



Ed DeWitt
Executive Director

May 9, 2012

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Celia Riechel
RE: ENV 13 DCS 01
Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs
100 Cambridge Street – Suite 900
Boston, MA 02114

Subject: Twinings Pond Parcels LAND Grant Application

Dear Ms. Riechel:

The Association to Preserve Cape Cod (APCC), the Cape's leading nonprofit environmental advocacy and education organization, writes in strong support of the town of Orleans' Land and Natural Diversity (LAND) grant application to help purchase a Conservation Restriction on the environmentally significant 2.7-acre Twinings Pond parcels. These parcels are located adjacent to 100+ acres of preserved land extending from Twinings Pond to Little Pleasant Bay.

The Twinings II: Window on the Pond land acquisition project should be a highly competitive candidate, given its location within an environmentally sensitive area. The preservation of this land will:

- Expand existing town and Orleans Conservation Trust protected open space on Twinings Pond;
- Protect water quality in the pond and within the Pleasant Bay Marine Water Recharge Area;
- Extend the public walking trail system along the southern edge of Twinings Pond;
- Maintain and enhance, along with adjacent properties, a significant wildlife corridor between Eelman's Point on Pleasant Bay and Twinings Pond;
- Protect land within a Priority Habitat Area for Rare Species, a BioMap2 Core Habitat Area, and the Statewide Land Conservation Plan; and
- Preserve a priority property targeted in the town's Open Space Plan as having strategic potential for open space protection.

The project also meets the goals of Barnstable County's 2009 Cape Cod Regional Policy Plan, including:

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- “To prevent loss or degradation of critical wildlife and plant habitat, to minimize the adverse impact of new development on wildlife and plant habitat, and to maintain existing populations and species diversity.” (p. 126)
- “To preserve and enhance rural land uses... that are environmentally compatible with the Cape’s natural resources in order to maintain opportunities to enjoy the traditional occupations, economic diversity, and scenic resources associated with rural lands, and to support activities that achieve greater food independence for Cape Cod.” (p. 25)
- “To preserve and enhance the availability of open space that provides wildlife habitat and recreational opportunities, and protects the region’s natural resources and character, Barnstable County shall strive to protect remaining developable land.” (p. 128)

State LAND grant assistance with these properties will result in the protection of open space, wildlife habitat, walking trails, and groundwater within the ecologically sensitive Pleasant Bay Marine Water Recharge Area. APCC therefore fully endorses this project’s environmental merits and encourages your strong consideration of this grant application.

Sincerely,



Ed DeWitt
Executive Director

cc: John Kelly, Town of Orleans Administrator