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October 18, 2012

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Secretary Richard K. Sullivan  
Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs  
Attention: MEPA Office  
Holly Johnson, EEA # 14642  
100 Cambridge Street, Suite 900  
Boston, MA 02114

Subject: Barnstable Municipal Airport Master Plan FEIR, EEA # 14642

Dear Secretary Sullivan:

The Association to Preserve Cape Cod (APCC), the Cape's nonprofit environmental advocacy and education organization, submits the following comments regarding the Final Environmental Impact Report (FEIR) for the Barnstable Municipal Airport Master Plan, EEA # 14642.

As previously stated in APCC's comments submitted for the project's Draft EIR, protection of water resources, including opportunities to improve protections already in place, should be the applicant's highest priority in preparing and implementing a master plan for the airport. Areas of continued improvement should focus particularly on stormwater management, protection of pond water quality, protection of drinking water wells and prevention of hazardous material spills.

More than any other environmental threat, impacts from hazardous materials would potentially have the greatest consequences on the various water resources present at the airport. Hazardous material spills have occurred at the airport in the past, and, given the nature of activity at the airport, chances are good that spills will happen again at some future date. Therefore, all precautions must be made to prevent spills, and if/when they do occur, to achieve 100 percent containment. Although much attention in the EIR process has been rightfully given to discussing past implementation of water resource protections as well as proposing future measures to safeguard these resources, further refinement and improvement should continue to be a focus in the Cape Cod Commission Development Agreement process.

APCC had anticipated that the findings of the Stage II Environmental Risk Assessment relating to water quality and contamination of pond sediment in

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Upper Gate and Lewis ponds would help shape the airport master plan, and be a guiding document for the master plan in determining a course of action to take on the question of pond sediment contamination and the potential for remedial cleanup. However, the FEIR was released before the Stage II ERA was completed. APCC believes the findings of the Stage II ERA should be part of the final master plan, and is therefore disappointed that a more definitive course of action is not recommended in the FEIR on the subject of pond sediment cleanup.

APCC looks forward to reviewing additional information for key issue areas such as traffic impacts, hazardous materials and protection of groundwater and surface water in the Development Agreement process between the applicant and the Cape Cod Commission.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Don Keeran", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Don Keeran  
Assistant Director