



December 11, 2018

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Secretary Matthew A. Beaton
Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs
Attn: MEPA Office, EEA #15948
100 Cambridge Street, Suite 900
Boston, MA 02114

RE: Cold Brook Ecological Restoration Project, EEA No. 15948

Dear Secretary Beaton:

The Association to Preserve Cape Cod (APCC), the Cape's regional nonprofit environmental advocacy and education organization, has reviewed the Cold Brook Ecological Restoration Project's Expanded Environmental Notification Form (EENF) and offers the following comments.

APCC strongly supports the Cold Brook restoration project and respectfully requests that you grant a waiver of the mandatory Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the project.

The Harwich Conservation Trust, which is the project applicant, is collaborating with the state's Division of Ecological Restoration and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service as well as the town of Harwich on this comprehensive and important ecological restoration effort. The proposed project is designed to achieve significant environmental benefits, including improving fish passage for American eel (*Anguilla rostrata*), enhancing natural nitrogen attenuation, revitalizing wetland and riparian habitats, and enhancing the passive recreational experience for visitors.

The project will also serve as another leading example in the southeast region for adaptive management and public-private partnership to restore land and water resources for both people and wildlife.

In reviewing the EENF, APCC is satisfied that the information it provides is sufficient in describing the project as well as its ecological and community benefits. An EIR would not produce a better understanding of the project area. An EIR would also likely cause the project partners an undue hardship at a time when the final 50 percent design process and permitting phase will require significant time and financial resources to advance to the restoration construction phase.

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A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION. DUES AND CONTRIBUTIONS TAX DEDUCTIBLE AS PROVIDED BY LAW.

Thank you for your consideration of a waiver for a mandatory EIR for this project, which will provide considerable environmental benefits locally and advance Cape Cod's regional ecological restoration efforts.

Sincerely,



Andrew Gottlieb
Executive Director



Don Keeran
Assistant Director

cc: Harwich Conservation Trust