from the Buzzards Bay Project.

The Buzzards Bay Project is an advisory and planning unit administered by Massachusetts Coastal Zone Management and the US EPA. The principal mission of the Buzzards Bay Project is to provide funding and technical assistance to Buzzards Bay municipalities to assist them in implementing the recommendations contained in the Buzzards Bay Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan. This summer, the Buzzards Bay Project awarded grants to Buzzards Bay municipalities for oil spill containment equipment, boat pumpout facilities, nitrogen management, and coastal resource mapping. The request for these computers and software was made to the Buzzards Bay Project by Buzzards Bay municipal representatives on the Buzzards Bay Action Committee, a non-profit organization which works with the Buzzards Bay Project to implement the Buzzards Bay Management Plan.

[Note to editor: The Buzzards Bay Project, a National Estuary Program and unit of Massachusetts Coastal Zone Management is often confused with two non-profit corporations: the Buzzards Bay Action Committee (BBAC- an organization of municipal officials), and the Coalition for Buzzards Bay (a citizens group). The Coalition is most widely recognized for its "Report Card" on Buzzards Bay municipalities and its "Town Watch" program. The Coalition has also implemented a citizen-based water quality monitoring program in partnership with the Buzzards Bay Project. All three organizations are working together to implement the Buzzards Bay Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan. The Buzzards Bay Project is the only organization which awards grants to Buzzards Bay municipalities.]





Buzzards Bay Project

Requests for proposals

The Buzzards Bay Project, through the Massachusetts Executive Office of Environmental Affairs Coastal Zone Management Office, is soliciting proposals for the following contractual services.

Technical Support for Citizen Monitoring Program

Technical support services are needed for a Buzzards Bay Citizen Monitoring Program for the period July 20, 1994 to June 30, 1995.

The contractor must provide the following services: 1) analyze 500 water samples for nutrients (nitrate + nitrite, ammonia, orthophosphate, dissolved organic nitrogen, particulate nitrogen, particulate carbon and chlorophyll a; 2) analyze 200 periphyton samples for chlorophyll a, 3) conduct 4 training workshops for citizen volunteers, and 4) provide 50 hours contact time with citizen coordinator on technical issues.

Coordination of Citizen Volunteers

Coordination and training of Citizen Water Quality Monitoring volunteers for the period July 20, 1994 to June 30, 1995. Up to \$38,000 will be available to accomplish this task.

The contractor must provide the following services: 1) recruit and train at least 90 volunteers to measure water quality (dissolved oxygen, salinity, temperature, specific gravity, water transparency) and collect water samples for analysis at 74 monitoring sites in Buzzards Bay, 2) ensure that the volunteers monitor water quality at least 22 times, and sample for nutrients at least 4 times during July August and September 1994, and May and June of 1995, 3) help prepare an annual newsletter of the findings of the program, 4) enter data into spreadsheets and other databases, and prepare scatter plots, conduct statistical tests on results, 5) meet with and coordinate activities with the Buzzards Bay Project Executive Director, minimum 250 hrs of contact time, 6) outfit volunteers with equipment and supplies to fulfill tasks, 7) ensure Project QA/QC procedures are followed.

Proposals for either of these service must be received at the Buzzards Bay Project office at 2 Spring St. Marion, Ma 02738 by 4 PM, Thursday, June 30, 1994. The body of the proposal should not exceed 4 pages and should have attached credentials of vendor, project leader and budget and salary hours broken down by both task and budget categories. A contractor will be selected based on the proposed workplan, cost, and a demonstration by the bidder that the work can be successfully undertaken. A detailed scope of service for this work is available from the Buzzards Bay Project office. Call (508) 748-3600.

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Buzzards Bay Project

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 29, 1995

Contact: Joseph E. Costa
508) 748-3600

BUZZARDS BAY PROJECT RECEIVES \$459,000 TO TEST AND PROMOTE INNOVATIVE SEPTIC SYSTEMS

The Buzzards Bay Project National Estuary Program announced today that it received a \$459,000 grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to test and promote innovative septic system technology in Massachusetts. The grant, funded through EPA's Environmental Technology Initiative, will enable the Buzzards Bay Project to set up an Alternative Septic System Test Center to evaluate new residential wastewater treatment technologies. The Test Center will provide free testing and technical assistance to proprietors of alternative septic system technologies, which are meant to more effectively protect the environment in areas where traditional septic systems are inadequate.

Trudy Coxe, Secretary of the Massachusetts Executive Office of Environmental Affairs, stated, "We are extremely excited about this win-win project. The Test Center will help green businesses who are trying to develop the 'better mousetrap' of septic systems, while providing more choices to homeowners whose existing septic systems have problems."

The Buzzards Bay Project prepared the grant application with the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), Barnstable County Department of Health and Environment, Waquoit Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve, and investigators at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution. Barnstable County and the Woods Hole laboratory will also assist with the project by analyzing the effluent water released from these systems.

--MORE--

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DEP is currently streamlining the process for approving alternative septic system technologies. To date, DEP has certified seven alternative technologies for general use, including recirculating sand filters and composting toilets. To help test additional alternative systems so that they can be approved by DEP and introduced to the market as soon as possible, the Buzzards Bay Project, Barnstable County, a scientist from the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, and DEP teamed up to develop the Alternative Septic System Test Center concept. Their focus was to provide financial and regulatory assistance to the green businesses developing these new technologies.

Dr. Joseph Costa, Executive Director of the Buzzards Bay Project, said the facility will also address the needs of municipal Boards of Health. He noted, "A lot of new systems are in the ground already, and many more are coming. Town officials are looking for technologies that provide better treatment in removing nitrogen and other pollutants than conventional septic systems, but are uncertain about manufacturer claims. This test center will publish pollutant removal ratings for innovative technology so that local boards can use this information to implement strategies to better protect drinking water supplies, nitrogen sensitive areas, and other special districts. We will also conduct training sessions for system installers and health agents wishing to better understand special installation requirements of the new septic system designs."

The Alternative Septic System Test Center will be located at an existing municipal sewage treatment plant. According to Costa, a site has not been selected, but several locations around Buzzard Bay and the upper Cape are under consideration. George Heufelder, Environmental Program Manager at the Barnstable County Health and Environmental Department and Dr. Brian Howes, Associate Scientist at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution will be key participants in the project.

[Note to Editor: The Buzzards Bay Project, a joint state-federal entity, is sometimes confused with two non-profit Buzzards Bay organizations. One of these is the Coalition for Buzzards Bay, a citizens group noted for its report card on municipalities and for its citizen water quality monitoring, jointly implemented with the Buzzards Bay Project. The other non-profit is the Buzzards Bay Action Committee, a lobbying group composed of municipal officials.]

For Immediate Release



Buzzards Bay Project

**Contacts: Dr. Joseph Costa
Mark Rasmussen**

January 30, 1996

Buzzards Bay Project announces grant and technical assistance opportunities for Bay area municipalities

MARION - The Buzzards Bay Project¹ announced today that it has made available \$92,000 of National Estuary Program implementation funds to assist municipalities within the Buzzards Bay watershed to map coastal resources, acquire Geographic Information System (GIS) capability, and fund an inter-municipal Conservation Agent position. The Project is also offering to assist communities in the development of Open Space Plans. Requests for Proposals for these grant monies was released to Bay watershed towns earlier this month. The deadline for submission of applications is February 15, 1996. Requests for planning assistance are due by February 9, 1996.

Both the Coastal Resource Mapping and GIS grants are intended to assist Bay communities in making informed decisions regarding the use of their coastal waters and management of land use, particularly as it relates to the protection of water quality and living resources. Coastal mapping can serve to improve the town's inventory of natural resources such as shellfish and eelgrass populations, sensitive areas such as barrier beaches, marshes, and endangered species habitat, as well as the placement of built structures such as docks, piers, boat ramps. Such information is critical to the development of comprehensive harbor plans and permitting of coastal activities.

Geographic Information Systems(GIS) allow communities to store and manipulate important town land use data in a computer accessible to all town departments and residents. Information such as town infrastructure networks, protected open spaces, sensitive water resources, zoning districts, and information on each individual lot in town can be combined to answer important questions about how land development and the natural landscape interact. For example, nitrogen loading from residential septic systems often contributes to water quality decline in nearby coastal embayments within Buzzards Bay. Through the use of GIS, communities can calculate the expected present pollutant load to the water body from the surrounding landscape and use these numbers to plan for future growth and reduced nitrogen pollution.

In the area of wetlands protection, \$12,000 is being made available for two or more communities to hire a shared part or full-time Conservation Agent. A similar Buzzards Bay Project grant opportunity in 1992 resulted in the present regional arrangement between the City of New Bedford and the towns of Acushnet and Rochester whereby each municipality shares a portion

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For Immediate Release



Contact: Joe Costa
Phone: (508) 748-3600
Date: January 12, 1996

Buzzards Bay Project
***Buzzards Bay Project announces grants to Rochester, Mattapoissett
to improve herring migration in Mattapoissett River***

The Buzzards Bay Project announced today that it has awarded \$25,000 in grants to help improve herring migration to the Mattapoissett River. The town of Rochester will receive \$20,000 to reconstruct culverts under Snipatuit Rd. The small diameter and poor condition of the culverts is believed to be impeding herring migration into Snipatuit Pond and the upper reaches of the Mattapoissett River. Jeff Eldridge of the Rochester Highway Department will be overseeing the project for the town. The town of Mattapoissett will also receive \$5,000 toward the reconstruction of the Rt. 6 herring ladder and dam that is largely being funded through another state grant. The award to Mattapoissett from the Buzzards Bay Project is being used to match these state funds which were announced during ceremonies in Mattapoissett in October 1995. Ken Reback of the state Division of Marine Fisheries has been working with these communities on the proper design and placement of the fish ladders and road improvements.

According to Joseph Costa, Executive Director of the Buzzards Bay Project, the Mattapoissett River herring run is perhaps the largest herring run in Buzzards Bay, with the Agawam River in Wareham nearly equal in size. Costa noted, "At the turn of the century state biologists estimated that the Mattapoissett River has a capacity of approximately one million fish. In recent years, our best estimates are that only 50,000 to 70,000 now migrate up the river. Unfortunately this decline is not unique. Herring populations in many rivers in the region are a fraction of what they were decades ago because of increased obstructions in rivers, disrepair of fish ladders, poor management of water levels, and declining water quality and habitat loss."

Herring are a so-called "anadromous" fish, one that lives its life in the ocean, but migrates up rivers to reproduce, like the more familiar Salmon. Herring is an important food fish for many species including both fresh and saltwater recreational fish like trout, bass, bluefish, and striped bass, many waterbirds, and even whales. Juvenile herring are also an important food source for the endangered Roseate Tern where the largest breeding colony in North America is just a mile and half from the Mattapoissett River. Today, herring is harvested, both as a bait fish for both lobster and recreational fisherman, and as a food source. Each spring, when the herring migrate up ladders, the fish are caught and their eggs, which are called "roe", are removed and eaten like caviar or cooked.

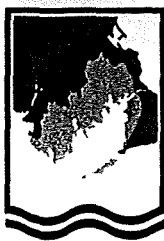
During the past decade, generally 5,000 - 20,000 herring have been harvested out of the Mattapoissett River each year. These herring are collected at the Rt 6 Dam in Mattapoissett. Because of the location of the Mattapoissett River and changing town boundaries during the 1800's, today the Mattapoissett River Herring Run is now jointly managed by the towns of Mattapoissett, Rochester, and Marion. Past Buzzards Bay Project funding has also funded herring restoration projects on the West Branch of the Westport River.

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[Note to editor: The Buzzards Bay Project, a National Estuary Program and unit of Massachusetts Coastal Zone Management is often confused with two non-profit corporations: the Buzzards Bay Action Committee (BBAC- a lobbying organization composed of municipal officials), and the Coalition for Buzzards Bay (a citizens group). The Coalition is most widely recognized for its "Report Card" on Buzzards Bay municipalities, a citizen-based water quality monitoring program conducted in partnership with the Buzzards Bay Project, and educational programs in the City of New Bedford. All three organizations are working together to implement the Buzzards Bay Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan.]

herdec.prs

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For Immediate Release
Contact: Dr. Joseph Costa
Date: January 8, 1996

Buzzards Bay Project

Buzzards Bay Project hires Regional Planner

Marion, MA: The Buzzards Bay Project announced today that it has hired Mark Rasmussen of Fairhaven as the Project's Regional Planner.

As Regional Planner, Mr. Rasmussen will provide technical and planning assistance to Buzzards Bay watershed communities. This assistance will include open space conservation and water quality planning assistance, development of management strategies for nitrogen sensitive coastal areas, and administration of the Project's municipal grant program. Mr. Rasmussen is filling a position left vacant by David Janik who has accepted a position as the South Coastal Coordinator for the state Coastal Zone Management Office.

Buzzards Bay Project Executive Director Dr. Joseph Costa, in announcing the appointment of Mr. Rasmussen cited his close involvement and experience with the myriad of issues surrounding the protection and restoration of the Bay as Issues and Policy Director for the Coalition for Buzzards Bay, a private membership organization working on education, monitoring, and advocacy in the Bay area. In addition, Mr. Rasmussen is the current President and Founder of the Fairhaven Land Preservation Trust, a private land conservation organization which seeks to acquire and protect natural areas within the towns of Fairhaven and Acushnet.

Dr. Costa said, "We're really excited about having Mark coming on board. He's very familiar with town officials around Buzzards Bay and I expect him to hit the ground running". Mr. Rasmussen will assist in implementing recommendations contained in the Buzzards Bay Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP) developed by the Project in 1992. This document provides a blueprint for the protection and cleanup of the Bay. "With Mark on staff we can continue to make the management recommendations contained in the CCMP a reality and protect the quality of the Bay's natural resources for generations to come", Costa stated. Towns eligible for planning and water quality assistance include Acushnet, Bourne, Carver, Dartmouth, Fairhaven, Falmouth, Gosnold, Marion, Mattapoissett, Middleborough, Plymouth, Rochester, Wareham, Westport, and the City of New Bedford. The Project indicated that it will make additional grant money available to Buzzards Bay watershed municipalities during the next several months.

[Note to Editor: The Buzzards Bay Project, a National Estuary Program and unit of Massachusetts Coastal Zone Management is often confused with two non-profit corporations: the Coalition for Buzzards Bay (a citizens group) and the Buzzards Bay Action Committee (BBAC-a lobbying organization composed of municipal officials). The Coalition is most widely recognized for its "Report Card" on Buzzards Bay municipalities, its citizen-based water quality monitoring program conducted in partnership with the Buzzards Bay Project, and its educational work in the City of New Bedford. All three organizations are working together to implement the Buzzards Bay Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan.]



Buzzards Bay Project

Contact: Joe Costa
Phone: (508) 748-3600
Date: October 10, 1995

For Immediate Release

Buzzards Bay Project Announces Latest Stormwater Remediation Grants

The Buzzards Bay Project announced that it had awarded more than \$186,000 in new stormwater remediation grants to Buzzards Bay municipalities. The money was awarded to four towns in the Buzzards Bay watershed as part a third round of stormwater grants announced by the Buzzards Bay Project during the past year.

The town of Acushnet will receive \$70,624 to eliminate improper residential sewer connections to a stormwater pipe discharging to the Acushnet River. The town, which discovered that seven residences on Main St. were discharging raw sewage to the River, will use the funds to install a low pressure sewer line to hook up the dwellings to a nearby uphill sewer main. Dr. Joseph Costa, Director of the Buzzards Bay Project, stated "This project was identified as a high priority by our selection committee and complimented similar work by the City of New Bedford to also eliminate cross connections between sewer and stormwater pipes that result in the discharge of raw sewage."

The Town of Wareham will receive a \$15,000 grant to design a stormwater treatment system for the areas around Broad Cove and Muddy Cove in the village of Onset. According to the Project these areas of Onset Bay have been prone to shellfish bed closure due to high fecal coliforms. The Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries identified stormwater as a significant impact to these areas of Onset Bay. Once the town has completed the designs the town could fund completion of the work or seek funding from the Buzzards Bay Project or other granting agencies.

The Town of Mattapoisett will receive \$35,574 to install a stormwater treatment system for road runoff from Old Mattapoisett Neck Road and Olivers Lane along Swift Brook near the mouth of the Mattapoisett River. These areas contribute to the elevated fecal coliform levels at the mouth of the Mattapoisett and the shellfish bed closures there. The town in its application proposed to use a series of constructed wetlands in large tubs that are marketed under the tradename "StormTreat". According to the Buzzards Bay Project, with recent improvements in water quality in the Mattapoisett River, cleanup of the Mattapoisett Neck and Olivers Lane stormwater discharges could help expand shellfish bed openings.

-MORE-

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The Town of Bourne will receive \$64,800 to remediate several stormwater discharges in the Barlows Landing area in inner Pocasset Harbor. In its application, the Town noted that stormwater discharges were impacting both shellfishing and bathing at the site, causing the largest shellfish bed closure in the town, and that the closure "represents a significant loss of revenue for local commercial, recreational, and senior shellfishermen." According to the town, the site was chosen after meetings held by Bourne's Pollution Task Force, and discussions with the Coalition for Buzzards Bay. The stormwater will be treated by infiltrating it under roads, within road right-of-ways, and by the use of vegetation plantings along the beach parking lot and adjoining areas. Because of exceptionally high fecal coliform concentrations sometimes observed from several of the stormwater pipes, the Buzzards Bay Project is requiring as part of the award that the Bourne Board of Health conduct inspections in the area to determine if failing septic systems or illegal cross connections or overflows pipes from septic systems are discharging to the to the stormwater system.

According to the Project, stormwater discharges from streets, driveways, parking lots, and other surfaces have been identified as an important sources of fecal bacteria contributing to shellfish bed and swimming beach closures in Buzzards Bay. Costa explained "rain collected by stormwater pipes carries feces from pets and wildlife, sewage from failing septic systems, oil and other pollutants from cars, and fertilizers from lawns and farms. In some cases it is best solution is to treat the stormwater, but in cases where direct sewage discharges or overflowing cesspools are known, it is very important to fix these problems directly." The Buzzards Bay Project will make available later this year an additional \$250,000 in grant money to further remediate stormwater discharges around Buzzards Bay. Municipalities that wish to pursue these funds should contact the Buzzards Bay Project.

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Buzzards Bay Project

Contact: Joe Costa
Phone: (508) 748-3600
Date: October 10, 1995

For Immediate Release

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Buzzards Bay Project

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 27, 1995

Contact: Joseph E. Costa
(508) 748-3600

BUZZARDS BAY PROJECT RECEIVES \$459,000 TO TEST AND PROMOTE INNOVATIVE SEPTIC SYSTEMS

The Buzzards Bay Project National Estuary Program announced today that it received a \$459,000 grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to test and promote innovative septic system technology in Massachusetts. The grant, funded through EPA's Environmental Technology Initiative, will enable the Buzzards Bay Project to set up an Alternative Septic System Test Center to evaluate new residential wastewater treatment technologies. The Test Center will provide free testing and technical assistance to proprietors of alternative septic system technologies, which are meant to more effectively protect the environment in areas where traditional septic systems are inadequate.

Trudy Coxe, Secretary of the Massachusetts Executive Office of Environmental Affairs, stated, "We are extremely excited about this win-win project. The Test Center will help green businesses who are trying to develop the 'better mousetrap' of septic systems, while providing more choices to homeowners whose existing septic systems have problems."

The Buzzards Bay Project prepared the grant application with the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), Barnstable County Department of Health and Environment, Waquoit Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve, and investigators at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution. Barnstable County and the Woods Hole laboratory will also assist with the project by analyzing the effluent water released from these systems.

--MORE--

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Buzzards Bay Project

Contact: David Janik
Phone: (508)748-3600
Date: January 17, 1995

For Immediate Release
Stormwater Remediation Grants Announced

The Buzzards Bay Project announced that three grants totaling \$45,500 will be awarded to three Buzzards Bay municipalities to remediate stormwater discharges contributing to shellfish bed closures in Buzzards Bay.

The town of Falmouth will receive a grant of \$10,500 to treat stormwater discharging to a shellfish bed in West Falmouth Harbor. The town of Fairhaven will receive a \$20,000 grant to remediate stormwater discharges from Seaview Avenue contributing to shellfish bed closures in Nasketucket Bay. The town of Wareham will receive a grant of \$15,000 from the Buzzards Bay Project to design stormwater treatment facilities (e.g. infiltration basins) for the Riverside and Onset Heights sections of that town contributing to shellfish bed closures in Onset Bay.

Joseph Costa, PhD
Executive Director

Bruce Rosinoff
EPA Project Officer

David Janik, RS
Environmental Analyst

Bernadette Taber
*Stormwater Specialist,
USDA-SCS*

John Rockwell
Wetlands Specialist

Frederick Kalisz, Jr.
*Toxics Reduction Program
Coordinator*

Tracy Warncke
Administrative Assistant

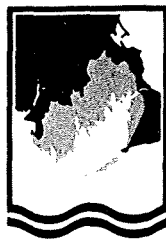
The Buzzards Bay Project has identified stormwater discharges from streets, driveways, parking lots, and other surfaces as one of the principal pollution problems contributing to shellfish bed and swimming beach closures in Buzzards Bay. Rain falling on roads, parking lots, and other surfaces washes pet and other animal wastes, sewage from failing septic systems, oil and other pollutants from cars, and fertilizers from lawns and farms into the bays, rivers, and ponds surrounding Buzzards Bay. Buzzards Bay Project Executive Director Joe Costa said "these awards were part of the first round of stormwater project funding to help towns get some previously planned projects off the ground." He indicated that the Buzzards Bay Project would shortly announce the availability of an additional \$250,000 in funds to Buzzards Bay communities for more comprehensive projects. He added "in the coming months the Buzzards Bay Project will award a half million dollars and considerable technical assistance to Buzzards Bay towns so that we can protect and begin to open more shellfish beds in Buzzards Bay. This is one of our major goals in the Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan for Buzzards Bay."

The Buzzards Bay Project is an advisory and planning unit administered by Massachusetts Coastal Zone Management and the US EPA, and was the author of the Management Plan to protect and restore Buzzards Bay.

[Note to editor: The Buzzards Bay Project, a National Estuary Program and unit of Massachusetts Coastal Zone Management is often confused with two non-profit corporations: the Buzzards Bay Action Committee (BBAC- an organization of municipal officials), and the Coalition for Buzzards Bay (a citizens group). The Coalition is most widely recognized for its "Report Card" on Buzzards Bay municipalities, its "Town Watch" program, and a citizen-based water quality monitoring program conducted in partnership with the Buzzards Bay Project. All three organizations are working together to implement the Buzzards Bay Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan.]

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**For Immediate Release
December 5, 1994
Contact: Joe Costa**

**Buzzards Bay Project
Buzzards Bay Project awards grant for
stormdrain stenciling, mapping**

The Buzzards Bay Project announced that it awarded a \$20,000 grant to the Coalition for Buzzards Bay, a non-profit citizens group, to map and stencil storm drain collection systems in 12 municipalities around Buzzards Bay. With this funding, technical assistance from the Buzzards Bay Project, and information from each town's Department of Public Works, the Coalition will map street drain collection systems, conditions of catch basins, and other data to help towns and the Buzzards Bay Project prioritize stormwater discharges for remediation.

Joseph Costa, PhD
Executive Director

The Buzzards Bay Project has identified stormwater discharges from streets, driveways, parking lots, and other surfaces as one of the principal pollution problems contributing to shellfish bed and swimming beach closures in Buzzards Bay. Project Director Joseph Costa described direct stormwater discharges to bays and rivers as a "major problem" around Buzzards Bay. He further noted "as land was developed in the past, the common practice was to get stormwater off the roads as quick as possible. The easiest solution was to discharge to the nearest pond, wetland, river, or harbor. Unfortunately the rain washes pollutants off the road including pet and other animal wastes, oil and other pollutants from cars. Our stormdrains became a direct pathway for fertilizer and pesticides washing off lawns and agricultural lands, and for discharges from failing septic systems."

Bruce Rosinoff
EPA Project Officer

David Janik, RS
Environmental Analyst

Bernadette Taber
*Stormwater Specialist,
USDA-SCS*

John Rockwell
Wetlands Specialist

The Buzzards Bay Project noted that the stenciling and mapping campaign by the Coalition will meet two goals. First, it will heighten public awareness of the effect of stormwater discharges on water quality around Buzzards Bay. Costa noted "stormdrain stenciling discourages people from dumping used motor oil down the drain, and encourages them to pick up after their dogs. When the connection is made in the public's mind between a pipe near a favorite bathing beach and the stormdrain up the street, its a powerful educational tool."

Frederick Kalisz, Jr.
*Toxics Reduction Program
Coordinator*

Tracy Warncke
Administrative Assistant

The second objective of the effort Costa noted "is to produce maps and establish a database that will be useful for each town's DPW. Our DPWs are already stretched to the limit. The Coalition's work will help towns identify stormdrains that are in need of maintenance and map pipe connections. Then, using the maps and database, the Buzzards Bay Project hopes to help towns set up catch basin maintenance schedules in problem areas, and to help towns prioritize sites for management action. Only when we start treating some of these stormwater discharges can we expect to reopen some of the shellfish beds now closed."





Buzzards Bay Project

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

For more information:
Tracy Warncke
The Buzzards Bay Project
2 Spring St.
Marion, Ma. 02738
(508) 748-3600

Frederick M. Kalisz, Jr., Program Coordinator of the Buzzards Bay Project's Toxic Use Reduction Program recently participated in the first national student/faculty & industry/government conference on pollution prevention. The conference entitled "Changing the Course of Production: Pollution Prevention in Manufacturing & Services" was conducted on the campus of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge on October 22 and 23. Federal, state, and local environmental agencies recognize source reduction as the most cost effective and preferred method for reducing pollution generation. The Buzzards Bay Project TUR works with specifically greater New Bedford area industry, that through wastewater discharge, impacts Buzzards Bay.





**For Immediate Release
November 28, 1994
Contact: Joe Costa**

Buzzards Bay Project

Buzzards Bay Project awards computers, technical assistance to Buzzards Bay towns

The Buzzards Bay Project announced that it will provide computers and software to ten Buzzards Bay area Boards of Health to enable them to better track septic system maintenance and inspections. The computers will also assist Boards of Health's in adopting regionally-consistent approaches for complying with the new state requirements for onsite sewage disposal (Title 5). These include septic system inspections at time of property transfer, and recommendations that towns implement septic system inspection and maintenance programs. The new Title 5 regulations take effect in March 1995. The computer systems will also help towns track septic system, lead paint, and oil tank betterment programs for those towns that want to take advantage of the "Betterment Bill" that was passed by the Massachusetts Legislature earlier this year.

Joseph Costa, PhD
Executive Director

Bruce Rosinoff
EPA Project Officer

David Janik, RS
Environmental Analyst

Bernadette Taber
*Stormwater Specialist,
USDA-SCS*

John Rockwell
Wetlands Specialist

Frederick Kalisz, Jr.
*Toxics Reduction Program
Coordinator*

Tracy Warncke
Administrative Assistant

The Buzzards Bay Project will provide training to town personnel in the operation of the computers and data base software, and help the towns incorporate relevant lot information from each town's Assessors files. The communities receiving the computers and software are Falmouth, Wareham, Marion, Mattapoisett, Acushnet, Rochester, Fairhaven, New Bedford, Dartmouth, and Westport. The Bourne Board of Health indicated it already had a computer, and requested only the septic system tracking software and technical assistance from the Buzzards Bay Project.

The Buzzards Bay Project is an advisory and planning unit administered by Massachusetts Coastal Zone Management and the US EPA. The principal mission of the Buzzards Bay Project is to provide funding and technical assistance to Buzzards Bay municipalities to assist them in implementing the recommendations contained in the Buzzards Bay Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan. This summer, the Buzzards Bay Project awarded grants to Buzzards Bay municipalities for oil spill containment equipment, boat pumpout facilities, nitrogen management, and coastal resource mapping. The request for these computers and software was made to the Buzzards Bay Project by Buzzards Bay municipal representatives on the Buzzards Bay Action Committee, a non-profit organization which works with the Buzzards Bay Project to implement the Buzzards Bay Management Plan.

[Note to editor: The Buzzards Bay Project, a National Estuary Program and unit of Massachusetts Coastal Zone Management is often confused with two non-profit corporations: the Buzzards Bay Action Committee (BBAC- an organization of municipal officials), and the Coalition for Buzzards Bay (a citizens group). The Coalition is most widely recognized for its "Report Card" on Buzzards Bay municipalities and its "Town Watch" program. The Coalition has also implemented a citizen-based water quality monitoring program in partnership with the Buzzards Bay Project. All three organizations are working together to implement the Buzzards Bay Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan. The Buzzards Bay Project is the only organization which awards grants to Buzzards Bay municipalities.]

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**For Immediate Release
December 5, 1994
Contact: Joe Costa**

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Joseph Costa, PhD
Executive Director

The Buzzards Bay Project has identified stormwater discharges from streets, driveways, parking lots, and other surfaces as one of the principal pollution problems contributing to shellfish bed and swimming beach closures in Buzzards Bay. Project Director Joseph Costa described direct stormwater discharges to bays and rivers as a "major problem" around Buzzards Bay. He further noted "as land was developed in the past, the common practice was to get stormwater off the roads as quick as possible. The easiest solution was to discharge to the nearest pond, wetland, river, or harbor. Unfortunately the rain washes pollutants off the road including pet and other animal wastes, oil and other pollutants from cars. Our stormdrains became a direct pathway for fertilizer and pesticides washing off lawns and agricultural lands, and for discharges from failing septic systems."

Bruce Rosinoff
EPA Project Officer

David Janik, RS
Environmental Analyst

Bernadette Taber
*Stormwater Specialist,
USDA-SCS*

John Rockwell
Wetlands Specialist

Frederick Kalisz, Jr.
*Toxics Reduction Program
Coordinator*

Tracy Warncke
Administrative Assistant

The Buzzards Bay Project noted that the stenciling and mapping campaign by the Coalition will meet two goals. First, it will heighten public awareness of the effect of stormwater discharges on water quality around Buzzards Bay. Costa noted "stormdrain stenciling discourages people from dumping used motor oil down the drain, and encourages them to pick up after their dogs. When the connection is made in the public's mind between a pipe near a favorite bathing beach and the stormdrain up the street, its a powerful educational tool."

The second objective of the effort Costa noted "is to produce maps and establish a database that will be useful for each town's DPW. Our DPWs are already stretched to the limit. The Coalition's work will help towns identify stormdrains that are in need of maintenance and map pipe connections. Then, using the maps and database, the Buzzards Bay Project hopes to help towns set up catch basin maintenance schedules in problem areas, and to help towns prioritize sites for management action. Only when we start treating some of these stormwater discharges can we expect to reopen some of the shellfish beds now closed."



Mimi McConnell, Executive Director of the Coalition for Buzzards Bay has already announced that it has hired Darren Casella, a resident of Falmouth to oversee the stormwater stenciling and mapping effort for the Coalition. Mr. Casella is also a volunteer trainee at the Woods Hole Research Center, a nonprofit research organization that has focussed on global environmental issues.

Costa noted that the Coalition for Buzzards Bay has already conducted a stormwater stenciling campaign in the City of New Bedford using private funding, and the work is meant to compliment other efforts like the one in Falmouth through the Woods Hole Sea Grant Program.

The Buzzards Bay Project is an advisory and planning unit administered by Massachusetts Coastal Zone Management and the US EPA. The award to the Coalition was part of a \$200,000 grant received by the Buzzards Bay Project for stormwater remediation in Buzzards Bay. The remainder of the funds will be provided to Buzzards Bay municipalities in grants and technical assistance this winter and spring.

[Note to editor: The Buzzards Bay Project, a National Estuary Program and unit of Massachusetts Coastal Zone Management is often confused with two non-profit corporations: the Buzzards Bay Action Committee (BBAC- an organization of municipal officials), and the Coalition for Buzzards Bay (a citizens group). The Coalition is most widely recognized for its "Report Card" on Buzzards Bay municipalities, its "Town Watch" program, and a citizen-based water quality monitoring program conducted in partnership with the Buzzards Bay Project. All three organizations are working together to implement the Buzzards Bay Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan.]

storm.prs



File

Contact: Joe Costa
Date: August 17, 1994

Buzzards Bay Project

For Immediate Release Federal Funding for Buzzards Bay Project continues

The Buzzards Bay Project received word from Senator Kennedy's office that federal funding to the Buzzards Bay Project will continue in next years federal budget. The appropriated \$400,000 in the H.U.D., V.A., and Independent Agencies budget will enable the Buzzards Bay Project to continue to provide technical and financial assistance to Buzzards Bay communities and environmental organizations for the "continued implementation of the Buzzards Bay Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan." The funds will be awarded through the US Environmental Protection Agency as part of its federal FY95 budget.

Joseph Costa, PhD
Executive Director

Senator Kennedy helped earmark the federal funding for Buzzards Bay at the request of the Buzzards Bay Action Committee (BBAC), a non-profit environmental organization composed of municipal officials appointed by each town in the Buzzards Bay watershed. The BBAC has been pushing for continued federal and state support for the cleanup and protection of Buzzards Bay. Town of Fairhaven Executive Secretary Jeff Osuch is chairman of the BBAC and Dennis Luttrell is the Executive Director of the organization. In the BBAC's request to Senators Kennedy and Kerry and Congressmen Studds, Frank, and Blute, Mr. Luttrell noted that the funds would be used to assist the region with further stormwater remediation projects, land use planning, wetlands protection, and help reopen shellfish beds, and anadromous fish runs. He noted that the funding will also result in "improved water quality of Buzzards Bay, the protection of living resources therein, and economic viability for the region." The citizens group Coalition for Buzzards Bay also supported the appropriation.

Bruce Rosinoff
EPA Project Officer

David Janik, RS
Environmental Analyst


Bernadette Taber
*Stormwater Specialist,
USDA-SCS*

John Rockwell
Wetlands Specialist

Funding for Buzzards Bay was included in the Senate version of the budget but not the House version. It was not until today that the House-Senate Conference Committee approved the Senate's recommendation for the Buzzards Bay funding.

Frederick Kalisz, Jr.
*Toxics Reduction Program
Coordinator*

This is the second year that the Buzzards Bay Project has received federal funding for implementation of Buzzards Bay Management Plan. Since last summer the Buzzards Bay Project has awarded \$150,000 in grants to Buzzards Bay municipalities for a wide range of projects including boat pump-out facilities, oil spill containment equipment and coastal resource mapping. This fall, the Buzzards Bay Project is expected to award between \$250,000 and \$400,000 to Buzzards Bay communities for stormwater remediation projects. The new funding is expected to be released by EPA in Spring of 1995.

Tracy Warncke
Administrative Assistant

Buzzards Bay Project Executive Director Joseph Costa stated "we are ecstatic about the continued federal funding and the support of our legislators. The funding will help us start many new exciting projects in the communities around Buzzards Bay."

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Editor: Inquiries regarding passage of the federal budget should be directed to Mimi Brody (Sen. Kennedy's Office) at 202-224-2613.

2 Spring Street, Marion, Massachusetts 02738 (508) 748-3600 Facsimile (508) 748-~~2613~~ 3962





Contact:
Mara Altman
Public Outreach Coordinator

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
26 February 1992

Buzzards Bay Project

**WAREHAM COASTAL WATERS DESIGNATED
FIRST EASTERN SEABOARD NO DISCHARGE AREA**

Wareham -- The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has announced that Wareham, MA coastal waters have been designated a federal "no discharge area," the first such designation on the eastern seaboard. The designation prohibits the discharge of both treated and untreated boat sewage in Wareham coastal waters and enables federal, state and local enforcement officials to assess fines and other penalties for discharge violations.

Environmental Protection Agency Regional Administrator Julie Belaga hailed the designation as "a vital first step towards the restoration of cleaner coastal waters in Buzzards Bay, that sets an important precedent for the entire east coast. Hopefully other communities will follow Wareham's lead and take federal regulatory steps to protect their coastal waters from boat sewage contamination."

Jeffrey Benoit, Director of Coastal Zone Management (CZM) for the Massachusetts Executive Office of Environmental Affairs commented that the designation "is an excellent example of how local, federal and state governments can effectively work together to protect our most valuable natural resources." The designation application was prepared by the town of Wareham with technical assistance from CZM.

The designation partially fulfills one of the recommended actions contained in the Buzzards Bay Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP) which was prepared by the Buzzards Bay Project and signed into state policy by Governor William Weld last fall. The plan identifies boat sewage and the toxic chemicals used to treat it as a significant environmental and public health threat. To prevent these pollutants from being dumped directly into the Bay, the Plan recommends the establishment of no-discharge areas and the installation of pump-out stations to facilitate boater compliance.

Says Buzzards Bay Project Manager Dr. Joseph Costa, "the designation is an important first regulatory step, but solving the problem of boat sewage contamination in Buzzards Bay requires a Bay-wide approach, which means installing pump-outs in all Buzzards Bay Harbors." Over the past three years, the Project has been instrumental in helping Bay towns to finance and install pump-out stations through its municipal grant program. At present the Project and the Buzzards Bay Action Committee are working to pass a variety of federal legislative initiatives that would provide funding for the continuation of this program as well as other pollution prevention and clean up measures.

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2 Spring Street, Marion, Massachusetts 02738 (508) 748-3600 Facsimile (508) 748-2845





Buzzards Bay Project

Contact: David Janik
Phone: (508)748-3600
Date: May 2, 1994

For Immediate Release

Nitrogen and Herring Grants Announced

The Buzzards Bay Project and the Buzzards Bay Action Committee jointly announced that grants totaling \$17,200 will be awarded to four Buzzards Bay municipalities to restore herring runs and manage nitrogen inputs to coastal embayments.

A \$2,241 grant was awarded to the town of Westport for the restoration of the Adamsville Pond Herring Run. These funds will enable the town to install a new 30 foot long fish ladder on Rocky Delano Brook. The Westport Fish Commissioners, Highway Surveyor, and Shellfish Warden will oversee the work. In the town's application, Fish Commissioner chairman Daniel Sullivan noted that herring populations have declined in Westport over the last several years, and the Fish Commission has had to limit the number of days each week that herring can be harvested. Construction of the new ladder is expected to improve herring stocks in the River. The town is contributing Highway Department labor and equipment to construct the ladder.

Three nitrogen management grants were awarded. The town of Dartmouth received \$7,500 to conduct a buildout analysis and develop a nitrogen management strategy for the Allens Pond watershed. The buildout analysis, which is an assessment of existing development and future growth potential, will be conducted with the towns computer-based Geographic Information System, which was partially funded by an earlier Buzzards Bay Project-Action Committee award. Because the 2070 acre Allens Pond watershed includes approximately 325 acres in the town of Westport, Dartmouth officials will be working with Westport Planning Board to gather the necessary data for their assessment. The work will be jointly overseen by Dartmouth's Environmental Affair Coordinator, Director of Public Health, and Dartmouth Planning Director.

The town of Fairhaven received \$1,250 grant to conduct a buildout analysis and develop a nitrogen management strategy for Little Bay. Little Bay is the uppermost portion of Nasketucket Bay whose drainage basin encompasses 3500 acres of mostly agricultural and



residential land. Water quality data, collected with the help of Coalition for Buzzards Bay volunteers, indicate that Little Bay water quality is degraded because of nitrogen inputs. The state has also closed the area to shellfishing because of high levels of fecal coliform bacteria. The Buzzards Bay Project identified agricultural land, which includes dairy farms, plant nurseries, and cropland, as the largest source of nitrogen to this watershed. The work by the town will be coordinated by Fairhaven Health Agent Patricia Fowle.

The town of Falmouth received \$6,250 grant to conduct a detailed flushing study of West Falmouth Harbor. This Buzzards Bay Project grant will supplement funds raised by the town and grant money from the Cape Cod Commission to conduct dye studies and develop a computer model to define flushing rates for West Falmouth Harbor. Falmouth is attempting to manage nitrogen inputs to West Falmouth Harbor whose largest single nitrogen source is the groundwater discharge from the towns' wastewater treatment facility. The flushing rate data is a critical component in establishing nitrogen loading rates using the approach recommended by the Buzzards Bay Project.

In 1990, the Buzzards Bay Project delineated for the first time the West Falmouth Harbor watershed. Because the West Falmouth Harbor watershed includes a number of plumes including those from the town's Sewage Treatment Plant, abandoned septage lagoons, and contamination from the Massachusetts Military Reservation, the town of Falmouth is working with the Cape Cod Commission to update the Project's watershed delineation based on new data collected by state, federal, and local agencies. The Buzzards Bay Project has found that total nitrogen concentrations in West Falmouth Harbor already exceed the limits defined in Falmouth's nutrient loading bylaw. The flushing study and nitrogen management strategy development for West Falmouth Harbor will be overseen by Falmouth Town Planner Brian Currie.

Allens Pond, Little Bay, and West Falmouth Harbor all ranked very highly in the Buzzards Bay Project report "A Buzzards Bay Embayment Subwatershed Evaluation: Establishing Priorities for Nitrogen Management Action." The draft report, which was sent to all Buzzards Bay municipalities for review in February, was intended to identify where Project funding and technical assistance should be focused on the difficult issue of nitrogen management. In addition to the funding, the Buzzards Bay Project will provide technical assistance to each municipality receiving a nitrogen management grant to help the communities adopt the nitrogen loading limits recommended in the Buzzards Bay Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan. The Plan was developed by the Buzzards Bay Project and approved by Governor Weld in 1992.

The Buzzards Bay Project has found that septic systems are the largest single contributor of nitrogen in the majority of the 30 Buzzards Bay embayments that it evaluated, followed by fertilizer use on residential and agricultural land. Dairy farms or sewage treatment plants were the largest nitrogen sources in five embayments. All septic systems, whether or not they meet existing sanitary code requirements, are major sources of nitrogen.

Communities can manage nitrogen to sensitive embayments in a number of ways including making changes to zoning, adoption of subdivision or health regulations, procuring open space or conservation easements, encouraging better agricultural practices, sewerage sensitive areas, or requiring use of alternative design septic systems that remove nitrogen. Dr. Joseph Costa, Executive Director of the Buzzards Bay Project noted "managing the cumulative impacts of growth, like nitrogen from development, represents one of the greatest challenges towns face in trying to protect sensitive coastal areas, drinking supplies, and marine water quality. The Buzzards Bay Project is committed to working with municipalities interested in tackling this problem."

The Buzzards Bay Project is an advisory and planning organization overseen by the Massachusetts Coastal Zone Management Office and US Environmental Protection Agency. The Buzzards Bay Action Committee is a non-profit organization composed of officials from Buzzards Bay municipalities. The Coalition for Buzzards Bay, a non-profit citizens group, has implemented a citizen based water quality monitoring program in partnership with the Buzzards Bay Project to evaluate nitrogen pollution impacts in Buzzards Bay embayments.

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RF

Buzzards Bay Project

Contact: David Janik
Phone: (508)748-3600

For Immediate Release

Date: March 7, 1994
Subject: Oil Spill Containment Grants

The Buzzards Bay Project and the Buzzards Bay Action Committee are pleased to announce that eleven municipalities surrounding Buzzards Bay have been selected to receive grants to purchase oil spill containment equipment. The grants range in value from \$1,000 to \$3,500, and the total amount awarded bay-wide is \$24,000. This is the second round of oil spill containment equipment grants awarded by the Buzzards Bay Project and the Buzzards Bay Action Committee. In 1991 \$6,000 was awarded to four area towns for similar equipment.

The intent of this grant program was to ensure that each Buzzards Bay municipality had at least 200 feet of containment boom available to respond to limited size oil spills within their communities. The Buzzards Bay Action Committee has also coordinated a bay-wide mutual aid agreement that commits area municipalities to cooperation in the event of a large spill.

The following table lists the receiving Buzzards Bay municipalities and their grant award.

<u>Municipality</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Westport	\$2,000
Dartmouth	\$3,500
New Bedford	\$2,000
Fairhaven	\$2,000
Mattapoissett	\$2,500
Marion	\$1,500
Rochester	\$2,000
Wareham	\$2,000
Bourne	\$3,500
Falmouth	\$2,000
Gosnold	\$1,000

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This is the second time that the Buzzards Bay Project and the Buzzards Bay Action Committee have awarded grants for coastal resource mapping. In 1991, the town of Falmouth, received a \$13,700 award to map its coastal resources along Buzzards Bay, and the town of Dartmouth and City of New Bedford jointly received \$24,200 grant. This years funding to New Bedford, Dartmouth, will enable Dartmouth and New Bedford to expand upon their previous efforts and enable Fairhaven to also map its coastal resources.

Dr. Joseph Costa, Executive Director of the Buzzards Bay Project said "we are excited about the town's starting up these projects. Its especially nice to see three communities working together, sharing resources, and working toward a common goal."

New Bedford, Dartmouth, and Fairhaven requested \$25,000, but insufficient funds were available to fully fund the municipalities' request. Five out of ten eligible Buzzards Bay municipalities applied for this years funding. Dr. Costa added "although we did not have sufficient funds to meet all requests, the Buzzards Bay Project can provide technical assistance to any Buzzards Bay towns seeking to better map coastal resources." The Buzzards Bay Action Committee identified coastal resource mapping as one of the priority areas to provide funding to Buzzards Bay municipalities.

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Buzzards Bay Project

PF
Contact: David Janik
Phone: (508)748-3600
Date: May 2, 1994

For Immediate Release

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residential land. Water quality data, collected with the help of Coalition for Buzzards Bay volunteers, indicate that Little Bay water quality is degraded because of nitrogen inputs. The state has also closed the area to shellfishing because of high levels of fecal coliform bacteria. The Buzzards Bay Project identified agricultural land, which includes dairy farms, plant nurseries, and cropland, as the largest source of nitrogen to this watershed. The work by the town will be coordinated by Fairhaven Health Agent Patricia Fowle.

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In 1990, the Buzzards Bay Project delineated for the first time the West Falmouth Harbor watershed. Because the West Falmouth Harbor watershed includes a number of plumes including those from the town's Sewage Treatment Plant, abandoned septage lagoons, and contamination from the Massachusetts Military Reservation, the town of Falmouth is working with the Cape Cod Commission to update the Project's watershed delineation based on new data collected by state, federal, and local agencies. The Buzzards Bay Project has found that total nitrogen concentrations in West Falmouth Harbor already exceed the limits defined in Falmouth's nutrient loading bylaw. The flushing study and nitrogen management strategy development for West Falmouth Harbor will be overseen by Falmouth Town Planner Brian Currie.

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The Buzzards Bay Project is an advisory and planning organization overseen by the Massachusetts Coastal Zone Management Office and US Environmental Protection Agency. The Buzzards Bay Action Committee is a non-profit organization composed of officials from Buzzards Bay municipalities. The Coalition for Buzzards Bay, a non-profit citizens group, has implemented a citizen based water quality monitoring program in partnership with the Buzzards Bay Project to evaluate nitrogen pollution impacts in Buzzards Bay embayments.

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Contact: David Janik
Phone: (508)748-3600
Date: March 15, 1994

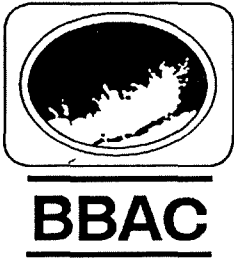
For Immediate Release

Coastal Resource Mapping Grants Announced

The Buzzards Bay Project and the Buzzards Bay Action Committee jointly announced that two grants totaling \$25,000 will be awarded to four Buzzards Bay municipalities for the purposes of mapping coastal resources. The purpose of these grants is to enable towns to map coastal features including docks and piers, pollution sources, shellfish and wildlife habitat, eelgrass beds, structures and development near shore, open space, conservation land, and wetlands. This data will enable the municipalities to better plan for coastal development, make decisions regarding coastal projects, better protect valuable coastal resources, and help develop harbor plans.

A \$6,000 Coastal Resource mapping grant was awarded to the town of Wareham to map coastal resources along the Weweantic River and its tributaries. In its grant application, the town noted the importance of the Weweantic River as a habitat for shellfish, waterfowl, and anadromous fish and also recognized the Rivers important wetlands and aesthetic values. The town of Wareham indicated it would use its resource map to "more actively take the necessary measures to protect and improve water quality", including remediating storm drains and other pollution sources. David Pichette, Conservation agent for the town of Wareham, will coordinate the work under this grant.

A second award for \$19,000 was awarded to the City of New Bedford, and the towns of Dartmouth and Fairhaven, who jointly applied for funding. This grant will enable the three municipalities to map their resources in a consistent way so that data and information can be exchanged for projects that affect shared coastal embayments and resources. New Bedford and Fairhaven share the Acushnet River estuary. Dartmouth and New Bedford share Clarks Cove. Coastal features will be mapped from Shaws Cove near the Fairhaven-Mattapoisett town boundary to Allens Pond at the Dartmouth-Westport town boundary. Twenty three major types of coastal features will be mapped to aid the three communities to develop and implement open space, harbor and oils spill plans, identify sites for Superfund restoration, and help the towns identify critical areas for local bylaw and ordinance protection. The City of New Bedford will receive and administer the grant funds on behalf of the three municipalities. Elizabeth Wright, Environmental Planner for the City of New Bedford will coordinate the work under this grant.



Buzzards Bay Action Committee

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Marion, MA 02738
(508) 748-1102
fax. (508) 748-3962

Jeffrey Osuch, Fairhaven, *Chairman*
Dennis F. Luttrell, *Executive Director*

Contact: Dennis F. Luttrell
(508) 748-1102

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: March 3, 1994

BUZZARDS BAY MUNICIPALITIES ORGANIZE TO PROTECT THE BAY FROM OIL SPILLS

Acushnet

Bourne

Dartmouth

Fairhaven

Falmouth

Gosnold

Marion

Mattapoissett

New Bedford

Plymouth

Rochester

Wareham

Westport

The communities surrounding Buzzards Bay have joined together and pooled their response capabilities to better protect their mutual resource of Buzzards Bay and the living resources therein. As of the end of February, all the bay-area towns have agreed to organize their individual response to oil spills and, in the case of larger spills, to work with surrounding towns, the U.S. Coast Guard, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and county hazardous material response plans, (Bristol, Plymouth, Barnstable) in an attempt to minimize the effects from potential oil spills in Buzzards Bay.

The local municipal and private sector organization, along with the mutual aid protocols of the "Buzzards Bay Oil Spill Mutual Aid Response Team" will enhance the area's ability to act as first responders when oil spills occur by quickly stabilizing the spill scene and keeping the spill from spreading further, thus reducing the affected areas, cost and time of the resulting clean up.

Additional response equipment for the towns is being provided through grants administered by the Buzzards Bay Project. These funds were secured through the FY94 \$400,000 congressional appropriation lobbied for nationally by the Buzzards Bay Action Committee (BBAC) and strongly supported by Senators Kennedy and Kerry in conjunction with Congressmen Frank, Studds and Blute.

The required United States Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) training for the team members is being provided by Massachusetts Maritime Academy and the United States Environmental Protection Agency Region I, Boston.

The prototypic Buzzards Bay Oil Spill Mutual Aid Response Team is the first time that local government has organized rapid response to potential oil spills around an estuary of nationally recognized significance and across all governmental levels.

The Team is an outgrowth of the earlier Buzzards Bay Action Compact, in which the Bay municipalities pledged to implement the Buzzards Bay Project's Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP) which includes the prevention of oil pollution.



Buzzards Bay Project

Contact:
Mara Altman
Public Outreach Coordinator

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: April 21, 1992

Buzzards Bay environmental plan receives federal approval

Washington D.C.: On April 20, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator William Reilly officially approved the Buzzards Bay Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP), an advisory plan developed by the Buzzards Bay Project, which makes recommendations on how federal, state and local governments can work in partnership to control pollution and protect the natural resources in Buzzards Bay and its watershed.

After signing the document, Administrator Reilly commended the Buzzards Bay Project and state and local officials on their "exceptional leadership during the management plan's development." "The Buzzards Bay CCMP is an important framework for managing the resources of Buzzards Bay, as well as an outstanding example of targeted federal, state and local cooperation in developing an innovative approach for managing critical coastal resources." The Administrator signed the Management Plan following a meeting with representatives from the Buzzards Bay Project, the Buzzards Bay Action Committee, the Coalition for Buzzards Bay, and Massachusetts Coastal Zone Management, at which he was briefed about the major environmental issues of Buzzards Bay and the need for increased funding to facilitate CCMP implementation.

The Buzzards Bay Project is the second National Estuary Program (NEP) participant to receive federal approval of its CCMP. This approval officially marks the beginning of CCMP implementation and makes federal funds available to the Project to continue working to protect Buzzards Bay resources. Before being submitted for federal review, the plan was adopted into state policy by Massachusetts Governor William Weld on September 11, 1991.

Buzzards Bay, a federally designated estuary of "national significance," contains approximately 25% of the state's shellfish catch and other commercial and recreational fisheries. It is surrounded by 210 miles of coastline which includes swimming beaches, salt marshes, barrier beaches, and diverse wetland and wildlife habitats. These resources are primarily threatened by the cumulative impacts of development and other nonpoint pollution

- more -



Buzzards Bay, page 2 of 2

sources such as septic systems, boat sewage discharges, fertilizer use, and stormwater runoff. Parts of the bay also suffer from toxic contamination, industrial pollution and sewage plant outfalls.

The Buzzards Bay CCMP contains detailed analysis of these problems and outlines 11 specific action plans to solve them, utilizing innovative remediation and management strategies. As the Project takes its first important steps from plan development to implementation, it has already been instrumental in achieving such environmental management milestones as:

- the development of the country's first intermunicipal overlay protection district, a cooperative zoning agreement among three Buzzards Bay municipalities intended to limit nitrogen loading into marine and ground waters,
- the establishment of the Buzzards Bay Action Committee, an independent alliance of municipal officials from all 13 bay municipalities, united to support CCMP implementation through local and regional policies and actions, and
- designation of the east coast's first marine "no discharge area," to prohibit all boat sewage discharges in Wareham coastal waters.

The Buzzards Bay Project hopes to continue CCMP implementation momentum by carrying out such pollution clean up and prevention measures as stormwater remediation, toxic use reduction, and land use and harbor planning projects. Project officials estimate that full CCMP implementation would require an annual expenditure of approximately \$2 million dollars over the next ten years (not including New Bedford clean up activities).

Says Massachusetts Secretary of Environmental Affairs Susan Tierney, "That's not much when you consider that over half of the state's economy in one fashion or another, depends on our marine resources." Indeed, significant revenue losses have already been experienced by such water-dependent industries as commercial and recreational fisheries, real estate, tourism and nautical businesses.

Unfortunately, under current Clean Water Act provisions, the federal government, (the greatest source of NEP funding) can only provide funds to develop CCMPs, not to actually implement pollution clean up and prevention recommendations. As one of the first NEP participants to complete its CCMP, the Buzzards Bay Project, united with the BBAC is working closely with the Massachusetts congressional delegation to ensure that the reauthorized Clean Water Act includes provisions to fund CCMP implementation.

Says Buzzards Bay Project Manager Joseph Costa, "it is vital that adequate federal funding mechanisms be put into place now -- how congress decides on this issue today, will determine the future not only of Buzzards Bay, but of all estuaries across the country."

File
w/ Press
Releases

Contact: Dr. Joseph Costa
Project Manager
Buzzards Bay Project

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Buzzards Bay Project Announces Availability of Funds for Boat Pump-out Facilities

Marion MA -- The Buzzards Bay Project has announced that it will provide up to \$40,000 in grants to qualified Buzzards Bay communities to assist in boat pump-out program implementation.

Throughout Buzzards Bay, sewage and toxic treatment chemicals are discharged by boats, posing a significant environmental and public health threat. These grant awards will help reduce the illegal discharge of boat waste into the Bay and will enable municipalities to designate "no discharge zones" by making boat pump-out services more accessible. Grants will be available to municipalities for:

- up to \$15,000 to purchase and install land-based boat pump-out facilities, including sewer line hook up and the installation of tight tanks (temporary sewage holding tanks),
- up to \$5,000 to purchase and install mobile boat pump-out equipment, and
- up to \$3,000 to purchase and install new tight tanks for existing or new mobile boat pump-out facilities.

Boat Pump-out Grants, page 2 of 2

These grants may be used to upgrade or repair existing boat pump-out facilities and each Buzzards Bay municipality is eligible for one grant. The Project is accepting grant proposals until 4 PM, Thursday, August 8, and grant awards will be announced by August 23, 1991.

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Buzzards Bay Project

Contact: David Janik
Phone: (508)748-3600
Date: March 15, 1994

For Immediate Release

Coastal Resource Mapping Grants Announced

The Buzzards Bay Project and the Buzzards Bay Action Committee jointly announced that two grants totaling \$25,000 will be awarded to four Buzzards Bay municipalities for the purposes of mapping coastal resources. The purpose of these grants is to enable towns to map coastal features including docks and piers, pollution sources, shellfish and wildlife habitat, eelgrass beds, structures and development near shore, open space, conservation land, and wetlands. This data will enable the municipalities to better plan for coastal development, make decisions regarding coastal projects, better protect valuable coastal resources, and help develop harbor plans.

A \$6,000 Coastal Resource mapping grant was awarded to the town of Wareham to map coastal resources along the Weweantic River and its tributaries. In its grant application, the town noted the importance of the Weweantic River as a habitat for shellfish, waterfowl, and anadromous fish and also recognized the Rivers important wetlands and aesthetic values. The town of Wareham indicated it would use its resource map to "more actively take the necessary measures to protect and improve water quality", including remediating storm drains and other pollution sources. David Pichette, Conservation agent for the town of Wareham, will coordinate the work under this grant.

A second award for \$19,000 was awarded to the City of New Bedford, and the towns of Dartmouth and Fairhaven, who jointly applied for funding. This grant will enable the three municipalities to map their resources in a consistent way so that data and information can be exchanged for projects that affect shared coastal embayments and resources. New Bedford and Fairhaven share the Acushnet River estuary. Dartmouth and New Bedford share Clarks Cove. Coastal features will be mapped from Shaws Cove near the Fairhaven-Mattapoisett town boundary to Allens Pond at the Dartmouth-Westport town boundary. Twenty three major types of coastal features will be mapped to aid the three communities to develop and implement open space, harbor and oils spill plans, identify sites for Superfund restoration, and help the towns identify critical areas for local bylaw and ordinance protection. The City of New Bedford will receive and administer the grant funds on behalf of the three municipalities. Elizabeth Wright, Environmental Planner for the City of New Bedford will coordinate the work under this grant.





Buzzards Bay Project

Contact: Mara Altman

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

GROUND BREAKING BEGINS FOR INNOVATIVE STORMWATER REMEDIATION PROJECT

Bourne, Ma. The Bourne Department of Public Works has begun constructing a series of storm drain systems to reduce the stormwater runoff pollution that contributes to Hen Cove shellfish bed and beach closures. The project is being funded primarily by a Buzzards Bay Project grant.

These stormdrain systems will treat stormwater from Hill Road, Cedar Point Drive and Spruce Drive. Untreated stormwater from these locations currently discharge directly into Hen Cove. Stormwater-carried pollutants include pathogens, (disease-carrying bacteria and viruses), sediments, automobile associated contaminants, and nutrients from fertilizer use, animal wastes, and failing septic systems.

The new system will treat the initial road runoff or "first flush" (usually the first inch of stormwater runoff, which contains the majority of runoff pollutants) through filtration. The system is being designed by the Soil Conservation Service in conjunction with the Buzzards Bay Project.

This stormwater remediation project is part of the Buzzards Bay Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP) implementation effort. The Management Plan, which was written by the Buzzards Bay Project, identifies stormwater runoff as one of the principle causes for shellfish bed and beach closures around Buzzards Bay. It is hoped that this project will prevent future closures in Hen Cove and is an important first step towards reopening currently closed areas.

Additional stormwater remediation projects are expected in other Buzzards Bay communities next year, should a currently pending federal funding bill be signed by President Bush. The bill, which was recently approved by the Congress would allocate \$500,000 for Buzzards Bay protection measures outlined in the Buzzards Bay CCMP.

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2 Spring Street, Marion, Massachusetts 02738 (508) 748-3600 Facsimile (508) 748-2845





Buzzards Bay Project

Contact: Mara Altman

BUZZARDS BAY PROJECT RECEIVES \$198,000 FOR TOXIC USE REDUCTION PROGRAM

The Environmental Protection Agency has awarded a \$198,000 grant to the Buzzards Bay Project to implement the Buzzards Bay Toxic Waste Source Reduction Program. The funds will be used by the Project over a two and a half year period to help Buzzards Bay area manufacturing industries reduce their use of toxic substances and minimize toxic waste discharges into Buzzards Bay.

This program will implement a major pollution prevention strategy included in the Buzzards Bay Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP), the estuary management strategy developed by the Buzzards Bay Project. It will include workshops and on-site technical assistance, primarily in greater New Bedford, to promote source reduction and minimize toxic waste generation. The program will also serve to educate toxic waste generators about ways they can improve compliance with state and federal toxic waste management regulations, while also streamlining production methods with cost efficient source reduction strategies.

The program is expected to enhance Massachusetts Executive Office of Environmental Affairs' current programs to meet the Commonwealth's goal of cutting the state's hazardous waste generation in half by the year 1997. Says Buzzards Bay Project Manager Dr. Joseph Costa, "This grant will not only help to reduce the amount of toxics reaching the bay, but it will reduce these pollutants in a way that is economically beneficial to industry."

The Project will work closely with the Massachusetts Office of Technical Assistance and the Department of Environmental Protection to produce information about how technical assistance and regulatory programs should coordinate with local sewage treatment facilities to encourage toxic use reduction. The Project will also produce additional information which is expected to be of great value to other states and the EPA in establishing pollution prevention priorities and programs.

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Buzzards Bay Project

Contact: Mara Altman

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

PROJECT AND CZM LAUNCH ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION WORKSHOP SERIES

On November 10, the Buzzards Bay Project and the Massachusetts Coastal Zone Management office (CZM) cosponsored a workshop for local environmental officials on the process and requirements for establishing federal *no-Discharge Areas*. *No-Discharge Area* designations are granted by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to prohibit all boat sewage discharges into designated waters.

Attending the workshop were harbormasters, board of health agents, shellfish wardens, local planners, and other municipal officials from the towns of Bourne, Dartmouth, Fairhaven, Marion, New Bedford and Westport. Attendees from all six towns expressed interest in seeking no-discharge designations and representatives from the towns of Marion, Fairhaven and Westport stated intentions to obtain *no-Discharge Area* designations prior to the 1993 boating season. Last February, Wareham became the first town on the east coast to have its waters declared an EPA *no-Discharge Area*.

Today's program is the first in a series of environmental education workshops for municipal officials. Beginning early next year, the series will continue with workshops on nonpoint source pollution, specifically targeting road runoff issues. Says CZM Regional Coordinator Kristie Kapp, "The intent of this series is to help local environmental officials understand and evaluate their nonpoint source pollution problems and hopefully come away from the workshops with the tools to solve them."

This educational program is one facet of ongoing efforts to implement the Buzzards Bay Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP), the estuary protection strategy developed by the Buzzards Bay Project. The Buzzards Bay Project is a National Estuary Program participant which provides funding and scientific and technical assistance to municipalities to protect and restore Buzzards Bay water quality and ecosystems.

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Buzzards Bay Project

Contact: Mara Altman

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Buzzards Bay Project

Contact: Mara Altman

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Additional stormwater remediation projects are expected in other Buzzards Bay communities next year, should a currently pending federal funding bill be signed by President Bush. The bill, which was recently approved by the Congress would allocate \$500,000 for Buzzards Bay protection measures outlined in the Buzzards Bay CCMP.

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Buzzards Bay Project

Contact: Mara Altman

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

FEDERAL FUNDS APPROPRIATED FOR BUZZARDS BAY ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Washington, DC: On September 25, Congress appropriated \$400,000 to help implement the Buzzards Bay Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP), the estuary protection plan developed by the Buzzards Bay Project. The Project will administer the funding to finance pollution prevention and remediation programs for Bay municipalities.

According to the CCMP, Buzzards Bay natural resources are primarily threatened by the cumulative impacts of development and nonpoint pollution sources such as road runoff, failing septic systems and fertilizer use. The Project will allocate the new federal appropriation to provide technical assistance and grants to Bay municipalities for pollution remediation involving: stormwater control, toxic use reduction, land use regulations and the establishment of additional boat pumpout programs. These funds will also be used to continue support for citizens' water quality monitoring programs and evaluation of new pollution control technologies.

According to CCMP Financial Plan estimates, an annual expenditure of approximately \$2 million over the next ten years is necessary to fully finance CCMP pollution cleanup and prevention recommendations (not including New Bedford cleanup activities). The new appropriation is viewed as a funding stop-gap measure until the Clean Water Act is reauthorized to provide implementation funding for approved CCMPs. The Buzzards Bay CCMP was federally approved last April.

The appropriation was passed largely because of lobbying efforts by Reps. Gerry Studds and Barney Frank and Sens. Edward Kennedy and John Kerry, all of whom worked closely with the Buzzards Bay Action Committee and the Buzzards Bay Project. The funding is included in H.R. 5679, the Department of Veteran Affairs and Housing and Urban Development and Independent Agencies Appropriation Bill, 1993. President Bush must sign or veto the bill by October 5, or it will automatically become law.

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Contact: Joe Costa
Project Manager

For Immediate Release:

Buzzards Bay Project

Buzzards Bay Project hires Wetland Specialist

Marion, MA: On Monday, September 20th, the Buzzards Bay Project announced that it hired John Rockwell of Marion as the Project's "Wetlands Specialist".

As the Wetlands Specialist, Mr. Rockwell will provide technical assistance to Buzzards Bay communities. This technical assistance will include conducting wetland delineation training workshops for Conservation Commissions and conservation agents, helping towns develop or upgrade their wetlands bylaws, and helping Conservation Commissions or conservation agents review difficult projects.

Buzzards Bay Project Manager Dr. Joseph Costa, in announcing the appointment of Mr. Rockwell, cited his long experience on wetlands issues. Mr. Rockwell, a wetlands consultant, was former Conservation Agent for the town of Westport, and has been chairman of the Marion Conservation Commission for 8 years. Mr. Rockwell is also on the Board of Directors of the Massachusetts Association for Conservation Commissioners, and has been conduct training workshops for that organization for several years. Mr. Rockwell is completing a masters thesis with Antioch University in New Hampshire on wetland delineation methodologies, and was a student intern with the Buzzards Bay Project during portions of 1992 and 1993.

Dr. Costa said "we are excited in having John join the staff, there is a real need for additional wetlands expertise around Buzzards Bay because only half our towns have conservation agents. And even for those that do, there are always challenging projects that come along that are difficult for a town to evaluate without some outside expertise." He noted that this initiative compliments the joint award by the Buzzards Bay Project and the Buzzards Bay Action Committee of \$25,000 to the towns of Rochester, New Bedford and Marion to hire a regional conservation agent to be shared among the three towns. Costa noted that these initiatives help implement the recommendations contained in the Buzzards Bay Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan, a document written by the Project and approved by Governor Weld and the U.S EPA. Towns eligible for wetlands technical assistance include Acushnet, Bourne, Carver, Fairhaven, Falmouth, Gosnold, Marion, Mattapoisett, Middleborough, Plymouth, Rochester, Wareham, Westport, and the City of New Bedford. Says Costa, "we are also trying to increase public awareness that protecting coastal and inland wetlands is a very high priority if we are to protect water quality, drinking water, and other precious natural resources."

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Buzzards Bay Project

PRESS ALERT

Buzzards Bay funding crisis resolved

The following letter was sent by the Buzzards Bay Project to Senator Kennedy and Congressmen Barney Frank and Gerry Studds.

Dear _____,

Thank you for your assistance in helping resolve the administrative obstacles affecting the Buzzards Bay Project and several other National Estuary Programs. Your involvement was critical in rectifying the problem.

Attached are the minutes of the Buzzards Bay Project Steering Committee on August 10th which included EPA's Region I representative. Please refer to the highlighted section which describes the arrived upon solution to our funding crisis. You may wish to also commend Marian Mlay and her staff at EPA's Oceans and Coastal Protection Division for recommending to Region I an innovative solution to the problem. We expect that EPA may be able to make official the funding award within two weeks.

On behalf of the Buzzards Bay Project, the Buzzards Bay Action Committee, the Coalition for Buzzards Bay, and the municipalities of Buzzards Bay, thank you for your help in ensuring that pollution cleanup activities in Buzzards Bay will continue. Because of your actions, you have enabled the Buzzards Bay Project, together with the Buzzards Bay Action Committee, to continue to provide grants and technical assistance to Buzzards Bay municipalities and environmental organizations to meet the goals in the Buzzards Bay Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan, to protect and restore Buzzards Bay.

Sincerely,

*Joseph E. Costa PhD
Project Manager
Buzzards Bay Project*





Buzzards Bay Project

Contact: Mara Altman

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

**BUZZARDS BAY PROJECT RECEIVES \$198,000
FOR TOXIC USE REDUCTION PROGRAM**

The Environmental Protection Agency has awarded a \$198,000 grant to the Buzzards Bay Project to implement the Buzzards Bay Toxic Waste Source Reduction Program. The funds will be used by the Project over a two and a half year period to help Buzzards Bay area manufacturing industries reduce their use of toxic substances and minimize toxic waste discharges into Buzzards Bay.

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The program is expected to enhance Massachusetts Executive Office of Environmental Affairs' current programs to meet the Commonwealth's goal of cutting the state's hazardous waste generation in half by the year 1997. Says Buzzards Bay Project Manager Dr. Joseph Costa, "This grant will not only help to reduce the amount of toxics reaching the bay, but it will reduce these pollutants in a way that is economically beneficial to industry."

The Project will work closely with the Massachusetts Office of Technical Assistance and the Department of Environmental Protection to produce information about how technical assistance and regulatory programs should coordinate with local sewage treatment facilities to encourage toxic use reduction. The Project will also produce additional information which is expected to be of great value to other states and the EPA in establishing pollution prevention priorities and programs.

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Buzzards Bay Project

For Information contact:

Frederick M. Kalisz, Jr.

Program Coordinator

(508) 748-3600

December 9, 1993

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

The Buzzards Bay Project Toxic Use Reduction Program is sponsoring a workshop on Hazardous Materials Management and Chemical Reporting on Wednesday December 15, 1993. The presentation will be made at the Howland Green Library, 3 Rodney French Blvd., New Bedford beginning at 9 am. The content of the morning presentation will include information and education on the proper handling and understanding of material safety data sheets associated with chemicals used in industry; the Community Right To Know Act; Confined Space Entry; and Lock Out/Tag Out.

The presentation will be lead by Grace Donnelly, Ph.D., President of BIOSPEC, Inc. of Providence, R.I. Registration for this no-cost program may be obtained by contacting the Buzzards Bay Project office, 2 Spring St., Marion, Ma. 748-3600.

The Buzzards Bay Project is administered and funded by the Massachusetts Executive Office of Environmental Affairs through its Coastal Zone Management Office, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. This workshop is co-sponsored by the Massachusetts Office of Technical Assistance, The Southeastern Regional Planning and Economic Development District, the New Bedford Area Chamber of Commerce, and the Buzzards Bay Project Toxic Use Reduction Advisory Committee.





FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE Buzzards Bay Project
Contact: Joseph E. Costa, Project Manager
 Buzzards Bay Project
 508-748-3600

June 9, 1993

Kalisz to Head Toxics Reduction Program

The Buzzards Bay Project (BBP) launched a new toxic waste reduction program with the announcement today that New Bedford City Council President Frederick M. Kalisz Jr. will direct the effort. Mr. Kalisz will coordinate a planned 30-month project to assist up to 40 New Bedford area manufacturers in "source reduction" initiatives to eliminate, reduce the use of, or find substitutes for toxic and hazardous materials. As a major component of BBP's Comprehensive Conservation Management Plan (CCMP), this new program is intended to help meet the Plan's 1995 and State's 1997 goals of reducing hazardous waste generation by 50 percent.

The Source Reduction program will include participation and support from the Massachusetts Office of Technical Assistance (OTA), the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and U.S. EPA. EPA is providing about 40 percent of the project's \$440,000 budget through the Massachusetts Coastal Zone Management Office, which administers the BBP.

Source reduction, by preventing pollution at the source, helps firms create savings by eliminating the high cost of hazardous waste management as well as the liabilities and regulatory costs of using toxic materials. Mr. Kalisz's role will be to coordinate a "clean technology" clearinghouse. Technical staff from companies that volunteer for the program will receive educational materials and participate in workshops and training sessions. Technical experts from OTA will make site visits to the participating companies and work with the company to recommend and implement improved manufacturing processes designed to eliminate or reduce pollution of air, land and water.

BBP Manager Dr. Joseph Costa, in announcing the appointment of Mr. Kalisz, cited his professional experience, his experience in local government and his familiarity with local industry. Dr. Costa said that "Fred joining the Project opens a new era of cooperation between the Buzzards Bay Project and the greater New Bedford business community in preventing pollution to Buzzards Bay." Mr. Kalisz will be the link between industry and OTA and he will also work closely with sewage treatment plant operators and other officials in New Bedford, Fairhaven and Dartmouth.

The Buzzards Bay Project, part of EPA's National Estuary Program, was established in 1985 to develop and implement recommendations to preserve and protect water quality and living resources in Buzzards Bay. In 1991, the CCMP was approved by Governor Weld and the EPA; it contains 11 detailed action plans for the region and this new source reduction initiative will play a major role in the accomplishment of those efforts to protect Buzzards Bay.

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NEWS RELEASE

Contact: Mara Altman



KENNEDY, STUDDS TO APPEAR AT PRESS CONFERENCE ON MULTI-LEVEL GOVERNMENT PARTNERSHIP TO PROTECT BUZZARDS BAY

Buzzards Bay Project and BBAC commend lawmakers on funding victory & town of Bourne for Hen Cove clean up project

On Monday, October 19 at 10:30 AM, the Buzzards Bay Project and the Buzzards Bay Action Committee (BBAC) will hold a press conference at Cedar Point Association Beach, located at the end of Cedar Point Road in Bourne. In case of rain, the event will be held at Bourne Town Hall, 24 Perry Avenue in Buzzards Bay.

The event is being held to commend recent local, state and federal government efforts to implement the Buzzards Bay Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP), the estuary management strategy developed by the Buzzards Bay Project. In particular, the Project and BBAC will recognize the efforts of Sen. Edward Kennedy and Rep. Gerry Studds for their success in working to pass the recent \$400,000 federal appropriation for Buzzards Bay CCMP implementation activities.

The event site is on the shores of Hen Cove, where the town of Bourne, with Project funding and technical assistance from U.S. Soil Conservation Service (SCS) and the Cape Cod Conservation District (CCCD), is now constructing a stormwater remediation project intended to protect Hen Cove shellfish beds from contamination. Says Buzzards Bay Project Manager Dr. Joseph Costa, "This project is one of the first of many new local water quality protection projects to come." The Project is now planning other stormwater remediation projects for Sprague Cove in Marion and Broad Marsh River and Red Brook in Wareham.

BBAC Executive Director Dennis F. Luttrell notes that "The Hen Cove project exemplifies the kind of local actions that the BBAC is trying to foster in other bay towns." The Project, the BBAC, SCS, and CCCD will present an award to the town of Bourne for their initiative and commitment to this initial CCMP implementation effort.

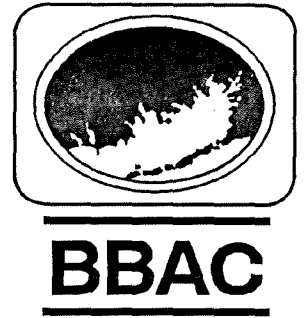
Featured speakers at the event will include: US Sen. Edward Kennedy, US Rep. Gerry Studds, State Rep. Tom Cahir, Buzzards Bay Project Manager Dr. Joseph Costa, Buzzards Bay Action Committee Chairman Ted Pratt and Bourne Selectwoman Marie Oliva.

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**Buzzards Bay
Project**



**BUZZARDS BAY
COMPREHENSIVE CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT
PLAN IMPLEMENTATION:
A Local, State and Federal Partnership in Resource Protection**



On Monday, October 19 at 10:30 a.m., the Buzzards Bay Project and the Buzzards Bay Action Committee (BBAC) will host a press conference at Cedar Point Association Beach to commend efforts by the Town of Bourne for its ongoing program to cleanup Buzzards Bay by implementing key aspects of the Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan.

The event is being held on the shores of Hen Cove, where the town of Bourne, with Project funding and technical assistance from the U.S.D.A. Soil Conservation Service (SCS), is now constructing a series of stormwater leaching chambers to improve water quality and prevent further contamination of Hen Cove shellfish beds.

Pollution in Hen Cove is contributing to the closure of shellfish beds and has closed a swimming beach in the past. Since stormwater runoff is a major cause of these closures, the Buzzards Bay Project is assisting the Town of Bourne in treating the discharge of three stormdrain systems. The targeted stormdrain systems currently allow direct discharge of untreated stormwater from Hill Street, Cedar Point Drive and Spruce Drive into the Cove.

Local initiatives, such as the Hen Cove project, are important first steps toward fulfilling Buzzards Bay CCMP recommendations, and are an outstanding testament to what can be accomplished when municipalities work closely with other government agencies, under the guidance of the Buzzards Bay Project.

Buzzards Bay water quality and living resources are primarily threatened by the cumulative impact of non-point sources of pollution such as stormwater runoff. Since Massachusetts municipalities have broad authority to plan and manage the effects of growth, it is only through local efforts such as those in Hen Cove that the future integrity of the Bay will be assured. The town of Bourne has been a leader in this regards for other Bay towns.

Already a number of local precedent-setting environmental management milestones have been achieved in Buzzards Bay. These include: the establishment of the nation's first intermunicipal nitrogen overlay protection district; the creation of the first EPA marine No Discharge Area in the town of Wareham; the reopening of Clarks Cove, the richest shellfish area in Buzzards Bay, after nearly a 100 year closure; and the Electric Avenue stormwater remediation project, also in Bourne.

Over the next year, the Project will receive \$400,000 that will be dedicated to local implementation efforts. This will provide technical assistance and grants to Bay municipalities for such pollution remediation and prevention activities as: stormwater control, toxic use reduction, and development of land use regulations. To fully implement CCMP recommendations and cleanup all of Buzzards Bay, an expenditure of approximately \$20 million over the next 10 years is needed. For example, although the new leaching chambers will combat bacterial pollutants in part of Hen Cove, we must not lose sight of other areas around the cove that will need to be addressed and why we need \$20 million.

The accomplishment of the Buzzards Bay communities in remediating the negative effects of stormwater runoff and other non-point discharges, will soon be echoed by the 49 other coastal communities comprising the Mass Bay Program.

As the current federal Clean Water Act does not provide funding for CCMP implementation, this new appropriation is viewed as a funding stop-gap measure until the Clean Water Act is reauthorized hopefully providing full CCMP implementation funding. In order to maintain momentum, all levels of government will need to work together to ensure that adequate funding is made available and that local and state commitments to CCMP implementation are continued.



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE Buzzards Bay Project
Contact: Joseph E. Costa, Project Manager
 Buzzards Bay Project
 508-748-3600

June 9, 1993

Kalisz to Head Toxics Reduction Program

The Buzzards Bay Project (BBP) launched a new toxic waste reduction program with the announcement today that New Bedford City Council President Frederick M. Kalisz Jr. will direct the effort. Mr. Kalisz will coordinate a planned 30-month project to assist up to 40 New Bedford area manufacturers in "source reduction" initiatives to eliminate, reduce the use of, or find substitutes for toxic and hazardous materials. As a major component of BBP's Comprehensive Conservation Management Plan (CCMP), this new program is intended to help meet the Plan's 1995 and State's 1997 goals of reducing hazardous waste generation by 50 percent.

The Source Reduction program will include participation and support from the Massachusetts Office of Technical Assistance (OTA), the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and U.S. EPA. EPA is providing about 40 percent of the project's \$440,000 budget through the Massachusetts Coastal Zone Management Office, which administers the BBP.

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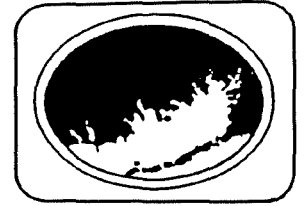
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NEWS RELEASE



BBAC

Contact: Dave Janik
Environmental Planner
Buzzards Bay Project

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Buzzards Bay Project and Action Committee awards boat pumpout grants to towns

Marion, MA: On May 3rd, the Buzzards Bay Project and Buzzards Bay Action Committee (BBAC) announced that \$15,940 of grant funding was awarded to the towns of Bourne, Marion and Westport to help finance the purchase of boat pumpout equipment as follows:

- The town of Bourne was awarded \$5,000 to purchase pumpout equipment for a stationary, floating pumpout station.
- The town of Marion was awarded a \$5,400 grant to outfit a boat (to be purchased by the town) as a mobile pumpout facility. A portion of these funds will also be used to purchase oil spill skimming equipment for use on this boat.
- The town of Westport was awarded \$5,540 to purchase pumpout equipment for a land-based facility.

These awards are the first of \$300,000 in grants that will be given to Buzzards Bay communities in the coming year to help finance costs associated with Buzzards Bay Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP) implementation. Each town will finance at least 25 percent of the total cost for their boat pumpout program, in cash or in-kind services.

Establishment of municipal boat pumpout programs is a critical CCMP recommendation aimed at preventing direct discharges of boat sewage and associated toxic treatment chemicals into Buzzards Bay. Boat sewage discharges threaten public health and the environment and contribute to shellfish and beach closures.

Past recipients of Buzzards Bay Project boat pumpout awards include the towns of Dartmouth, Fairhaven, Marion, Mattapoisett and Westport.

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NEWS RELEASE



Contact: Coalition for Buzzards Bay
Dr. Joseph Costa,
Buzzards Bay Project Manager
(508) 748-3600 or
Mimi McConnell,
Coalition for Buzzards Bay
Executive Director
(508) 759-1440

For immediate release:

FIRST CITIZENS' WATER QUALITY MONITORING RESULTS ARE RELEASED

The Buzzards Bay Project and the Coalition for Buzzards Bay have jointly released the first water quality test results based on data collected last summer by Citizens' Water Quality Monitoring Program volunteers. These results are being hailed as an important step in prioritizing areas for non-point source pollution management, as recommended in the Buzzards Bay Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan.

The first season's tests evaluated the degree of "nitrogen loading" at 89 sites in 30 Buzzards Bay embayments. High nitrogen inputs, which come from such sources as septic systems, fertilizers and animal wastes, harm marine life by stimulating excessive algal growth and depleting oxygen supplies in surface waters (eutrophication).

Among the 89 sites evaluated for dissolved oxygen, the stations with the worst (lowest) mean oxygen concentrations were Barlows Landing (Bourne), Acushnet River (New Bedford Inner Harbor), and Upper Aucoot Cove (Marion). The stations with the best (highest) oxygen concentrations were Megansett Harbor (Falmouth), Planting Island Cove (Marion) and West Falmouth Harbor. Oxygen concentrations were measured by citizen volunteers during early morning hours, when oxygen concentrations are generally at their lowest levels.

17 of the 89 sites monitored were also ranked on a "Eutrophication Index" which was based on measurements of water transparency, chlorophyll, nitrogen and oxygen concentrations. The embayments with the best scores in this group were Megansett Harbor (Falmouth), the mouth of Red Brook (Bourne), and the mouth of the Westport River. The embayments with the worst scores on this index were the Westport River's upper East Branch, Apponagansett Bay, and Sippican Harbor.

Says Buzzards Bay Project Manager Dr. Joseph Costa, "the results are still preliminary, but will give citizens and town officials a sense of how their embayments compare to others around the Bay." Costa also

-more-

This information is jointly released by:

Buzzards Bay Project, 2 Spring Street, Marion, MA 02738 (508) 748-3600 and the Coalition for Buzzards Bay, P.O. Box 268, Buzzards Bay, MA 02532 (508) 759-1440

lauded Eileen Gunn of the Coalition for Buzzards Bay for her work in coordinating the more than 100 volunteers who participated in last summer's monitoring effort. The Project and the Coalition will expand the monitoring program this summer to include more sites and begin testing for sources of fecal coliform contributing to shellfish bed closures.

The Buzzards Bay Project is continuing to review the results from last summer's testing and is currently developing another index that will include shellfish bed closure data to rank the overall water quality of each embayment. Ultimately, the results from the Citizens' Water Quality Monitoring Program will be used to establish priorities for funding pollution remediation within specific areas of each embayment.

The Citizens' Water Quality Monitoring Program is one of the first Buzzards Bay environmental protection programs involving the efforts of local volunteers. This week the Coalition announced that it is also launching a program to facilitate citizen monitoring of environmental decisions by local planning, zoning, health and selectmen boards and conservation commissions. According to Coalition Executive Director Mimi McConnell, the program is intended, "to encourage the very best environmental decisions by all these boards and identify potential environmental abuses while there is still time to avert them."

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Buzzards Bay Project

Contact: Mara Altman

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

PROJECT AND CZM LAUNCH ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION WORKSHOP SERIES

On November 10, the Buzzards Bay Project and the Massachusetts Coastal Zone Management office (CZM) cosponsored a workshop for local environmental officials on the process and requirements for establishing federal *no-discharge areas*. *No-discharge area* designations are granted by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to prohibit all boat sewage discharges into designated waters.

Attending the workshop were harbor masters, board of health agents, shellfish wardens, local planners, and other municipal officials from the towns of Bourne, Dartmouth, Fairhaven, Marion, New Bedford and Westport. Attendees from all six towns expressed interest in seeking no-discharge designations and representatives from the towns of Marion, Fairhaven and Westport stated intentions to obtain *no-discharge area* designations prior to the 1993 boating season. Last February, Wareham became the first town on the east coast to have its waters declared an EPA *no-discharge area*.

Today's program is the first in a series of environmental education workshops for municipal officials. Beginning early next year, the series will continue with workshops on nonpoint source pollution, specifically targeting road runoff issues. Says CZM Regional Coordinator Kristie Kapp, "The intent of this series is to help local environmental officials understand and evaluate their nonpoint source pollution problems and hopefully come away from the workshops with the tools to solve them."

This educational program is one facet of ongoing efforts to implement the Buzzards Bay Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP), the estuary protection strategy developed by the Buzzards Bay Project. The Buzzards Bay Project is a National Estuary Program participant which provides funding and scientific and technical assistance to municipalities to protect and restore Buzzards Bay water quality and ecosystems.

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Buzzards Bay Project

Contact: Mara Altman

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

BUZZARDS BAY PROJECT RECEIVES \$198,000
FOR TOXIC USE REDUCTION PROGRAM

The Environmental Protection Agency has awarded a \$198,000 grant to the Buzzards Bay Project to implement the Buzzards Bay Toxic Waste Source Reduction Program. The funds will be used by the Project over a two and a half year period to help Buzzards Bay area manufacturing industries reduce their use of toxic substances and minimize toxic waste discharges into Buzzards Bay.

This program will implement a major pollution prevention strategy included in the Buzzards Bay Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP), the estuary management strategy developed by the Buzzards Bay Project. It will include workshops and on-site technical assistance, primarily in greater New Bedford, to promote source reduction and minimize toxic waste generation. The program will also serve to educate toxic waste generators about ways they can improve compliance with state and federal toxic waste management regulations, while also streamlining production methods with cost efficient source reduction strategies.

The program is expected to enhance Massachusetts Executive Office of Environmental Affairs' current programs to meet the Commonwealth's goal of cutting the state's hazardous waste generation in half by the year 1997. Says Buzzards Bay Project Manager Dr. Joseph Costa, "This grant will not only help to reduce the amount of toxics reaching the bay, but it will reduce these pollutants in a way that is economically beneficial to industry."

The Project will work closely with the Massachusetts Office of Technical Assistance and the Department of Environmental Protection to produce information about how technical assistance and regulatory programs should coordinate with local sewage treatment facilities to encourage toxic use reduction. The Project will also produce additional information which is expected to be of great value to other states and the EPA in establishing pollution prevention priorities and programs.

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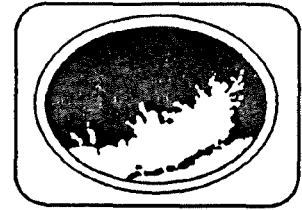
2 Spring Street, Marion, Massachusetts 02738 (508) 748-3600 Facsimile (508) 748-2845





NEWS RELEASE

Contact: Mara Altman



BBAC

KENNEDY, STUDDS TO APPEAR AT PRESS CONFERENCE ON MULTI-LEVEL GOVERNMENT PARTNERSHIP TO PROTECT BUZZARDS BAY

**Buzzards Bay Project and BBAC commend lawmakers on funding victory & town of Bourne
for Hen Cove clean up project**

On Monday, October 19 at 10:30 AM, the Buzzards Bay Project and the Buzzards Bay Action Committee (BBAC) will hold a press conference at Cedar Point Association Beach, located at the end of Cedar Point Road in Bourne. In case of rain, the event will be held at Bourne Town Hall, 24 Perry Avenue in Buzzards Bay.

The event is being held to commend recent local, state and federal government efforts to implement the Buzzards Bay Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP), the estuary management strategy developed by the Buzzards Bay Project. In particular, the Project and BBAC will recognize the efforts of Sen. Edward Kennedy and Rep. Gerry Studds for their success in working to pass the recent \$400,000 federal appropriation for Buzzards Bay CCMP implementation activities.

The event site is on the shores of Hen Cove, where the town of Bourne, with Project funding and technical assistance from U.S. Soil Conservation Service (SCS) and the Cape Cod Conservation District (CCCD), is now constructing a stormwater remediation project intended to protect Hen Cove shellfish beds from contamination. Says Buzzards Bay Project Manager Dr. Joseph Costa, "This project is one of the first of many new local water quality protection projects to come." The Project is now planning other stormwater remediation projects for Sprague Cove in Marion and Broad Marsh River and Red Brook in Wareham.

BBAC Executive Director Dennis F. Luttrell notes that "The Hen Cove project exemplifies the kind of local actions that the BBAC is trying to foster in other bay towns." The Project, the BBAC, SCS, and CCCD will present an award to the town of Bourne for their initiative and commitment to this initial CCMP implementation effort.

Featured speakers at the event will include: US Sen. Edward Kennedy, US Rep. Gerry Studds, State Rep. Tom Cahir, Buzzards Bay Project Manager Dr. Joseph Costa, Buzzards Bay Action Committee Chairman Ted Pratt and Bourne Selectwoman Marie Oliva.

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Buzzards Bay Project

Contact: Mara Altman

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

**FEDERAL FUNDS APPROPRIATED FOR BUZZARDS BAY
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

Washington, DC: On September 25, Congress appropriated \$400,000 to help implement the Buzzards Bay Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP), the estuary protection plan developed by the Buzzards Bay Project. The Project will administer the funding to finance pollution prevention and remediation programs for Bay municipalities.

According to the CCMP, Buzzards Bay natural resources are primarily threatened by the cumulative impacts of development and nonpoint pollution sources such as road runoff, failing septic systems and fertilizer use. The Project will allocate the new federal appropriation to provide technical assistance and grants to Bay municipalities for pollution remediation involving: stormwater control, toxic use reduction, land use regulations and the establishment of additional boat pumpout programs. These funds will also be used to continue support for citizens' water quality monitoring programs and evaluation of new pollution control technologies.

According to CCMP Financial Plan estimates, an annual expenditure of approximately \$20 million over the next ten years is necessary to fully finance CCMP pollution cleanup and prevention recommendations (not including New Bedford cleanup activities). The new appropriation is viewed as a funding stop-gap measure until the Clean Water Act is reauthorized to provide implementation funding for approved CCMPs. The Buzzards Bay CCMP was federally approved last April.

The appropriation was passed largely because of lobbying efforts by Reps. Gerry Studds and Barney Frank and Sens. Edward Kennedy and John Kerry, all of whom worked closely with the Buzzards Bay Action Committee and the Buzzards Bay Project. The funding is included in H.R. 5679, the Department of Veteran Affairs and Housing and Urban Development and Independent Agencies Appropriation Bill, 1993. President Bush must sign or veto the bill by October 5, or it will automatically become law.

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Buzzards Bay Project

Contact: Mara Altman

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

**GROUND BREAKING BEGINS FOR INNOVATIVE
STORMWATER REMEDIATION PROJECT**

Bourne, Ma. The Bourne Department of Public Works has begun constructing a series of storm drain systems to reduce the stormwater runoff pollution that contributes to Hen Cove shellfish bed and beach closures. The project is being funded primarily by a Buzzards Bay Project grant.

These stormdrain systems will treat stormwater from Hill Road, Cedar Point Drive and Spruce Drive. Untreated stormwater from these locations currently discharge directly into Hen Cove. Stormwater-carried pollutants include pathogens, (disease-carrying bacteria and viruses), sediments, automobile associated contaminants, and nutrients from fertilizer use, animal wastes, and failing septic systems.

The new system will treat the initial road runoff or "first flush" (usually the first inch of stormwater runoff, which contains the majority of runoff pollutants) through filtration. The system is being designed by the Soil Conservation Service in conjunction with the Buzzards Bay Project.

This stormwater remediation project is part of the Buzzards Bay Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP) implementation effort. The Management Plan, which was written by the Buzzards Bay Project, identifies stormwater runoff as one of the principle causes for shellfish bed and beach closures around Buzzards Bay. It is hoped that this project will prevent future closures in Hen Cove and is an important first step towards reopening currently closed areas.

Additional stormwater remediation projects are expected in other Buzzards Bay communities next year, should a currently pending federal funding bill be signed by President Bush. The bill, which was recently approved by the Congress would allocate \$500,000 for Buzzards Bay protection measures outlined in the Buzzards Bay CCMP.

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For Immediate Release:



CONTACT: Mara Altman

Buzzards Bay Project

**BUZZARDS BAY PROJECT KICKS OFF COASTWEEKS WITH
BAY-WIDE "BEACH TALKS"**

In celebration of Coastweeks, the state-wide annual beach cleanup, the Buzzards Bay Project will present a series of environmental "Beach Talks." Says Buzzards Bay Project Manager Dr. Joe Costa, "If we're serious about cleaning up our coasts, the spirit of coastweeks needs to continue throughout the year. Coastweeks is an important opportunity not only to clean up our beaches, but also to help residents learn more about their local natural environment, and about things they can do every day to protect it."

The Buzzards Bay Project will present three different beach talks at local beaches as follows:

- **"Life's a Beach," Gooseberry Neck.** Take a stroll with Biologist Bob Caron to explore the natural life of beach and dunes at Gooseberry Neck. Cosponsored by the Westport River Watershed Alliance.

DATE: Saturday, September 26 - Rain or Shine

TIME: 10 AM

PLACE: Meet at Gooseberry Island Parking lot

- **"What you can't see *can* hurt you," Onset Bay.** There's more to beach pollution than tin cans and six-pack rings. To learn about pollution that's less visible, but just as harmful, join Buzzards Bay Project Manager Dr. Joe Costa for a beach talk on nonpoint source pollution and what you can do to help prevent it. Cosponsored by the Wareham Recreation.

DATE: Saturday, September 19

RAIN DATE: Sunday September 20

TIME: 10:30 AM

PLACE: Onset Town Pier

- **"Barrier Beaches: the first line of coastal defense," Reservation Beach, Mattapoisett.** Don't wait for the next major storm to learn about the vital role that barrier beaches play in protecting our coasts and property. Join Coastal Geologist Graham Giese for

*** more ***

2 Spring Street, Marion, Massachusetts 02738 (508) 748-3600 Facsimile (508) 748-2845



a timely discussion on barrier beaches and an overview of potential land use planning tools that can be used to protect them.

DATE: Saturday, September 19

TIME: 10 AM

PLACE: Reservation Beach at Camp Massasoit

RAIN LOCATION: Camp Massasoit House

These events are free to the public, and are intended to kick off nearby cleanups on Buzzards Bay beaches. Following cleanup registration, participants will have the option of attending the beach talk prior to cleanup activities.

For more information on any of these events, please call the Buzzards Bay Project at (508) 748-3600.

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Buzzards Bay Project
National Estuary Program

Contact: Dr. Joe Costa
Phone:(508) 291-3625 x19

Date: August 6, 2001

For Immediate Release

Buzzards Bay Project Releases Results from Septic System Test Center

The Buzzards Bay Project National Estuary Program announced that it has released the first findings from the new Massachusetts Septic System Test Center on Cape Cod. The facility, completed in 1998, was constructed on the Massachusetts Military Reservation Air National Guard base next to the base's wastewater treatment facility.

The mission of the Test Center is to evaluate the performance and operation costs of new technologies in a carefully controlled and unbiased manner, and provide this information to municipal boards of health and consumers. The Test Center also provides vendors of these technologies a way of getting their systems approved more quickly for use by Massachusetts residents, and at a lesser cost. Three replicates of each technology are tested at the facility for two years. Companies from as far away as Ontario Canada, and as close as Falmouth, Massachusetts are participating in the test program.

The Septic Test Center was constructed by the Buzzards Bay Project in partnership with the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection, the Barnstable County Department of Health and the Environment, and the University of Massachusetts at Dartmouth School of Marine Science and Technology. The construction and operation of this facility was initially funded with a \$450,000 grant from the US EPA, and subsequently through various other grant programs, including the Massachusetts Environmental Trust. The first septic system technologies were installed in 1999.

Last week, the first four system performance fact sheets were released. These fact sheets were mailed to every Board of Health in Massachusetts by Secretary of Environmental Affairs Bob Durand. An additional three technology fact sheets will be released at the end of August, including the results of a non-proprietary recirculating sand filter, a technology in use at many locations around the state.

Buzzards Bay Project Executive Director Dr. Joe Costa said "boards of health should find the first four fact sheets interesting because we included a fact sheet on the performance of the conventional "Title 5" septic system widely used throughout Massachusetts. Each Technology we review is compared to Title 5 system performance. Two technologies did very well compared to the Title 5 systems. One of the innovative technologies tested was an experimental design that failed to operate as expected, and the system was withdrawn after less than a year of testing.

According to Dr. Costa, one of the objectives of the Test Center is to carefully document nitrogen removal of innovative wastewater treatment systems, a big concern on Cape Cod and other communities in Southeastern Massachusetts. In the first findings released, the Waterloo Biofilter® and the BioMicrobic's MicroFast® System, discharged less than half the nitrogen of a conventional Title 5 system. These two technologies were also very effective at removing other pollutants which makes them a good solution for smaller lots. "We expect these results will help planners evaluate the use of innovative wastewater technologies to protect nitrogen-sensitive coastal waters and other areas from the cumulative impacts of septic systems", Costa noted.

The idea for the Test Center originated in the mid-1990s. Both the Buzzards Bay Project and Barnstable County Department of Health and the Environment were evaluating innovative wastewater treatment

2870 Cranberry Highway, East Wareham, Massachusetts 02538 (508) 291-3625 Facsimile (508) 291-3628 <http://www.capecod.net/~menviron>

The Buzzards Bay Project is sponsored by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Massachusetts Executive Office of Environmental Affairs through the Coastal Zone Management C



technologies at a number of residences and promoting their use in the region. Representative of both agencies recognized they would be more successful if they combined efforts and established a centralized testing facility. The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection also thought the project was a good idea and not only joined the effort, but agreed to waive certain permitting requirements if companies agreed to test their systems at the Test Center. John Higgins, Director of Municipal Assistance for DEP's Bureau of Resource Protection has been a major advocate of the Test Center, and its importance in helping the state evaluate the performance of innovative and alternative wastewater treatment systems.

Once funding was secured for the Septic System Test Center, the Massachusetts Military Reservation location was identified as the best location to site the facility. According to Costa, the involvement of Congressman Delahunt was pivotal in securing federal approvals for the use of the site which is under lease by the US Air Force.

The Buzzards Bay Project oversaw and operated the facility until the end of 2000 after all the original planned technologies were installed and testing had begun. Thereafter the Buzzards Bay Project transferred to Barnstable County funds to operate the facility and continue monitoring the technologies. The monitoring of nutrient removal of the technologies is being performed by Dr. Brian Howes of UMass-Dartmouth. "We were fortunate in having Dr. Howes participate in the program considering his extensive experience in studies monitoring groundwater and coastal transport of nutrients from septic systems and other sources on Cape Cod and elsewhere", noted Costa. County Environmental Manager George Heufelder is now the facility operator.

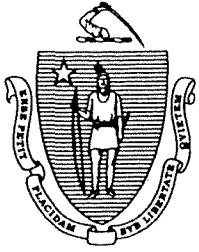
Accord to Dr. Costa, in just two years, the Test Center has already developed into a national center for the gathering of information and evaluation of innovative and alternative wastewater treatment technologies. The facility is the only third party evaluation facility in the country which is testing as many different technologies for such extended time periods. Costa added, "We have received requests for information from a dozen states, we are working with the EPA to develop national protocols for testing nutrients, and Barnstable County's virus monitoring program is being used to evaluate government virus transport models. We are now testing some technologies new to the US, including a unit developed in Latvia. We have also become a research and development platform for companies to test out new ideas."

And what will the future bring for the Septic System Test Center? Dr. Costa said that by the end of the year the Buzzards Bay Project will have met its original goals with the construction of the facility and evaluation of the first eight technologies. In the coming months the Project will be working with Barnstable County and DEP to transfer all the operation and administrative responsibilities associated with the facility. Costa was enthusiastic in praising the work of the Barnstable County Department of Health and Environment, and George Heufelder in particular. "George has been doing a fantastic job keeping the facility on track, and in bringing new technologies and grant support into the program."

More detailed results of septic system performance and information about the Buzzards Bay Project can be found at their website, www.buzzardsbay.org.

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[Note to the editor: The Buzzards Bay Project which is a National Estuary Program and unit of Massachusetts Coastal Zone Management, is often confused with two nonprofit corporations: the Buzzards Bay Action Committee (BBAC- a lobbying organization composed of municipal officials), and the Coalition for Buzzards Bay (a citizens group). The Coalition is most widely recognized for its "Report Card" on Buzzards Bay municipalities, its "Bay Watchers" water quality monitoring program. All three organizations are working together to implement the Buzzards Bay Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan.]



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Executive Office of Environmental Affairs

251 Causeway Street, Suite 900

Boston, MA 02114-2119

JANE SWIFT
GOVERNOR

BOB DURAND
SECRETARY

July, 2001

Tel. (617) 626-1000

Fax (617) 626-1181

<http://www.magnet.state.ma.us/envir>

Dear Massachusetts Board of Health Member:

During the past several years, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts has been working hard to provide homeowners and businesses with the opportunity to utilize innovative wastewater treatment and disposal systems in Massachusetts. We have long recognized that property owners have a need for wastewater treatment and disposal systems that can accommodate properties with limited available space, poor soils, or high ground water. In many parts of the state, boards of health have sought better ways to manage onsite wastewater disposal to limit nitrogen inputs to ground water, thereby protecting drinking water supplies and sensitive coastal bays.

Our efforts to address this problem commenced in 1995 with revisions to the Title 5 regulation that clearly defined the permitting process to allow new and innovative wastewater treatment and disposal technologies in Massachusetts. In an effort to be more proactive in promoting these technologies, we constructed the Massachusetts Alternative Septic System Test Center at the Massachusetts Military Reservation on Cape Cod. The construction of the Test Center was led by the Buzzards Bay Project National Estuary Program, a unit of the Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone Management, and undertaken in collaboration with the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection, Barnstable County Department of Health and the Environment, and UMass Dartmouth's School for Marine Science and Technology.

The mission of the Test Center is to evaluate the performance and operation costs of new technologies in a carefully controlled and unbiased manner, and provide this information to boards of health and consumers. Equally important, the Test Center provides vendors of these technologies a way of getting their technologies more quickly approved for use by Massachusetts residents, and at a lower cost.

Enclosed are fact sheets summarizing the performance of four different technologies, including the conventional Title 5 septic system used in Massachusetts. In the coming months, you will receive performance reviews of additional technologies. Please note that these are not the only alternative technologies approved in Massachusetts. These fact sheets and information on other alternative wastewater treatment and disposal technologies that can be used in Massachusetts can be found at the Buzzards Bay Project and DEP websites (www.buzzardsbay.org and www.state.ma.us/dep/brp/www/t5pubs.htm).

The U.S. EPA, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Massachusetts Environmental Trust, Commonwealth Electric, and other partners and participants have supported the construction and operation of the Test Center. I applaud the efforts of the team that brought this initiative to fruition, and I believe the Test Center will become a resource for not only Massachusetts, but for other states in New England and the country. We hope you will find this information useful in the performance of your duties, and in the future we will provide other reports and information that will assist you and consumers in Massachusetts.

Very truly yours,

Bob Durand

Enclosures





Buzzards Bay Project
National Estuary Program

For Immediate Release

Contact: Joe Costa
Phone: (508) 291-3625 x19
Date: August 2, 2001

**Buzzards Bay Project Awards Falmouth
Grants for Herring Restoration and Stormwater Remediation**

The Buzzards Bay Project National Estuary Program announced today that it had awarded \$35,000 to the Town of Falmouth for two environmental restoration projects in North Falmouth, near the shores of Buzzards Bay.

The Town will receive a \$19,000 herring run restoration grant for the design and replacement of an undersized culvert under Chester St. in North Falmouth. The culvert connects the upper portions of Rand Canal to Cedar Lake, and is one of only three remaining active herring runs on the Buzzards Bay side of Falmouth. Presently the culvert is a rusted eight-inch pipe that is partially blocked, making the passage of herring into Cedar Lake difficult. The culvert will be replaced with an eighteen-inch concrete culvert, which will facilitate the passage of herring into the pond. Each spring herring migrate from the ocean to fresh water ponds to lay eggs. Young and adult herring are food for many birds, mammals, and recreational game fish, and are an important species in coastal ecosystems.

The second grant, which is for \$16,000, will fund engineering designs to remediate and treat stormwater discharges at Curly Boulevard into Dam Pond which flows into Wild Harbor River in North Falmouth. This river is also a herring run. Stormwater discharges from the site are believed to be contributing to water quality degradation in the pond and downstream in the harbor. This project will both improve habitat for herring and reduce fecal coliform loadings to the Wild Harbor River estuary. After the designs are complete, the Buzzards Bay Project will work with the town to secure construction funds.

According to the Project Director Dr. Joe Costa, stormwater discharges from streets, driveways, parking lots, and other surfaces contain fecal bacteria that contribute to shellfish bed and swimming beach closures in many coastal areas. The Curley Boulevard discharges contribute to the shellfish bed closure in the Wild Harbor River. Costa explained "rain collected by stormwater pipes carries with it feces from pets and wildlife, sewage from failing septic systems, oil and other pollutants from cars, and fertilizers from lawns and farms. In some cases, the best solution is to treat the stormwater, but when there are direct sewage discharges from cesspools or failing septic systems, it is also very important to fix these problems directly."

The Buzzards Bay Project indicated it will provide assistance to the Town of Falmouth in obtaining any necessary permits for the projects. Dr. Costa commended Falmouth Shellfish Constable Paul Montague and Department of Natural Resources Director Mark Patton for initiating these efforts, adding "they have been doing a really great job getting these kinds of projects off the ground."

More information about the Buzzards Bay Project can be found at their website, www.buzzardsbay.org.

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[Note to the editor: The Buzzards Bay Project which is a National Estuary Program and unit of Massachusetts Coastal Zone Management, is often confused with two nonprofit corporations: the Buzzards Bay Action Committee (BBAC- a lobbying organization composed of municipal officials), and the Coalition for Buzzards Bay (a citizens group). The Coalition is most widely recognized for its "Report Card" on Buzzards Bay municipalities, its "Bay Watchers" water quality monitoring program. All three organizations are working together to implement the Buzzards Bay Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan.]





Buzzards Bay Project
National Estuary Program

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Sarah Wilkes

Phone: (508) 291-3625

Date: Feb. 8, 2000

***Buzzards Bay Project Announces it has Funds
Available for Land Conservation***

Wareham - The Buzzards Bay Project National Estuary Program has announced that it has funds available to assist landowners in the Slocums River and Onset Bay watersheds to protect their land from future development.

The Buzzards Bay Project, working in cooperation with the Dartmouth Natural Resources Trust and the Wildlands Trust of Southeastern Massachusetts, received a grant from the Department of Environmental Protection's 319 Nonpoint Source Program to demonstrate in the two watersheds how land conservation can have an effect on water quality in Buzzards Bay.

Water quality in many harbors around Buzzards Bay is impacted or threatened by nitrogen inputs originating from development and other land uses in the surrounding watershed. Nitrogen is a natural and essential part of both marine and terrestrial environments, however, too much nitrogen can cause excessive growth of algae. An overabundance of algae can lead to loss of eelgrass beds and shellfish habitat, and can cause unpleasant odors and fish kills by decreasing oxygen levels in the water. Nitrogen sources leading to these problems include septic systems, fertilizers added to lawns and other sources associated with development.

Preservation of open space is one method that can be used to control development and reduce the amount of nitrogen entering Buzzards Bay. Besides having an impact on water quality, land conservation also protects plant and wildlife habitats, rare species, wetlands, forests, migration corridors, scenic vistas and historic sites.

Most of the conservation tools available to landowners today offer several financial benefits and tax incentives, with some options providing substantial reductions in estate and property taxes. One of the most flexible options is a conservation restriction, which can be tailored to the individual needs of each individual and property. Landowners can continue to live on their land and pass it on to heirs, all while permanently protecting the natural resource value of the land.

Landowners within the Slocums River and Onset Bay watersheds that are interested in protecting their properties from future development may be eligible to receive reimbursements for survey, appraisals, and title work associated with their land conservation project. For more information, please contact Sarah Wilkes at the Buzzards Bay Project at (508) 291-3625.





Buzzards Bay Project
National Estuary Program

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Dr. Joseph Costa

Phone: (508) 291-3625

May 25, 1999

***Buzzards Bay Project and Town of Fairhaven Receive
Grants to Restore Salt Marsh Habitat***

Fairhaven - The Buzzards Bay Project National Estuary Program and the Town of Fairhaven announced today that they have been awarded two grants to restore the salt marsh habitat within the Winsegansett Salt Marsh located in Fairhaven. The grants, totaling more than \$32,000, were obtained from the Department of Environmental Protection (\$22,500) through the "Nonpoint Source Pollution Program" and from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's "5 Star Restoration Challenge Grants" program (\$9,700). The Fairhaven Conservation Commission is overseeing the grants for the town.

The 30 acre Winsegansett Salt Marsh is located on the western shore of Sconticut Neck in Fairhaven. A series of tidal creeks connects the marsh with salt water from Buzzards Bay. The salt marsh has been divided into two sections by the long-ago construction of Winsegansett Avenue. Water flows between the upper and lower portions of the marsh through an 18-inch pipe under Winsegansett Avenue. The upper marsh has been further divided by privately-owned footpaths crossing through the marsh. Water flows under each footpath through 10-inch diameter pipes.

As a result of these restrictions, the amount of tidal water reaching the upper marsh has been reduced, lowering the salinity and tidal flushing of the marsh. According to Dr. Joe Costa, Director of the Buzzards Bay Project, "in these situations, the normal salt marsh vegetation is replaced by a nuisance invasive plant species called common reed, known scientifically as '*Phragmites*.' This is the large reed you see increasingly along many of our highways. This plant species has very limited value as habitat for wildlife and it chokes out many native plants." Costa also noted that summertime fires are sometimes a problem in large stands of common reed.

The goal of the Winsegansett Salt Marsh project is to restore the salt marsh habitat in the upper marsh by increasing tidal flow. The Department of Environmental Protection grant will allow the town to replace the culvert under Winsegansett Avenue with a larger box culvert. Through the 5-Star grant and the generosity of the private landowners, larger culverts will also be installed under the footpaths. The Fairhaven Department of Public Works will be performing the work on Winsegansett Avenue and providing the new pipes for under the footpaths. According to Conservation Commission Chairman Marinus Vander Pol, Jr. "we are pleased to be working with the Board of Public Works and the Buzzards Bay Project to restore this salt marsh."

As the tidal exchange between the upper marsh and Buzzards Bay improves, the increase in salinity is expected to cause the common reed to die off and be replaced by native salt meadow grasses, restoring the Winsegansett Salt Marsh into a more healthy and productive coastal wetland.





Buzzards Bay Project
National Estuary Program

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Dr. Joe Costa
November 10, 1998

Buzzards Bay Project Awards Falmouth \$30,000 for New Silver Beach Wastewater Disposal Solution

Wareham -- The Buzzards Bay Project announced that it awarded the Town of Falmouth \$30,000 to help fund site evaluations and design requirements for a community wastewater system serving residents in the New Silver Beach section of the town. In September, the Town of Falmouth submitted a proposal titled "New Silver Beach Area Decentralized Collection, Treatment, and Disposal Project" which was approved for funding by an advisory committee to the Buzzards Bay Project. The funds will help the town defray costs associated with soil and groundwater evaluations in siting and designing the wastewater disposal system. The town's expenditures for this work will provide matching funds required by the grant.

According to Dr. Joe Costa, Executive Director of the Buzzards Bay Project, "We believe that this project addresses an important public health need, and the elimination of failing on-site wastewater disposal systems will help protect and restore water quality and shellfish resources in the Wild Harbor area." He also praised the Falmouth Board of Health "for tackling a difficult coastal wastewater disposal problem."

According to Dr. Costa many municipalities are struggling to find wastewater disposal solutions for older coastal and lakefront village communities where summer cottages, serviced by cesspools or improperly sited septic systems, have been converted to year round residences. In many instances these homes were built on undersized lots, often in areas with high groundwater or filled wetlands, which makes solving these wastewater disposal problems especially difficult. Adding to the urgency of finding a solution are new requirements for septic system upgrades upon property transfer as required under the state's Title 5 sanitary regulations. Rather than requiring expensive individual solutions for each homeowner, many municipalities are considering connecting these homes to a community-size town-maintained onsite disposal system, much like those used by condominium complexes and shopping malls.

"Last year Fairhaven was the first Buzzards Bay watershed town to build a community wastewater system" said Costa. "Several towns contacted the Buzzards Bay Project with interest in our grant program, but apparently only Falmouth was far enough along in the process to submit an application."

Dr. Costa also indicated that the Buzzards Bay Project will provide free technical assistance to the town in helping review preliminary designs and to assist with permitting issues to ensure the town complies with all applicable environmental regulations and is able to proceed with the project in a timely way.

More information about the Buzzards Bay Project, which is an advisory and planning unit of Massachusetts Coastal Zone Management, can be found at their website "www.capecod.net/~menviron."

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Buzzards Bay Project
National Estuary Program

For Release: June 8, 1998

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**COXE, DELAHUNT, DEVILLARS BREAK GROUND ON NEW STATEWIDE
SEPTIC SYSTEM TEST FACILITY**

Sandwich -- Environmental Affairs Secretary Trudy Coxe, Congressman William Delahunt, EPA Regional Administrator John DeVillars, today held a groundbreaking ceremony at the Otis Air National Guard Base on the Massachusetts Military Reservation for the state's new septic system test center.

The Massachusetts Alternative Septic System Test Center is the result of a collaboration of the Buzzards Bay Project National Estuary Program, a unit of the Massachusetts Coastal Zone Management Office, Barnstable County Department of Health and the Environment, UMass Dartmouth Center for Marine Science and Technology, and the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection.

Funded by a \$459,000 a US EPA Environmental Technology Initiative grant, the purpose of the center is to test and promote the use of innovative wastewater disposal systems in Massachusetts. In 1996, a technical team identified the site at Otis adjoining the Base's new wastewater treatment plant as the best site for the facility.

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“One of the most important parts of my job is to help bring new and innovative environmental technologies into the market here in Massachusetts,” said Coxe. “This Test Center will go a long way in solving problems that have stumped us for decades and that is what this is all about: solving environmental problems by promoting innovative technology.”

According to Buzzards Bay Project Executive Director Dr. Joe Costa, Dr. Tony Millham of the Buzzards Bay Project and George Heufelder, Project Manager for the County Department of Health will be overseeing the facility jointly. In describing the how the test center would work, Dr. Costa explained, “We will be able to test six innovative technologies at one time, in triplicate, along with conventional septic systems. Manufacturers of innovative septic systems participating in the Test Center would install three of their systems at their expense. We would monitor the performance of these technologies for up to 18 months, and cover 90% of the costs of analyses. Besides the reduced costs of testing, participation would also help the vendor with the Title 5 approval process.” The Test Center will use sewage from the base's residential housing to simulate household wastewater. All effluent from the Test Center will be returned to the MMR sewer with no releases to groundwater according to Dr. Costa.

Also speaking at the event, David Struhs, Commissioner of Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection, the agency responsible for overseeing the Title 5 regulations pertaining to septic systems and approval of new technologies said: “The testing facility is one more in a series of successful cooperative efforts by the Commonwealth, EPA and local government to provide cost-effective and environmentally protective solutions to on-site wastewater problems.”

He also indicated that participation in the Test Center will help companies obtain approval under Title 5. "We will use this center to document how well these new technologies perform compared to conventional septic systems, whether they can provide advanced treatment, and whether these technologies are appropriate for undersize lots, areas with high groundwater, or other difficult sites."

Congressman William Delahunt, who helped secure Pentagon approval for the project said: "The test center will promote new ways to protect our groundwater and coastal resources, while strengthening the region's capacity to help local business develop new environmental technologies."

John P. DeVillars, Administrator of the US EPA's New England Office added "Cape Cod--indeed, all of New England--faces the enormous challenge of sustaining economic growth and development in a way that is protective of the region's natural resources. This Center will go a long way in ensuring that New Englanders will have the innovative tools in the future to prevent groundwater pollution from septic systems--without breaking the bank or overburdening the homeowners."

Coxe also announced the first four companies to participate in the program at the groundbreaking ceremony. Additional information on the facility can be found on the Buzzards Bay Project's website at www.capecod.net/~menviron.

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Buzzards Bay Project
National Estuary Program

Press Advisory

June 5, 1998

Contact: Dr. Joe Costa, BBP Executive Director

Septic System Test Center Groundbreaking

Wareham -- A Groundbreaking Ceremony will be held on Monday, June 8, 10:30 A.M. at the Otis Air National Guard Base on the Massachusetts Military Reservation for a facility to test and promote innovative types of septic systems in Massachusetts.

Confirmed to speak are Environmental Affairs Secretary **Trudy Coxe**, Congressman **William Delahunt**, and EPA Regional Administrator **John DeVillars**, and Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection Commissioner **David Struhs**.

The facility, titled the "Massachusetts Alternative Septic System Test Center" has been more than two years in the making, and is the result of a collaboration of the Buzzards Bay Project National Estuary Program-- a unit of the Massachusetts Coastal Zone Management Office, Barnstable County Department of Health and the Environment, UMass Dartmouth Center for Marine Science and Technology, and the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection.

Press packets will be provided. Earthmoving equipment will be present and photo-ops will be provided. Questions and answers afterward if time permits. Additional information on the facility can be found on the Buzzards Bay Project's website at www.capecod.net/~menviron.

The ceremony will be held on Kittridge Rd, near the Falmouth gate. In the event of heavy rain, the indoor ceremony will be at Building 330 Generals Way.

From off Cape Cod: Take Rt 495 south to the Bourne Bridge, and cross the Cape Cod Canal. Proceed through the rotary 180 degrees and take Rt 28 south towards Falmouth and Woods Hole. Proceed to the next rotary and go three quarters of the way around to the Massachusetts Military Reservation (MMR) entrance. Go straight on the entrance road (west) until you reach a rotary with a large water tower just to the north. Turn right and head south. Go straight through two stop signs, the road will then bear 90 degrees left (west) and become South Outer Road. Follow South Outer Road to the red flashing stoplight and turn right onto Simpkins Rd. Take the second right onto Kittredge Rd.:the new Otis wastewater treatment plant will be to your left with ground breaking site ahead on left.

From Rt. 151 and the Falmouth Gate: Take Old Sandwich Road north to the MMR Falmouth Gate and Simpkins Road. Take the first left from Simpkins Road onto Kittredge Rd. Pass the new Otis wastewater treatment plant to your left with ground breaking site ahead on left.

From Cape Cod: Take Rt 130 to Snake Pond Road and the MMR gate at Snake Pond Road. Turn left at MMR gatehouse, then right and follow road around airstrip to water tower at rotary. Go around the rotary 180 degrees, then go straight through two stop signs, the road will then bear 90 degrees left (west) and become South Outer Road. Follow South Outer Road to the red flashing stoplight and turn right onto Simpkins Rd. Take the second right onto Kittredge Rd.:the new Otis wastewater treatment plant will be to your left with ground breaking site ahead on left.

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The Buzzards Bay Project is sponsored by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Massachusetts Executive Office of Environmental Affairs through the Coastal Zone Management Office.



Press Release



Buzzards Bay Project

Contact: Dr. Joe Costa
Phone: (508) 291-3625
Date: January 5, 1998

Buzzards Bay Project Moves to Wareham

The Buzzards Bay Project National Estuary Program announced that it has moved its offices from the Town of Marion to new offices in the town of Wareham along the Cranberry Highway.

Since 1988, the Buzzards Bay Project occupied offices in the second floor of the Marion Town House. According to Buzzards Bay Project Executive Director Dr. Joe Costa, "the move was prompted because Marion officials needed the space for their own office expansion. We greatly appreciate the Board of Selectmen allowing us to stay almost ten years. Though we were sad to leave Marion, we are very pleased to be at our new site in Wareham. It is centrally located for watershed towns, has easy access to all the major highways, and convenient to our clients."

The Project, a technical advisory and planning unit of the Massachusetts Coastal Zone Management Office, was established in 1985. Its original mission was to characterize water quality and environmental problems facing Buzzards Bay and its surrounding watershed. In 1991, the Buzzards Bay Project completed its "Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan" for Buzzards Bay, which was approved by Governor Weld and the US EPA. The Management Plan outlined courses of action that were required to protect and restore water quality and living resources in the Bay and surrounding watershed. Since completion of the Management Plan, the focus of the Project has been to help municipalities, businesses, and citizens implement the recommendations contained in the Management Plan.

Costa noted "To implement the recommendations in our Management Plan we have awarded more than two million dollars in grants to Buzzards Bay municipalities and provided many thousands of hours of technical assistance. Our major areas of focus have been remediating stormwater discharges causing shellfish bed closures, restoring herring runs, protecting open space, development of nitrogen management plans, wetland protection training, providing assistance with permitting, promoting alternative septic system technology, and toxic use reduction." Other recent Project accomplishments cited by Costa included the completion of the Mattapoisett and Fall River Open Space Plans, construction of a 2.5 acre wetland in Marion to treat stormwater and help open shellfish beds, providing oil spill equipment to area municipalities, helping Falmouth develop wetland regulations for Black Beach and Sippewissett Marsh, development of stormwater designs for areas of Wareham, establishing a network of area Lands Trusts, and providing computers and GIS equipment to area planning boards and Conservation Commissions.

Costa added, "In the coming year we are commencing several new initiatives including construction of a center to test and promote alternative septic systems in Massachusetts, mapping degraded coastal wetlands, completing an open space plan for the town of Westport, and developing nitrogen management plans for several estuaries including West Falmouth Harbor,

2 Spring Street, Marion, Massachusetts 02738 (508) 748-3600 Facsimile (508) 748-3962



Onset Bay, and Little Bay in Fairhaven.”

The Buzzards Bay Project has had a close working relationship with two Buzzards Bay non-profits, the citizen's group Coalition for Buzzards Bay and the municipal official organization, the Buzzards Bay Action Committee. Both organizations are offshoots of the Project and both have received funding and technical support from the Project. Most notably, between 1991 and 1996, the Buzzards Bay Project provided technical guidance funding for a citizen water quality monitoring program conducted by the citizen non-profit, the Coalition for Buzzards Bay. In 1996, the Project and the Coalition jointly issued a report summarizing four years of data collected through that Program. The Buzzards Bay Project has also worked closely with the Buzzards Bay Action Committee to identify individual town funding and technical support needs and as a forum to promote regional consistency of local regulations.

The Project, funded largely by the US EPA, is one of 28 National Estuary Programs. Project staff include Stormwater Specialist Bernadette Tabor, Wetlands Specialist John Rockwell, Regional Planner Mark Rasmussen, Septic System Test Center Program Coordinator Dr. Tony Millham, Administrative Assistant Tracy Warncke, and Open Space Planning intern Sarah Wilkes. If you would like more information, the Buzzards Bay Project can be found at 2870 Cranberry Highway, Wareham, MA 02563 and by phone (508) 291-3625. The Project has also set up a web site at www.capecod.net/~menviron.

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Buzzards Bay Project

*Buzzards Bay Project Awards Grants to Mattapoisett and Bourne
to Protect and Restore Water Quality in Three Embayments*

Marion -- The Buzzards Bay Project announced today that it will award \$30,000 to the towns of Mattapoisett and Bourne to address nitrogen-related water quality problems. The three embayments to be studied include Eel Pond in Mattapoisett and both the Pocasset River Estuary and Hen Cove in Bourne. The Buzzards Bay Project, part of the National Estuary Program, and a unit of the Massachusetts Coastal Zone Management Office, provides technical and financial assistance to municipalities around the Bay in water quality planning, land use management, wetlands protection, stormwater control, and alternative wastewater design. Funding for these awards was obtained by the Project from the US Environmental Protection Agency.

Nitrogen enters the coastal environment through a variety of sources such as onsite septic systems, fertilizers, agricultural activities, and sewage treatment plants. Flowing across land or through groundwater, nitrogen increases the growth of algae. Too much nitrogen entering a poorly flushed estuary can result in algal blooms, poor water clarity, low oxygen, and odor problems. Shellfish habitat can be lost from accumulated algae and low dissolved oxygen in the water, eelgrass beds also disappear because of reduced sunlight penetration through murky waters. In extreme cases, low oxygen concentrations result in fish kills. Scientists term these biological process resulting from excessive nitrogen as eutrophication.

In Mattapoisett, funding will be used to assess current nitrogen inputs entering Eel Pond and to help develop recommendations to restore the pond's water quality and shellfish habitat. Eel Pond, a small coastal pond at the head of Mattapoisett Harbor, is already suffering from excessive nitrogen inputs. Four years of water monitoring by citizen volunteers has shown Eel Pond to be one of the most eutrophic water bodies around Buzzards Bay. This monitoring was funded by the Buzzards Bay Project and coordinated through a cooperative effort by the Coalition for Buzzards Bay. In addition to studying nitrogen sources entering the pond, a tidal flushing study will be conducted to help town officials determine the pond's acceptable nitrogen loading limits.

In Bourne, both the Pocasset River estuary and Hen Cove will be studied to prevent future nitrogen-related water quality problems. Unlike Eel Pond in Mattapoisett, these two embayments are currently not suffering from excessive eutrophication but have been showing declines in water quality and have the potential to be further impacted in the future based on estimated future development within their watersheds. The Bourne studies will involve an analysis of future development potential of all parcels around the River and Cove to estimate how much nitrogen can be expected at build-out. Once this is known, the town can plan for controlling additional nitrogen through land use planning, open space acquisition, alternative wastewater design, and other options. Flushing analysis of the River and Cove will be performed through a contract with an ocean science firm while development build-out projections will be done by the Bourne Planning Department.

Buzzards Bay Project Executive Director, Dr. Joseph Costa stated, "We are very excited to have the opportunity to assist Mattapoisett and Bourne to solve two very different nitrogen management problems - one restoring the already impacted Eel Pond, the other a proactive action to prevent future problems in the Pocasset and Hen Cove cases."

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Buzzards Bay Project

*Bay Project Awards Grants to Cleanup Water Pollution
in Wareham, Fairhaven, and Westport*

Marion -- The Buzzards Bay Project announced today that it has awarded \$75,000 to the Towns of Wareham, Fairhaven, and Westport to help treat stormwater sources that are closing shellfish beds. The Buzzards Bay Project (BBP), part of the National Estuary Program and a unit of the Massachusetts Coastal Zone Management Office, provides technical and financial assistance to municipalities around the Bay in water quality planning, land use management, wetlands protection, stormwater control, and alternative wastewater design. Funding for these awards was obtained by the Bay Project from the US Environmental Protection Agency.

The Town of Fairhaven will receive \$32,000 to investigate options and design a community wastewater disposal system for homes in the Knollmere Beach area. High bacteria counts from poorly functioning septic systems and stormwater from this area is considered by the Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries to be the most significant source of pollution causing shellfish bed closures in adjacent Little Bay. The funds will be used to investigate the use of nearby property to support a community septic system which would provide greatly enhanced sewage treatment and to prepare the designs necessary to construct such a system. Patricia Fowle, Fairhaven Health Agent, stated, "The Board of Health is anxious to find practical, affordable solutions for septic system problems plaguing certain areas of Town. This grant, in cooperation with community minded citizens, will afford us a means of pursuing a possible solution." According to Buzzards Bay Project Executive Director, Dr. Joseph Costa, "This work at Knollmere will be an important model for other towns along the Bay with similar areas where old septic systems, poorly drained soils, and high groundwater elevations combine to cause shellfish bed closures and public health concerns."

In Wareham the \$13,000 award will be used to design a stormwater treatment system for the Wareham Municipal Complex including Town Hall and Wareham High School. This large developed area drains into the upper portions of Broadmarsh River. In recent years, the town, in cooperation with the Buzzards Bay Project, has made significant strides in remediating stormwater problems elsewhere along the shores of Broadmarsh River. Each day, over 300 cars are located at the Municipal Complex and together with other human activities and animal wastes contribute bacteria, sediments, nutrients, oil, and metals to the Broadmarsh River system. The design will seek to filter this stormwater runoff prior to its discharge to the estuary. The town intends to pursue funding for actual construction of the project this summer from the state Coastal Zone Management Coastal Pollutant Remediation grant program.

Finally, \$30,000 was conditionally awarded to the Town of Westport to perform roadway drainage improvements and design a stormwater treatment system along Gifford Road. Use of the funds was made contingent upon town efforts to involve local dairy farmers in the project because farm wastes in the area are the primary source of contamination contributing to shellfish bed closures near the Head of Westport. Water quality testing by the town and state Division of Marine Fisheries in recent years has documented serious bacteria problems in the River's East Branch.

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Note to the Editor: The Buzzards Bay Project, a National Estuary Program and unit of the Massachusetts Coastal Zone Management Office, is often confused with two non-profit corporations: the Coalition for Buzzards Bay (a citizens advocacy group) and the Buzzards Bay Action Committee (BBAC - a lobbying organization comprised of municipal officials).

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 22, 1996



Contact: Mark Rasmussen

Buzzards Bay Project

Buzzards Bay Project Awards Staff Assistance to improve Land Conservation Planning in Five Bay Watershed Communities

MARION -- The **Buzzards Bay Project** announced today it is assisting five municipalities around the Bay develop Open Space Plans. The municipalities receiving assistance include **Fall River, Westport, Mattapoisett, Wareham, and Plymouth**. The Buzzards Bay Project (BBP), part of the National Estuary Program and a unit of the Massachusetts Coastal Zone Management Office, provides technical and funding assistance to municipalities around the Bay in water quality planning, land use management, wetlands protection, stormwater control, toxics use reduction, and alternative wastewater design.

In these Open Space Plans, the Buzzards Bay Project will help towns with strategies to protect sensitive water resources such as river and stream corridors, important wetland systems, and watersheds to town drinking water wells and nitrogen sensitive coastal areas. The protection of these resources is highlighted in the Buzzards Bay Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan which was developed in 1991 by the BBP. This plan lays out long term strategies to protect and restore the Bay's abundant natural resources. "Some environmentally sensitive areas of the Bay watershed are best protected not through land use or health regulations, but through conservation purchase or other permanent conservation methods", noted the Executive Director of the Buzzards Bay Project, Dr. Joseph Costa. Dr. Costa indicated that Mark Rasmussen, Regional Planner with the Project would be heading up the initiative. Mr. Rasmussen indicated that he was excited about the effort and stated, "Open Space Plans are a proactive way for communities to protect these areas, address the outdoor recreational needs of town residents, and preserve town character while planning for future growth."

Mr. Rasmussen and Sarah Wilkes, a Dartmouth resident and Open Space Planning intern with the Project, will work closely with town staff and residents to complete these tasks. In Westport, Mattapoisett, and Wareham the focus will be to update old Open Space Plans which were done by these towns in the late 1980s. In Plymouth, Project staff will assist in refining land inventories and maps for that towns ongoing Open Space planning efforts.

The work with Fall River will result in that city's first ever Open Space Plan. While the western, urban portions of Fall River drain to Mount Hope Bay, the largely undeveloped eastern side of the city is part of the watershed to the Westport River and therefore part of the greater Buzzards Bay ecosystem. This area also includes much of the city's public water supply areas and is critical to the protection of clean water for city residents. In addition, the Open Space Plan will look at recreational needs for many of the city's neighborhoods such as bike and walking paths

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 8, 1996



Contact: Mark Rasmussen

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Buzzards Bay Project

Buzzards Bay Project Awards Staff Assistance to improve Land Conservation Planning in Five Bay Watershed Communities

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While the western, urban portions of Fall River drain to Mount Hope Bay, the largely



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 8, 1996



Contact: Mark Rasmussen

Buzzards Bay Project

Buzzards Bay Project Awards Grants for Coastal Resource Mapping and Land Use Planning

The Buzzards Bay Project announced today that it will award \$80,000 to seven Buzzards Bay watershed municipalities to map coastal resources and acquire Geographic Information Systems (GIS) for use in coastal resource management and land use planning, particularly as it relates to the protection of water quality and coastal resources.

According to Project Executive Director Dr. Joseph Costa, "We are trying to help towns better inventory natural resources such as shellfish beds, eelgrass, barrier beaches, marshes, and endangered species habitat, as well as document the locations of all docks, piers, and boat ramps. This kind of information is critical to the towns developing comprehensive harbor plans or in the permitting of coastal activities."

Under this grant award the towns of Westport, Fairhaven, Acushnet, Rochester, and Marion will receive \$4,500 to purchase computer hardware and software to operate Geographic Information Systems. GIS allow communities to store and manipulate important town land use data in a computer accessible to all town departments. Information such as town infrastructure networks, protected open spaces, sensitive water resources, zoning districts, and information on individual lots in town can be combined to answer important questions about how land development and the natural landscape interact. For example, nitrogen loading from residential septic systems often contributes to water quality decline in nearby coastal embayments within Buzzards Bay. Through the use of GIS, communities can calculate the expected present pollutant load to the water body from the surrounding landscape and use these numbers to plan for future growth and reduced nitrogen pollution.

Several towns will also receive awards to gather additional data to address particular town planning and coastal resource mapping needs. The town of Westport will receive \$12,000 to map resources in the Westport Rivers. Other towns were granted funds to map wetland resources and town parcel boundaries, as follows: \$23,500 jointly to the towns of Acushnet and Rochester; \$3,500 to Marion and; \$2,000 to the town of Falmouth for coastal wetlands, flood zone, and structure mapping. Finally, the town of Wareham will receive \$6,000 for GIS mapping of stormwater drainage networks around Broadmarsh. Training courses in the use of GIS will also be provided for town staff and officials.

These grants and planning assistance opportunities address aspects of the Buzzards Bay



Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP) which was developed by the Buzzards Bay Project and approved by the US Environmental Protection Agency and Governor Weld in 1991. According to Mark Rasmussen, Regional Planner for the BBP, "Our mission is to continue to provide financial and technical assistance to Bay watershed communities to meet the goals of the Management Plan." The Buzzards Bay Project provides technical assistance to municipalities in water quality planning, land use management, wetlands protection, stormwater control, and toxics use reduction. Buzzards Bay Watershed communities eligible for Buzzards Bay Project funding include: Westport, Dartmouth, New Bedford, Acushnet, Fairhaven, Mattapoisett, Rochester, Marion, Carver, Middleborough, Wareham, Plymouth, Bourne, Falmouth, and Gosnold. Anyone interested in learning more about this work or other Buzzards Bay Project activities should contact Mark Rasmussen at 748-3600.

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For Immediate Release



Contact: Joe Costa
Phone: (508) 748-3600
Date: January 12, 1996

Buzzards Bay Project

***Buzzards Bay Project announces grants to Rochester, Mattapoisett
to improve herring migration in Mattapoisett River***

The Buzzards Bay Project announced today that it has awarded \$25,000 in grants to help improve herring migration to the Mattapoisett River. The town of Rochester will receive \$20,000 to reconstruct culverts under Snipatuit Rd. The small diameter and poor condition of the culverts is believed to be impeding herring migration into Snipatuit Pond and the upper reaches of the Mattapoisett River. Jeff Eldridge of the Rochester Highway Department will be overseeing the project for the town. The town of Mattapoisett will also receive \$5,000 toward the reconstruction of the Rt. 6 herring ladder and dam that is largely being funded through another state grant. The award to Mattapoisett from the Buzzards Bay Project is being used to match these state funds which were announced during ceremonies in Mattapoisett in October 1995. Ken Reback of the state Division of Marine Fisheries has been working with these communities on the proper design and placement of the fish ladders and road improvements.

According to Joseph Costa, Executive Director of the Buzzards Bay Project, the Mattapoisett River herring run is perhaps the largest herring run in Buzzards Bay, with the Agawam River in Wareham nearly equal in size. Costa noted, "At the turn of the century state biologists estimated that the Mattapoisett River has a capacity of approximately one million fish. In recent years, our best estimates are that only 50,000 to 70,000 now migrate up the river. Unfortunately this decline is not unique. Herring populations in many rivers in the region are a fraction of what they were decades ago because of increased obstructions in rivers, disrepair of fish ladders, poor management of water levels, and declining water quality and habitat loss."

Herring are a so-called "anadromous" fish, one that lives its life in the ocean, but migrates up rivers to reproduce, like the more familiar Salmon. Herring is an important food fish for many species including both fresh and saltwater recreational fish like trout, bass, bluefish, and striped bass, many waterbirds, and even whales. Juvenile herring are also an important food source for the endangered Roseate Tern where the largest breeding colony in North America is just a mile and half from the Mattapoisett River. Today, herring is harvested, both as a bait fish for both lobster and recreational fisherman, and as a food source. Each spring, when the herring migrate up ladders, the fish are caught and their eggs, which are called "roe", are removed and eaten like caviar or cooked.

During the past decade, generally 5,000 - 20,000 herring have been harvested out of the Mattapoisett River each year. These herring are collected at the Rt 6 Dam in Mattapoisett. Because of the location of the Mattapoisett River and changing town boundaries during the 1800's, today the Mattapoisett River Herring Run is now jointly managed by the towns of Mattapoisett, Rochester, and Marion. Past Buzzards Bay Project funding has also funded herring restoration projects on the West Branch of the Westport River.

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Buzzards Bay Project

For Immediate Release

Contact: Dr. Joseph Costa

September 4, 1996

Buzzards Bay Project hires Project Manager

Marion, MA: The Buzzards Bay Project announced today that it has hired Newton Millham of Westport as the Project Manager for the Alternative Septic System Test Center to be constructed at the Massachusetts Military Reservation on Cape Cod.

As Project Manager Dr. Millham will oversee construction of the facility, coordinate with vendors of new septic system technology, and oversee installation of the initial systems. Once the facility is in operation, Dr. Millham will be responsible for day to day operational oversight, conduct sampling, data analysis, coordinate training sessions and conduct outreach demonstrations, especially for municipal boards of health and engineering firms.

Dr. Millham is a geologist who has focussed on the eutrophication of coastal embayments caused by onsite sewage disposal to groundwater, one of the environmental concerns that prompted the creation of the Test Center. Nutrients contributed by conventional septic systems are a major factor in the eutrophication of local coastal waters, and it is hoped that the adoption of new technologies will lead to reductions in nutrients reaching coastal embayments. A graduate of Boston University, Dr. Millham has been a post-doctoral investigator in the Biology Department of the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, where he has conducted research in Peconic Bay, NY, Nantucket Harbor and Nantucket freshwater ponds, embayments in Falmouth, Buzzards Bay and other freshwater and marine systems in Southeastern Massachusetts. He is currently a technical advisor to the Westport River Watershed Alliance project evaluating nutrient inputs from the Snell Creek watershed to the East Branch of the Westport River. Dr. Millham also serves on the Scientific Advisory Panel of the Cape Cod Commission to evaluate the cleanup of the Massachusetts Military Reservation.

The Demonstration and Test Facility is an Environmental Technologies Initiative funded by the US EPA and is being implemented in cooperation with the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection, the Barnstable County Health and Environmental Department, the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, and the DEM Waquoit Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve. The Facility is designed to evaluate and promote alternative onsite wastewater treatment systems and will serve to speed the approval of these new technologies, thus bringing them to market sooner for Massachusetts homeowners. Dr. Joe Costa, Executive Director of the Buzzards Bay Project said, "We are really excited about having Newton on board. His research background will help ensure the success of the Test Center". Dr. Costa added that he expects the Buzzards Bay Project to request bids from engineering firms for the design of the facility in September.

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2 Spring Street, Marion, Massachusetts 02738 (508) 748-3600 Facsimile (508) 748-3962





**For Immediate Release
December 5, 1994
Contact: Joe Costa**

**Buzzards Bay Project
Buzzards Bay Project awards grant for
stormdrain stenciling, mapping**

The Buzzards Bay Project announced that it awarded a \$20,000 grant to the Coalition for Buzzards Bay, a non-profit citizens group, to map and stencil storm drain collection systems in 12 municipalities around Buzzards Bay. With this funding, technical assistance from the Buzzards Bay Project, and information from each town's Department of Public Works, the Coalition will map street drain collection systems, conditions of catch basins, and other data to help towns and the Buzzards Bay Project prioritize stormwater discharges for remediation.

Joseph Costa, PhD
Executive Director

Bruce Rosinoff
EPA Project Officer

David Janik, RS
Environmental Analyst

Bernadette Taber
*Stormwater Specialist,
USDA-SCS*

John Rockwell
Wetlands Specialist

Frederick Kalisz, Jr.
*Toxics Reduction Program
Coordinator*

Tracy Warncke
Administrative Assistant

The Buzzards Bay Project has identified stormwater discharges from streets, driveways, parking lots, and other surfaces as one of the principal pollution problems contributing to shellfish bed and swimming beach closures in Buzzards Bay. Project Director Joseph Costa described direct stormwater discharges to bays and rivers as a "major problem" around Buzzards Bay. He further noted "as land was developed in the past, the common practice was to get stormwater off the roads as quick as possible. The easiest solution was to discharge to the nearest pond, wetland, river, or harbor. Unfortunately the rain washes pollutants off the road including pet and other animal wastes, oil and other pollutants from cars. Our stormdrains became a direct pathway for fertilizer and pesticides washing off lawns and agricultural lands, and for discharges from failing septic systems."

The Buzzards Bay Project noted that the stenciling and mapping campaign by the Coalition will meet two goals. First, it will heighten public awareness of the effect of stormwater discharges on water quality around Buzzards Bay. Costa noted "stormdrain stenciling discourages people from dumping used motor oil down the drain, and encourages them to pick up after their dogs. When the connection is made in the public's mind between a pipe near a favorite bathing beach and the stormdrain up the street, its a powerful educational tool."

The second objective of the effort Costa noted "is to produce maps and establish a database that will be useful for each town's DPW. Our DPWs are already stretched to the limit. The Coalition's work will help towns identify stormdrains that are in need of maintenance and map pipe connections. Then, using the maps and database, the Buzzards Bay Project hopes to help towns set up catch basin maintenance schedules in problem areas, and to help towns prioritize sites for management action. Only when we start treating some of these stormwater discharges can we expect to reopen some of the shellfish beds now closed."



Mimi McConnell, Executive Director of the Coalition for Buzzards Bay has already announced that it has hired Darren Casella, a resident of Falmouth to oversee the stormwater stenciling and mapping effort for the Coalition. Mr. Casella is also a volunteer trainee at the Woods Hole Research Center, a nonprofit research organization that has focussed on global environmental issues.

Costa noted that the Coalition for Buzzards Bay has already conducted a stormwater stenciling campaign in the City of New Bedford using private funding, and the work is meant to compliment other efforts like the one in Falmouth through the Woods Hole Sea Grant Program.

The Buzzards Bay Project is an advisory and planning unit administered by Massachusetts Coastal Zone Management and the US EPA. The award to the Coalition was part of a \$200,000 grant received by the Buzzards Bay Project for stormwater remediation in Buzzards Bay. The remainder of the funds will be provided to Buzzards Bay municipalities in grants and technical assistance this winter and spring.

[Note to editor: The Buzzards Bay Project, a National Estuary Program and unit of Massachusetts Coastal Zone Management is often confused with two non-profit corporations: the Buzzards Bay Action Committee (BBAC- an organization of municipal officials), and the Coalition for Buzzards Bay (a citizens group). The Coalition is most widely recognized for its "Report Card" on Buzzards Bay municipalities, its "Town Watch" program, and a citizen-based water quality monitoring program conducted in partnership with the Buzzards Bay Project. All three organizations are working together to implement the Buzzards Bay Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan.]



Buzzards Bay Project
National Estuary Program

Contact: Joe Costa
Phone: (508) 291-3625 x19
Date: October 30, 2002

For Immediate Release

Buzzards Bay Project offers grants for wetland protection and restoration

The Buzzards Bay Project National Estuary Program has allocated \$67,500 of federal and state grant funds, to assist interested Buzzards Bay watershed municipalities in the protection of open space, rare and endangered species habitat, and freshwater and saltwater wetlands, and to help restore tidally restricted salt marshes. Eligible communities include Fall River, Westport, Dartmouth, New Bedford, Acushnet, Fairhaven, Rochester, Mattapoisett, Marion, Wareham, Middleborough, Carver, Plymouth, Bourne, Falmouth, and Gosnold.

The grant monies can be used as seed money for restoration of wetlands, including development of designs, Appraisals, site evaluations, or professional land surveys for wetland protection or open space acquisition, municipal acquisition of conservation restrictions, and the restoration of tidally restricted salt marshes.

Grant applications are due by November 14, 2002. Municipalities may collaborate with Lands Trusts and other entities. Applications and details about the program can be found at www.buzzardsbay.org.

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[Note to the editor: The Buzzards Bay Project which is a National Estuary Program and unit of Massachusetts Coastal Zone Management, is often confused with two nonprofit corporations: the Buzzards Bay Action Committee (BBAC- a lobbying organization composed of municipal officials), and the Coalition for Buzzards Bay (a citizens group). The Coalition is most widely recognized for its "Report Card" on Buzzards Bay municipalities, its "Bay Watchers" water quality monitoring program. All three organizations are working together to implement the Buzzards Bay Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan.]

press-wetlandgrants02avail





Contact: Joe Costa
Phone: (508) 291-3625 ext. 19
Date: August 2, 2002

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Buzzards Bay Project

National Estuary Program

WAREHAM – The Buzzards Bay Project National Estuary Program has sent out an alert to area towns about recently released US Census maps that will have a profound effect on how towns deal with stormwater pollution and whether they will be eligible for millions of dollars in grant funds.

In June 2002, the US Census released new “urbanized areas” maps for the United States. While this may seem like a benign bureaucratic exercise, many state and federal agencies define municipal eligibility for their programs according to whether or not a project is in an “urbanized area.” The big news with the maps released in June is that the US Census has adopted some new definitions of “urbanized areas,” which have resulted in large areas of Southeastern Massachusetts, and now most of Cape Cod, being classified as urbanized areas.

While the new classification may help towns obtain more aid or grants for social services or public transportation programs, it will also affect how two federal environmental programs operate.

The first program affected is the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System program, or NPDES for short. In 1999, the US EPA adopted new regulations requiring municipalities to prepare and apply for Phase II Stormwater Management Permits for all stormwater discharges in their community that they control. The application that the towns submit to the EPA is called a Phase II Notice of Intent. As part of the application, a town must prepare a written 5-year program that defines what actions the town will make that will meet the terms of the permit application requirements. Municipalities must prepare and submit a permit application to the US EPA no later than March 10, 2003. With the newly defined urbanized areas, more municipalities will have to apply for permits and prepare these stormwater management plans. Whatever actions the town proposes in their application must be implemented by March 10, 2008. When the EPA selected this date, a late June 2002 release of urbanized area maps by the US Census was not expected.

Buzzards Bay watershed towns newly included in the Phase II stormwater program are: Mattapoisett, Marion, Rochester, Wareham, Plymouth, Middleborough, Carver, Falmouth, and Bourne. New Bedford, Westport, Dartmouth, Acushnet, and Fairhaven had already expected to prepare plans based on the 1990 Census designations. On Cape Cod, towns that now must prepare plans are Sandwich, Mashpee, Brewster, Harwich, Chatham, Orleans, Eastham, and Provincetown. The towns of Barnstable, Dennis, and Yarmouth were previously included.

The second environmental program affected by the Census urbanized area designation is the Section 319 Nonpoint Source Pollution grant program. Because stormwater discharges become designated “Point Sources” under the Phase II program, they are no longer eligible for funding under the 319 grant program. The 319 grant program has been very popular with towns trying to stop stormwater pollution. Since 1995, municipalities in Southeastern Massachusetts and Cape Cod received millions of dollars in grant funds from the 319 program. In fact, nearly all the projects funded in the past were located in areas that are now defined as urbanized areas. Towns will be ineligible for 319 funding for stormwater projects once EPA accepts their Phase II plans. EPA has not yet publicly reacted to the effect of the new US census designations.

The Buzzards Bay Project has alerted the towns about this development because it has prepared more than a dozen 319 applications on behalf of Buzzards Bay municipalities, and for the past several years has been mapping coastal stormwater discharges in all Buzzards Bay towns. The Project has also offered to prepare Phase II stormwater plans for Buzzards Bay municipalities on a first come first serve basis, but does not have the capacity to prepare all the plans by next year’s March deadline.

For more information on the Buzzards Bay Project, visit their website at www.buzzardsbay.org.

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2870 Cranberry Highway, East Wareham, Massachusetts 02538 (508) 291-3625 Facsimile (508) 291-3628 <http://www.capecod.net/~menviron>

The Buzzards Bay Project is sponsored by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Massachusetts Executive Office of Environmental Affairs through the Coastal Zone Management Office.



Contact: Joe Costa
Phone: (508) 291-3625 x19
Date: October 18, 2001

For Immediate Release

Dye Study being undertaken in New Bedford Harbor

If New Bedford Harbor looks a little pink today, don't panic, it's not red tide or a pollution spill. A dye study is underway to study circulation and flushing in the harbor. The red dye, which is being released through the Fairhaven Sewage Treatment Facility Outfall inside the harbor is being used to document how much of the wastewater plume flows outside of the hurricane barrier with outgoing tides, and how much remains inside the harbor. The work is being undertaken by a Rhode Island Firm, ASA Inc. (Applied Science Associates), and is being funded by the US EPA. The EPA and Town of Fairhaven, which is participating in the effort, will use the data from the study to determine what level of treatment will be required when the Fairhaven Treatment Facility is upgraded in future years.

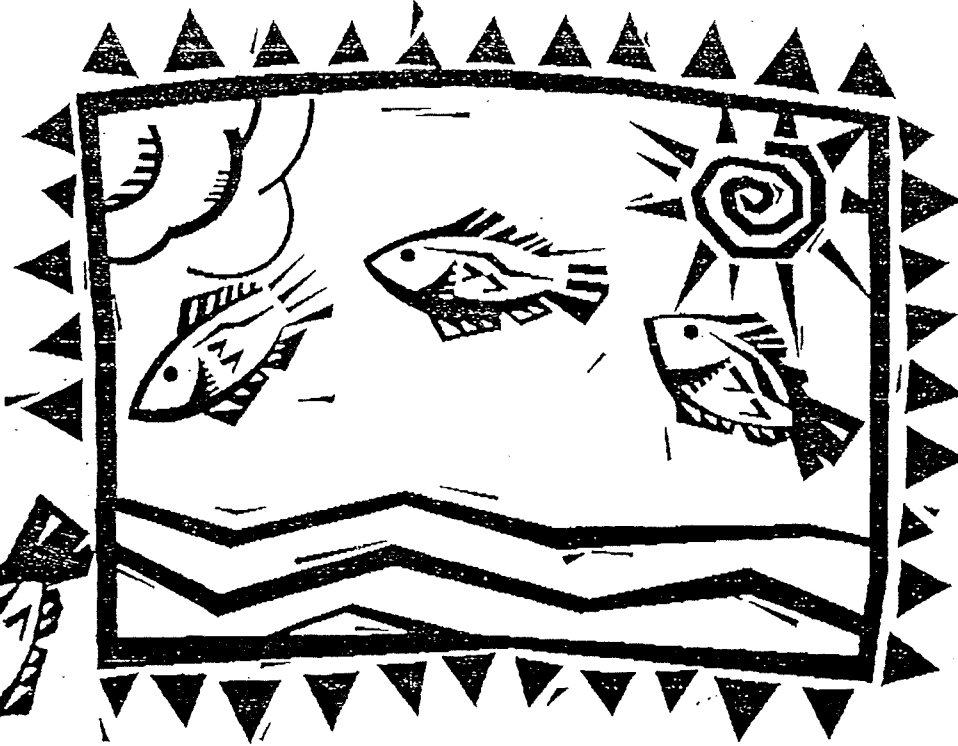
The dye is harmless and will not affect fish or wildlife. Most residents will not even notice any change in the color of the water which will look only slightly ruddy in color immediately near the Fairhaven outfall, which is located a several hundred yards north of the hurricane barrier entrance.

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[Note to the editor: The Buzzards Bay Project which is a National Estuary Program and unit of Massachusetts Coastal Zone Management, is often confused with two nonprofit corporations: the Buzzards Bay Action Committee (BBAC- a lobbying organization composed of municipal officials), and the Coalition for Buzzards Bay (a citizens group). The Coalition is most widely recognized for its "Report Card" on Buzzards Bay municipalities, its "Bay Watchers" water quality monitoring program. All three organizations are working together to implement the Buzzards Bay Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan.]

press-falmouthgrants01

COASTSWEEP '92 CLEANUP AND BEACH TALK



Don't wait for the next major storm to learn about the vital role that barrier beaches play in coastal and property protection. Come to the Buzzards Bay Project Beach talk *BARRIER BEACHES: THE FIRST LINE OF COASTAL DEFENSE*. Talk will be followed by Beach Cleanup at Pine Island Pond.

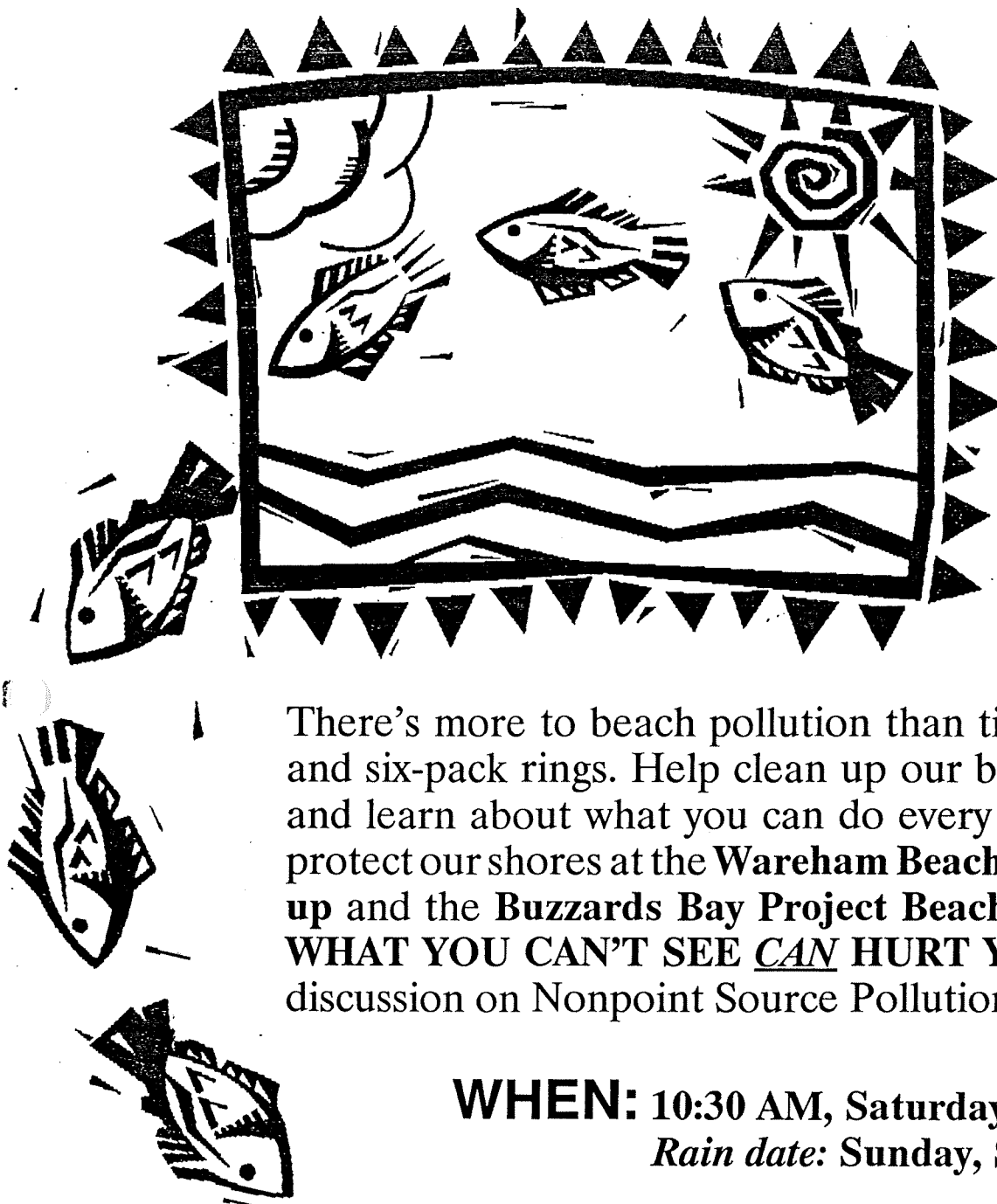
WHEN: 10:00 AM Saturday, September 19

WHERE: Reservation Beach at Camp Massasoit
RAIN LOCATION: Camp Massasoit House

Admission is free and cleanup supplies will be provided. Refreshment donations gratefully accepted. Sponsored by: The Buzzards Bay Project and Coastal Zone Management.

For more information call: 758-6508

COASTSWEEP '92 CLEANUP AND BEACH TALK



There's more to beach pollution than tin cans and six-pack rings. Help clean up our beaches and learn about what you can do every day to protect our shores at the **Wareham Beach Clean up** and the **Buzzards Bay Project Beach Talk**, **WHAT YOU CAN'T SEE CAN HURT YOU**, a discussion on Nonpoint Source Pollution.

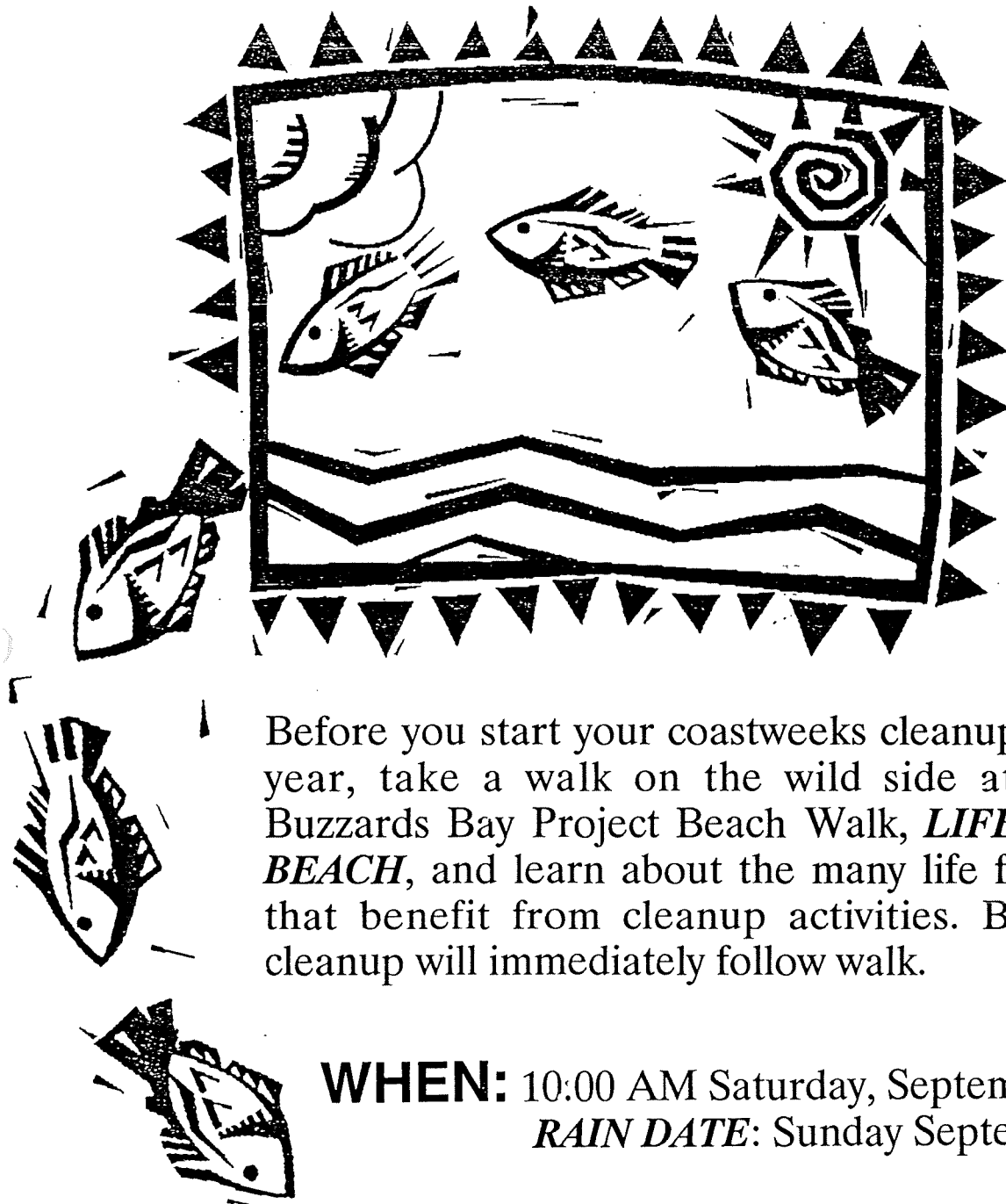
WHEN: 10:30 AM, Saturday, September 19,
Rain date: Sunday, September 20

WHERE: Onset Bay Town Pier

Cleanup supplies will be provided. Refreshment donations gratefully accepted. Sponsored by: Wareham Recreation, The Buzzards Bay Project and Coastal Zone Management.

For more information call: 291-3186

COASTSWEEP '92 CLEANUP AND BEACH TALK

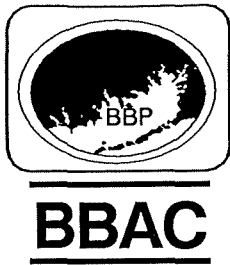


Before you start your coastweeks cleanup this year, take a walk on the wild side at the Buzzards Bay Project Beach Walk, *LIFE'S A BEACH*, and learn about the many life forms that benefit from cleanup activities. Beach cleanup will immediately follow walk.

WHEN: 10:00 AM Saturday, September 19
RAIN DATE: Sunday September 20

WHERE: Meet at Gooseberry Island Parking lot

Admission is free and cleanup supplies will be provided. Refreshment donations gratefully accepted. Sponsored by: The Buzzards Bay Project, the Westport River Watershed Alliance and Coastal Zone Management.



Buzzards Bay Action Committee

2 Spring Street
Marion, MA 02738
(508) 748-3600
fax. (508) 748-2845

Edwin H.B. Pratt, Jr., Marion, *Chairman*
Dennis F. Luttrell, *Executive Director*

Contact: Dennis F. Luttrell

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

BBAC and Buzzards Bay Project present National EPA Pollution Prevention Awards

Acushnet

In recognition of their joint efforts to implement the Buttermilk Bay Nitrogen Management Plan, the country's first municipal nitrogen overlay districts to protect coastal waters, the towns of Bourne, Plymouth and Wareham will receive the EPA Administrator's Award plaques for achievements in pollution prevention.

Bourne

Dartmouth

Fairhaven

Falmouth

Gosnold

The awards will be presented by the Buzzards Bay Action Committee (BBAC) and the Buzzards Bay Project at the following Selectmen's meetings: Bourne, May 26th at 9:00 AM, Plymouth, May 26th at 7 PM and Wareham, June 16, at 7:00 PM.

Marion

Mattapoissett

New Bedford

Plymouth

The Buttermilk Bay Nitrogen Management plan was one of 17 projects chosen for this award, out of over 840 nominations from across the country. The EPA honored the towns for voluntarily establishing the overlay districts by adopting regional zoning changes. The overlay district strategy was developed by the Buzzards Bay Project to limit the amount of nitrogen entering the Buttermilk Bay watershed and protect the bay's water quality from nitrogen pollution.

Rochester

Wareham

Westport

The Administrator's Awards Program was established by the EPA to recognize excellence in the effort to work towards a cleaner environment. The award plaques were originally presented by EPA Administrator Reilly at a May 13th award ceremony in Washington D.C., and accepted by BBAC Executive Director, Dennis F. Luttrell, on behalf of the three towns. Luttrell commended the towns' cooperative leadership in establishing the overlay districts, which he called a "national model in solving environmental problems through innovative, regional efforts."

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Buzzards Bay Project

Contact:
Mara Altman
Public Outreach Coordinator

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: April 21, 1992

Buzzards Bay environmental plan receives federal approval

Washington D.C.: On April 20, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator William Reilly officially approved the Buzzards Bay Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP), an advisory plan developed by the Buzzards Bay Project, which makes recommendations on how federal, state and local governments can work in partnership to control pollution and protect the natural resources in Buzzards Bay and its watershed.

After signing the document, Administrator Reilly commended the Buzzards Bay Project and state and local officials on their "exceptional leadership during the management plan's development." "The Buzzards Bay CCMP is an important framework for managing the resources of Buzzards Bay, as well as an outstanding example of targeted federal, state and local cooperation in developing an innovative approach for managing critical coastal resources." The Administrator signed the Management Plan following a meeting with representatives from the Buzzards Bay Project, the Buzzards Bay Action Committee, the Coalition for Buzzards Bay, and Massachusetts Coastal Zone Management, at which he was briefed about the major environmental issues of Buzzards Bay and the need for increased funding to facilitate CCMP implementation.

The Buzzards Bay Project is the second National Estuary Program (NEP) participant to receive federal approval of its CCMP. This approval officially marks the beginning of CCMP implementation and makes federal funds available to the Project to continue working to protect Buzzards Bay resources. Before being submitted for federal review, the plan was adopted into state policy by Massachusetts Governor William Weld on September 11, 1991.

Buzzards Bay, a federally designated estuary of "national significance," contains approximately 25% of the state's shellfish catch and other commercial and recreational fisheries. It is surrounded by 210 miles of coastline which includes swimming beaches, salt marshes, barrier beaches, and diverse wetland and wildlife habitats. These resources are primarily threatened by the cumulative impacts of development and other nonpoint pollution

- more -



Buzzards Bay, page 2 of 2

sources such as septic systems, boat sewage discharges, fertilizer use, and stormwater runoff. Parts of the bay also suffer from toxic contamination, industrial pollution and sewage plant outfalls.

The Buzzards Bay CCMP contains detailed analysis of these problems and outlines 11 specific action plans to solve them, utilizing innovative remediation and management strategies. As the Project takes its first important steps from plan development to implementation, it has already been instrumental in achieving such environmental management milestones as:

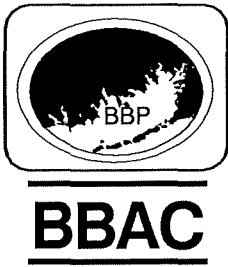
- the development of the country's first intermunicipal overlay protection district, a cooperative zoning agreement among three Buzzards Bay municipalities intended to limit nitrogen loading into marine and ground waters,
- the establishment of the Buzzards Bay Action Committee, an independent alliance of municipal officials from all 13 bay municipalities, united to support CCMP implementation through local and regional policies and actions, and
- designation of the east coast's first marine "no discharge area," to prohibit all boat sewage discharges in Wareham coastal waters.

The Buzzards Bay Project hopes to continue CCMP implementation momentum by carrying out such pollution clean up and prevention measures as stormwater remediation, toxic use reduction, and land use and harbor planning projects. Project officials estimate that full CCMP implementation would require an annual expenditure of approximately \$2 million dollars over the next ten years (not including New Bedford clean up activities).

Says Massachusetts Secretary of Environmental Affairs Susan Tierney, "That's not much when you consider that over half of the state's economy in one fashion or another, depends on our marine resources." Indeed, significant revenue losses have already been experienced by such water-dependent industries as commercial and recreational fisheries, real estate, tourism and nautical businesses.

Unfortunately, under current Clean Water Act provisions, the federal government, (the greatest source of NEP funding) can only provide funds to develop CCMPs, not to actually implement pollution clean up and prevention recommendations. As one of the first NEP participants to complete its CCMP, the Buzzards Bay Project, united with the BBAC is working closely with the Massachusetts congressional delegation to ensure that the reauthorized Clean Water Act includes provisions to fund CCMP implementation.

Says Buzzards Bay Project Manager Joseph Costa, "it is vital that adequate federal funding mechanisms be put into place now -- how congress decides on this issue today, will determine the future not only of Buzzards Bay, but of all estuaries across the country."



Buzzards Bay Action Committee

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Edwin H.B. Pratt, Jr., Marion, *Chairman*
Dennis F. Luttrell, *Executive Director*

For Immediate Release:

Contact: Dennis F. Luttrell

BBAC, SEN. KENNEDY AND REP. STUDDS TO HOLD PRESS CONFERENCE ON ENVIRONMENTAL FUNDING LEGISLATION

On Wednesday, April 15, 1992, Sen. Ted Kennedy, Congressman Gerry Studds and the Buzzards Bay Action Committee (BBAC) will hold a press conference to publicly endorse two legislative initiatives that would authorize up to \$40 billion and \$20 million, respectively, in appropriations to be used for environmental and other infrastructure projects nationwide.

The press conference will be held at 10:00 AM on Taylor's Point at the Massachusetts Maritime Academy. In addition to Sen. Kennedy and Rep. Studds, speakers at this event will include New Bedford Mayor Rosemary Tierney, Coalition For Buzzards Bay Executive Director Mimi McConnell, and Edwin (Ted) H. B. Pratt, Jr., who is Chairman of the BBAC, President of the Massachusetts Association of Health Boards, and a Marion selectman.

Just prior to this event, Sen. Kennedy and Rep. Studds will meet with representatives from the BBAC, the Coalition, the Buzzards Bay Project, and Mayor Tierney to discuss the need for implementation funding for the Buzzards Bay Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan, which outlines detailed action plans to clean up and protect Buzzards Bay natural resources.

If passed, the Kennedy-sponsored bill, **S.2137, the "Emergency Anti-Recession Act of 1992"**, would appropriate \$40 billion in funding which may be used by Buzzards Bay municipalities for such environmental improvement project as wastewater treatment facilities, combined sewer outfalls (CSO's), and storm water remediation. This economic stimulus package is designed to rebuild the nation's crumbling infrastructure and create numerous jobs as well.

The Studds-sponsored bill, **H.2029, "Operation Coastal Shield"** is a re-authorization of the Clean Water Act. If passed, this bill would appropriate up to \$20 million in funding to implement federally approved estuary management plans. Federal approval for the Buzzards Bay plan is imminent. Studds is also developing a proposal entitled, "**Funding Clean Water: A Jobs Bill for the Environment**," which would allocate \$5 billion annually, through the end of the century, to reduce both point and nonpoint source pollution in the nation's waterways.

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Buzzards Bay Project

Contact: Mara Altman
Public Outreach Coordinator

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

WAREHAM COASTAL WATERS DESIGNATED FIRST EASTERN SEABOARD NO DISCHARGE AREA

Wareham -- The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts announced today that Wareham, MA coastal waters have been designated a federal "no discharge area," the first such designation on the eastern seaboard. The announcement was made today by EPA Regional Administrator Julie Belaga during a press conference at the Wareham Public Library.

The designation prohibits the discharge of both treated and untreated boat sewage in Wareham coastal waters and enables federal, state and local enforcement officials to assess fines and other penalties for discharge violations.

Environmental Protection Agency Regional Administrator Julie Belaga hailed the designation as "a vital first step towards the restoration of cleaner coastal waters in Buzzards Bay, that sets an important precedent for the entire east coast. Hopefully other communities will follow Wareham's lead and take federal regulatory steps to protect their coastal waters from boat sewage contamination."

Jeffrey Benoit, Director of Coastal Zone Management (CZM) for the Massachusetts Executive Office of Environmental Affairs added that the designation "is an excellent example of how local, federal and state governments can effectively work together to protect our most valuable natural resources."

- more -



This designation partially fulfills one of the recommended actions contained in the Buzzards Bay Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP) which was prepared by the Buzzards Bay Project and signed into state policy by Governor William Weld last fall. The plan identifies boat sewage and the toxic chemicals used to treat it as a significant environmental and public health threat. To prevent these pollutants from being dumped directly into the Bay, the Plan recommends the establishment of no-discharge areas and the installation of pump-out stations to facilitate boater compliance.

The designation application, which was prepared by the town of Wareham with technical assistance from CZM, cited the need for greater protection of the Bay to help reverse coastal water degradation trends.

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Notice sent out by
OEP

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: December 11, 1991

CONTACT: DEP, Leslie O'Shea, 617-292-5996
Buzzards Bay Project, Dave Janik, 508-748-3600

\$25,000 Grant for Marion Stormwater Project

The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) this week announced that the Buzzards Bay Project, a regional environmental organization, will receive \$25,000 for a storm water remediation project in the town of Marion.

The project, developed jointly by the town and the Buzzards Bay Project, is designed to treat storm water flows, a potential non-point source of pollution, in the Spragues Cove area of Sippican Harbor. The discharges have contributed to the closure of three acres of shellfish beds in the Cove and to the pollution of Sippican harbor. The grant money will be used to build a settling basin and artificial wetland to treat stormwater.

Funding for the project is provided through DEP's Non-point Source Program. The program awards grants to demonstration projects which control water pollution from indirect sources such as road and construction site runoff. The town of Marion is contributing two acres of land valued at more than \$200,000 and the services of the local DPW. The Buzzards Bay Project, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture Soil Conservation Service will develop the engineering designs necessary to build and operate the project.

"Degradation of our coastal resources isn't due solely to pollution pouring out of pipes. We've made great progress in bringing these point sources under control. We now need to focus our attention on the less obvious and more complex problem of non-point sources. Projects such as this recognize that need," said DEP Commissioner Daniel S. Greenbaum.

Ray Pickles, Executive Secretary for the Town of Marion expressed appreciation to the DEP and the Buzzards Bay Project and is hopeful work will get underway this Spring.

MORE

Dr. Joseph Costa, Project Manager of the Buzzards Bay Project said, "We are excited about receiving this grant. We plan to work very hard in the upcoming years to secure additional pollution cleanup money for other Buzzards Bay municipalities."

END



Contact: Mara Altman
Public Outreach Coordinator

Buzzards Bay Project

For Immediate Release: **BUZZARDS BAY CCMP BECOMES STATE POLICY**

Boston: On September 11, Governor William Weld signed the Buzzards Bay Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP) into state policy. The Plan, which was developed by the Buzzards Bay Project, a National Estuary Program (NEP) member, outlines detailed strategies to clean and protect Buzzards Bay through Federal, state and local cooperative efforts. As one of the first National Estuary Programs (NEPs) to complete its CCMP, the Project is being viewed as a model for estuary protection throughout the country.

The Governor congratulated the Buzzards Bay Project Staff on the successful completion of the regional Bay protection plan, stating that it "provides a thorough, well-researched analysis of the environmental and related economic problems of the Buzzards Bay region and, even more importantly, outlines a clear set of achievable solutions to solve them."

Buzzards Bay, a federally designated estuary of "national significance", is surrounded by 210 miles of coastline that contains swimming beaches, salt marshes, barrier beaches, 25% the states coastal shellfish catch, commercial and recreational fisheries, and diverse wetland and wildlife habitats. These resources are threatened primarily by the impacts of development and other non-point pollution sources, and significant revenue losses have been experienced by such water-dependent industries as commercial and recreational fisheries, real estate, tourism and nautical businesses.

Six years in the making, the Plan has received favorable support from all concerned state, local and Federal government agencies. Says Massachusetts Secretary of Environmental Affairs Susan Tierny, "It's clear that implementation of this Plan is crucial to protecting Buzzards Bay natural resources and the local economies that depend on them."

The Plan is now being reviewed by U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator William Rielly and Federal approval is expected within 60 days. Says Buzzards Bay Project Manager Dr. Joseph Costa, "Completion of the CCMP marks the first step in cleaning up and protecting the Bay. Now its time to turn plans into reality. But," he cautioned, "to do that, adequate Federal funding mechanisms must be put into place."

Currently, Federal Funds are provided to NEPs only to develop plans (CCMPs) to clean up these estuaries, not to actually implement the cleanup actions contained in these Plans. At press time, Congress is considering legislation to amend and reauthorize the Clean Water Act to provide the necessary funds to implement CCMPs. How this policy is decided will ultimately affect the health not only of Buzzards Bay, but that of all the nation's most valuable estuaries.

#30#

2 Spring Street, Marion, Massachusetts 02738 (508) 748-3600 Facsimile (508) 748-2845





Buzzards Bay Project

Contact: Dave Janik
Environmental Planner
Buzzards Bay Project

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Buzzards Bay Project Awards New Boat Pump-out Grants

Marion MA -- On Thursday, September 5, the Buzzards Bay Project announced that it has selected the towns of Marion, Mattapoisett, Westport and Fairhaven as recipients of nearly \$23,000 in grants to implement boat pump-out programs in Buzzards Bay.

These funds will enable the towns to purchase and install the following land-based and mobile pump-out equipment:

- Marion was awarded \$5,145 to purchase and install a land-based pumpout facility on Island Wharf.
- Mattapoisett was awarded \$12,100 to purchase and install a land-based pump-out facility on Long Wharf. This award includes funds to extend the sewer line and electrical service to the end of the wharf.
- Westport was awarded \$3,000 to purchase and install a Department of Environmental Protection-approved tight tank at the Cherry and Webb Lane State Boat Ramp. This tank will be used to store collected boat sewage from the existing mobile pump-out facility currently operated by the town.
- Fairhaven was awarded a grant of \$2,545 to extend their municipal sewer line to Union Wharf, so that the existing mobile pump-out facility can discharge collected boat wastes directly into the town sewer system. The new sewer line will also service a potential future land-based facility at this location, should one become necessary.

These grant awards are part of the Buzzards Bay Project's program to stop the indiscriminate discharge of boat sewage and its associated toxic treatment chemicals into Buzzards Bay. Such discharges threaten public health and the environment and contribute to shellfish and beach closures. Says Project Manager Dr. Joseph Costa, "The start-up of each new pump-out facility brings us one step closer to the day when illegal boat waste discharges in Buzzards Bay are a thing of the past".

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Buzzards Bay Project

Contact: Dave Janik
Technical Assistant
Buzzards Bay Project

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Buzzards Bay Project Requests Proposals for New Boat Pump-out Grants

Marion MA -- The Buzzards Bay Project has announced that it will provide up to \$40,000 in grants to qualified Buzzards Bay communities to assist in boat pump-out program implementation.

Throughout the Bay, sewage and toxic treatment chemicals are discharged by boats, posing a significant environmental and public health threat. These grant awards will help prevent boat waste pollutants from being dumped directly into the Bay. Grants will be available to municipalities for:

- up to 15,000 to purchase and install land-based boat pump-out facilities, including sewer line hook up and the building of tight tanks (temporary sewage holding tanks),
- up to \$5,000 to purchase and install mobile boat pump-out equipment, and
- up to \$3,000 to purchase and install new tight tanks for existing or new mobile boat pump-out facilities.

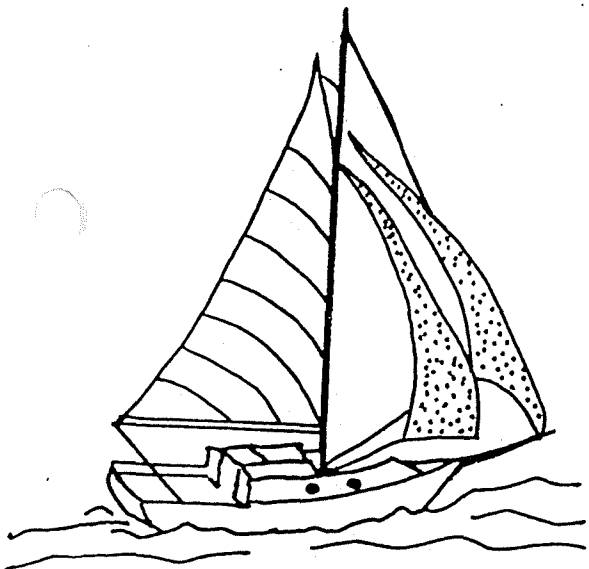
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Boat Pump-out Grants, page 2 of 2

These grants may be used to upgrade or repair existing boat pump-out facilities and each Buzzards Bay municipality is eligible for one grant. Grant awards will be announced by August 23, 1991 and the Project is accepting grant proposals until 4 PM, Thursday, August 8.

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What do *you* know about

Boat Pump-Out facilities?

Learn about the latest technology and regulations at the ...

Boat Pump-out Technology Workshop and Trade Fair

Friday, June 21, 1991, 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM
at the Seaport Inn, Fairhaven, MA

PANEL 1: REGULATORY ISSUES

Participants: Dr. Joseph Costa, Project Manager, the Buzzards Bay Project
Joan Beskenis, DEP Division of Water Pollution Control
Brian Donahoe, Director, DEP Division of Water Pollution Control

Topics of discussion:

- Boat waste management goals and strategies for Buzzards Bay
- Design criteria for boat pump-out facilities and holding tanks
- Boat pump-out regulations and policies

PANEL 2: LOCAL IMPLEMENTATION

Participants: Charlie Swain, Edwards Boat Yard, Falmouth, MA
Maury Dore, Edgartown Marine, Edgartown, MA
Mel Cote, Near Coastal Waters Program, U.S. EPA, Region I

Topics of discussion:

- Difficulties in starting up a land-based boat pump-out program
- Implementing a mobile boat pump-out program
- EPA "no discharge zones"

Audience discussion and refreshments will follow panel presentations. Equipment manufacturers will be present to exhibit and explain the latest in boat pump-out facility technology.

This event is being co-sponsored by the Coalition for Buzzards Bay and the Buzzards Bay Action Committee in cooperation with the Buzzards Bay Project and the Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone Management.

For more information call the Coalition for Buzzards Bay at (508) 759-5761 x334.

**Buzzards Bay
PROJECT**



Contact: Mara Altman
Public Outreach Coordinator
Buzzards Bay Project

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Boat Pump-out Workshop and Trade Fair responds to new policies

With new federal, state and local boat pump-out policies pending, marina owners and operators are scrambling to implement pump-out programs throughout Buzzards Bay. "What equipment will I need and where should I purchase it? How do I install and maintain these facilities, and how often should I make them available to boaters?" are just some of the issues that will be discussed at the first **Buzzards Bay Boat Pump-out Facility Workshop and Trade Fair**, to be held on Friday, June 21, 1991, 9:00 AM to 1 PM at the Seaport Inn, Fairhaven, MA. The event is being co-sponsored by the Coalition for Buzzards Bay and the Buzzards Bay Action Committee, in cooperation with the Buzzards Bay Project and the Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone Management (CZM).

Panel participants will include local marina operators with experience in pump-out program implementation, and representatives from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), and the Buzzards Bay

- more -

Boat Pump-out Workshop, page 2 of 2

Project. Equipment manufacturers will also be present to answer questions and exhibit the latest in boat pump-out facility technology.

This event is part of a bay-wide education effort to improve boater compliance with state and federal policies that mandate the use of boat pump-out facilities to protect public health and coastal marine life. Boat sewage contributes to shellfish bed and swimming beach closures as it can transmit such diseases as hepatitis, typhoid and cholera, and can degrade estuary habitats by depleting oxygen supplies and causing excessive algae growth. Toxic chemicals used in boat waste disposal systems, including formaldehyde, chlorine and ammonia, may also adversely affect aquatic life.

To combat these effects, municipalities and the EPA are in the process of establishing "No Discharge Zones" in specific Buzzards Bay embayments, where boaters will no longer be permitted to discharge wastes into the Bay, regardless of the type of marine sanitation device (toilet) on board. On the state level, all new and expanded marinas will be required to install sewage pump-out facilities and the DEP is currently developing formal pump-out design criteria. Throughout the Bay, several towns are also drafting bylaws to require the use of pump-out facilities.

**Buzzards Bay
PROJECT**



For more information contact:
Mara Altman, Public Outreach Coordinator

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Buzzards Bay Project awards municipal grants to help protect Bay from contamination

Marion, MA -- On May 20, the Buzzards Bay Project awarded \$78,500 in pollution prevention grants to the municipalities of New Bedford, Bourne, Dartmouth and Fairhaven. Each of these grants is primarily being awarded to prevent dangerous bacterial contamination of shellfish beds and swimming beaches.

Both New Bedford and Bourne will receive grants as part of the Buzzards Bay Project stormwater remediation grant program. New Bedford will receive \$33,500 to repair part of its combined sewer system that discharges into Clarks Cove. Currently, this system can not adequately handle the combined wastewater and stormwater flow from rainstorms, so untreated wastewaters discharge directly into the Cove. According to the Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF), this project is expected to contribute to the eventual reopening of once-productive Clarks Cove shellfish beds which have been closed because of contamination for 20 years. The DMF estimates the market value of Clarks Cove shellfish beds at \$1,200,000.

The town of Bourne will be awarded \$35,000 to prevent stormwater systems from discharging dangerous pollutants into Hens Cove. These contaminants, which include bacteria from animal wastes and failed septic systems, and other pollutants from road runoff, cause increasingly frequent local swimming beach and shellfish bed closures. For the past three years, 10.4 acres of Hens Cove soft shell clam and quahog beds have been closed because of contamination. This project is expected to prevent further water quality deterioration.

In addition to stormwater remediation, the Buzzards Bay Project is attacking bacterial pollution on other fronts, by awarding two mobile boat pump-out facility grants of \$5,000 each, to Dartmouth and Fairhaven. Throughout the Bay, human and other wastes discharged from boats pose a significant environmental and health threat. These new pump-out facilities will collect boat wastes for proper disposal, preventing harmful pollutants from being discharged directly into the Bay.

Says Buzzards Bay Project Manager Joseph Costa, "The only way we're going to protect Buzzards Bay is by working with its surrounding towns to protect the water quality in every harbor and cove; each of these grants marks a crucial step in that direction."

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Buzzards Bay Project

Contact: Mara Altman
Public Outreach Coordinator

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

US CONGRESSIONAL HEARING IS CALLED ON FUTURE BUZZARDS BAY PROJECT FUNDING

Marion, MA -- On May 20, the US House Subcommittee on Fisheries and the Environment and the Subcommittee on Oceanography will hold a Congressional hearing to examine the progress made by the Buzzards Bay Project, and the future efforts needed to improve and protect the natural resources and water quality of the Bay.

The hearing will be held at 10:00 AM at the Beverly Yacht Club, 99 Water Street in Marion.

The Buzzards Bay Project is among the first of 17 National Estuary Programs (NEPs) to complete its primary goal of developing a management plan for federal, state and local governments to work together in protecting the vital ecological and economic resources of Buzzards Bay. These recommendations are outlined in the final version of Buzzards Bay Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP), which is scheduled for release this summer.

To ensure that federal funding is provided to implement recommendations contained in the Management Plan, Rep. Gerry Studds is sponsoring legislation entitled "Operation Coastal Shield." Says Rep. Studds, "As one of the first estuaries in the country selected for intensive study, the Buzzards Bay Project is a model for the nation. Its lessons are invaluable in helping to assess our progress and decide where the National Estuary Program should go from here."

If passed, Operation Coastal Shield will authorize sufficient funding to implement NEP recommendations for five years after approval of the Management Plan, with another five years of funding made available if necessary. The bill would also authorize increased Federal funding for state and local pollution control programs as well as other amendments to strengthen the Clean Water Act.

Witnesses scheduled to testify at the hearing include: Buzzards Bay Project Manager Dr. Joseph Costa, Environmental Protection Agency Regional Administrator Julie Belaga, Coastal Zone Management Director Jeff Benoit, New Bedford Mayor John Bullard, Coalition for Buzzards Bay Executive Director Marion McConnell, and Buzzards Bay Action Committee Chairman Edwin Pratt.

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**Buzzards Bay
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OPERATION COASTAL SHIELD AND THE BUZZARDS BAY PROJECT:
A BLUEPRINT FOR NATIONAL ESTUARY PROTECTION

Operation Coastal Shield (H.R. 2029) is proposed legislation which includes funding authorizations to implement National Estuary Program Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plans (CCMPs). CCMPs are written assessments of the major pollution threats to each bay in the National Estuary Program (NEP), and contain plans to improve and protect water quality and other coastal resources. Currently, there is no Federal funding to implement recommendations contained in CCMPs.

Congress is currently looking towards the Buzzards Bay Project, one of the first of the 17 NEPs in the nation to complete its CCMP, as a model to help guide continued funding decisions and future NEP implementation strategies. On May 20, the House Subcommittee will hold a Congressional hearing on Buzzards Bay to ascertain what lessons can be learned from the Buzzards Bay Project and applied to NEPs across the country. The hearing will be held at 10:00 AM at the Beverly Yacht Club, 99 Water Street, Marion, MA.

H.R. 2029, which is being sponsored by U.S. Representative Gerry Studds, also contains several amendments to strengthen the Clean Water Act.

Operation Coastal Shield Amendments to the National Estuary Program

Operation Coastal Shield amendments to the National Estuary Program will double the duration of each estuary project from five to ten years. The bill also spells out clear Federal commitments for funding CCMP implementation, through comprehensive grants and technical assistance. These amendments will have a significant impact on current Buzzards Bay Project clean up and protection efforts, as well as the agenda for the Massachusetts Bays Program, a new participant in the NEP.

Specifically, the bill will authorize an annual \$20 million grant program, from 1992 through the end of this century, that can be used for CCMP implementation activities such as

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research, planning, construction of pollution controls, enforcement, and citizen involvement and education. These grants will be available to: state, interstate and regional water pollution control agencies, state coastal zone management agencies and other public and nonprofit agencies, organizations, and individuals.

In the coming fiscal year, the Buzzards Bay Project will be one of two NEPs eligible for this new implementation funding. With passage of Operation Coastal Shield, the Project would be able to implement crucial water quality and natural resource preservation strategies including:

- a project to protect shellfish areas and bathing beaches from harmful stormwater discharges
- construction of additional boat pumpout facilities to prevent untreated boat sewage from being discharged directly into the Bay.
- land use and growth planning assessments to manage harmful nitrogen pollution inputs in ecologically sensitive areas.
- development of oil spill contingency plans and the purchase of sufficient equipment to manage regional oil spills, and
- implementation of toxic waste reduction programs in industries around the Bay.

Other Operation Coastal Shield Amendments to the Clean Water Act

Funding

Funding provisions in Operation Coastal Shield would make water pollution cleanup programs more financially feasible for local and state governments. These amendments will more than double the amount of money available to states through "State Revolving Funds" (SRFs), to make low-interest, municipal loans for water quality improvement projects. Federal contributions to SRFs will be extended through the end of the century, at \$2.1 billion annually. Payback periods for financially restricted communities would also be doubled and special grants would be made available to needy cities and towns that meet certain criteria.

Enforcement

Operation Coastal Shield also contains several important amendments to strengthen Clean Water Act enforcement and pollution controls. Specifically, H.R. 2029 will:

- require the EPA and states to develop coastal water quality standards for all important pollutants.
- preserve the right of states to identify local water pollution cleanup plans, but make these plans enforceable by requiring schedules to measure progress.
- allow towns the right to enforce rules and collect fines for illegal boat waste discharges and tighten technical requirements to make it more difficult to discharge boat sewage directly into bays.
- require the EPA to develop more detailed guidance for monitoring program design and implementation, and develop monitoring programs for high priority coastal waters, such as Massachusetts and Cape Cod Bay.
- authorize a new national program to clean up toxic sediments in coastal and Great Lakes waters, require the EPA to inventory areas with toxic sediments around the U.S., clean up the most severely contaminated water bodies, and
- strengthen Clean Water Act enforcement by: prohibiting federal procurement with repeated polluters, authorizing the courts to order pollution cleanup by responsible parties, and requiring environmental audits of repeat violators. The bill will also establish a national permit fee system on all industrial dischargers into coastal waters.

Operation Coastal Shield is among the most comprehensive and important environmental bills now under congressional consideration. Says Rep. Studds, "Its passage will turn NEP plans into action and allow vitally important state and local groups to continue working to protect and preserve our most economically and environmentally valuable coastal resources. It's not just a long list of impossible goals -- it has the muscle and money behind it to finally turn Clean Water Act requirements into reality."

**Buzzards Bay
PROJECT**



BIOGRAPHIES OF THE WITNESSES

Julie Belaga
Regional Administrator, New England
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Since January, 1990, Ms. Belaga has been the U.S. EPA Regional Administrator for New England. She is responsible for agency activities in Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Vermont. Prior to assuming her current position, Ms. Belaga served in the Connecticut Legislature for 10 years, where she was instrumental in passing important environmental measures on such issues as safe drinking water, hazardous waste management and reform of the state's Resource Recovery Authority. In 1987, Belaga was a Fellow at the Institute of Politics at the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University, where she later lectured on public policy. Belaga also worked for two years as a television commentator and consultant, often focussing on environmental issues.

Ms. Belaga holds a Bachelor's Degree in Education from Syracuse University.

The Honorable John K. Bullard
Mayor, City of New Bedford

Mr. Bullard is now serving his third term as the Mayor of the City of New Bedford. Previously, Mr. Bullard was an urban planner for the Waterfront Historic Area League and other nonprofit historic preservation organizations. He has also served as an MIT Community Projects Laboratory instructor. Presently, he chairs both the Committee on Water for the National League of Cities and the Committee of Environment for the Massachusetts Municipal Association, and is a recent member of U.S. Conference of Mayors Leadership Institute at the Harvard University Kennedy School of Government. Mr. Bullard has received numerous awards in recognition of his environmental and urban planning work, including the Buzzards Bay Guardian Award and the Governor's Design Award for the New Bedford Waterfront Historic District.

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Mayor Bullard holds Masters Degrees in Architecture and in City Planning from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and a Bachelors's Degree from Harvard University. This year, he was also awarded an Honorary Master of Public Service Degree from Southeastern Massachusetts University.

Jeffrey R. Benoit
Assistant Secretary of Environmental Affairs
Director of the Massachusetts Coastal Zone Management Program

Mr. Benoit was appointed Director of the Massachusetts Coastal Zone Management (CZM) Program in 1989, following 11 years as the CZM Coastal Geologist. Benoit is the Commonwealth's Delegate to the Coastal States Organization and serves on the Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment. He is also Chairman of the Management Committee of the Massachusetts Bays National Estuary Program.

Mr. Benoit lectures extensively and has authored numerous articles on coastal erosion, storm and flood related hazards, sea-level rise, and coastal management. He holds a Master of Science Degree from Georgia Institute of Technology.

Dr. Joseph Costa
Project Manager
The Buzzards Bay Project

Dr. Costa has served as Project Manager for The Buzzards Bay Project since January 1989. Previously, he was a Research Associate at the Boston University Marine Program in Woods Hole. During his eight years of graduate and post-doctoral research in Woods Hole, he investigated the long-term impacts of human activities on marine ecosystems.

Dr. Costa holds a Bachelor's Degree in Marine Biology from the University of California at Berkeley and a Doctorate in Marine Biology from Boston University.

Ms. Marion McConnell
Executive Director
The Coalition for Buzzards Bay

Since 1988, Ms. McConnell has been the Executive Director of the Coalition for Buzzards Bay, a non-profit citizen advocacy and education group. Previously, she was the Associate Director of the New Alchemy Institute and prior to that, the Associate Director of Development at Brown University. Ms. McConnell has long been involved in advocacy for the environment; in the past, she co-founded Save the Bay in Rhode Island and was also active in environmental campaigns for San Francisco Bay and Assateague Island, MD. She is a former Water Commissioner of Cotuit and is currently a Town Councilor of Barnstable.

Ms. McConnell holds a Bachelors's Degree in English from Westminster College.

Mr. Edwin H.B. Pratt, Jr.
Chairman
The Buzzards Bay Action Committee

Mr. Pratt is Chairman of the Buzzards Bay Action Committee and has been a member of the Buzzards Bay Management Committee since its inception. He is also currently on the Marion Board of Selectmen, Marion Board of Health, and is President of the Massachusetts Association of Health Boards. Previously, Mr. Pratt served on the Board of Southeast Regional Health Planning and was a founding member of the Coalition for Buzzards Bay. Over the past four years, Mr. Pratt has travelled nationwide, lecturing on the Buzzards Bay Project to help start up similar programs in other regions.

Mr. Pratt holds an AB from Harvard University and a Master in Public Administration from the Harvard University Kennedy School of Government.



Buzzards Bay Project

Contact: Mara Alman
Public Outreach Coordinator
Buzzards Bay Project

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Bourne votes on nation's first-ever coastal nitrogen protection district

At the Bourne town meeting beginning on May 13, residents will decide if their community will join Plymouth and Wareham in an unprecedented tri-town plan to establish the first coastal nitrogen protection overlay district in the nation.

This bylaw will protect Buttermilk Bay, an ecologically sensitive Buzzards Bay embayment from the effects of nitrogen pollution, typically from septic systems and fertilizers. Nitrogen enters coastal embayments via streams and groundwater and can lead to the death of fish and shellfish, the destruction of vital habitat and excessive algae growth.

To address this problem, the Buzzards Bay Project worked closely with local planners and other town officials to develop the overlay district which will limit future development in the Buttermilk Bay drainage basin shared by all three towns. Once adopted by each

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Bourn vote/page 2 of 2

municipality, the minimum lot size within the overlay district will be increased to reduce new development by an estimated 440 lots, thereby reducing the amount of nitrogen pollution entering the Bay.

Says Buzzards Bay Project, Project Manager Joseph Costa, "This overlay protection district is an example of the kind of regional thinking that must begin to guide solutions to environmental problems that cross town lines."

Bourne Selectwoman Marie Oliva agrees, "In the long-term, the only way we can protect Buzzards Bay is if all the towns affecting the Bay work together, managing the smaller embayments in a regional fashion. We're proud to be a part of such an effort by working to establish this nitrogen protection district."

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