



July 7, 2016

Secretary Matthew Beaton
Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs
Attn: MEPA Office
Holly Johnson, EEA # 14272
100 Cambridge Street, Suite 900
Boston, MA 02114

Ed DeWitt
Executive Director

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Superintendent George Price
Cape Cod National Seashore
Attn: Cape Cod National Seashore and Herring River Restoration Committee
Herring River Restoration Project, Final EIS/EIR
99 Marconi Site Road
Wellfleet, MA 02667

RE: Herring River Restoration Project Final EIS/EIR

Dear Secretary Beaton and Superintendent Price:

The Association to Preserve Cape Cod (APCC), the Cape's nonprofit environmental advocacy and education organization, has reviewed the Herring River Restoration Project Final Environmental Impact Statement/Final Environmental Impact Report (FEIS/FEIR) and believes the FEIS/FEIR provides sufficient information for the project to proceed to the next phase in the permitting process.

APCC was one of the earliest voices calling for restoration of the Herring River in the 1970s. Once completed, the project will have restored up to 1,100 acres of estuarine and salt marsh habitat, producing significant ecological benefits in this highly sensitive and critically important wetland system. We commend the project partners for conducting a careful and exhaustive multi-year study of the project. The effort is notable for its extensive public input throughout the process.

In moving forward, further refinements to project planning should include development of a comprehensive adaptive management plan that is highly responsive to changing conditions and emerging data. In such a complex environmental restoration effort with a diversity of stakeholders, adaptive management must play a prominent and essential role in minimizing unintended impacts and ensuring the ultimate success of the project.

APCC thanks the Secretary and Superintendent for the opportunity to provide comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ed DeWitt", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Ed DeWitt
Executive Director

cc: Cape Cod Commission

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