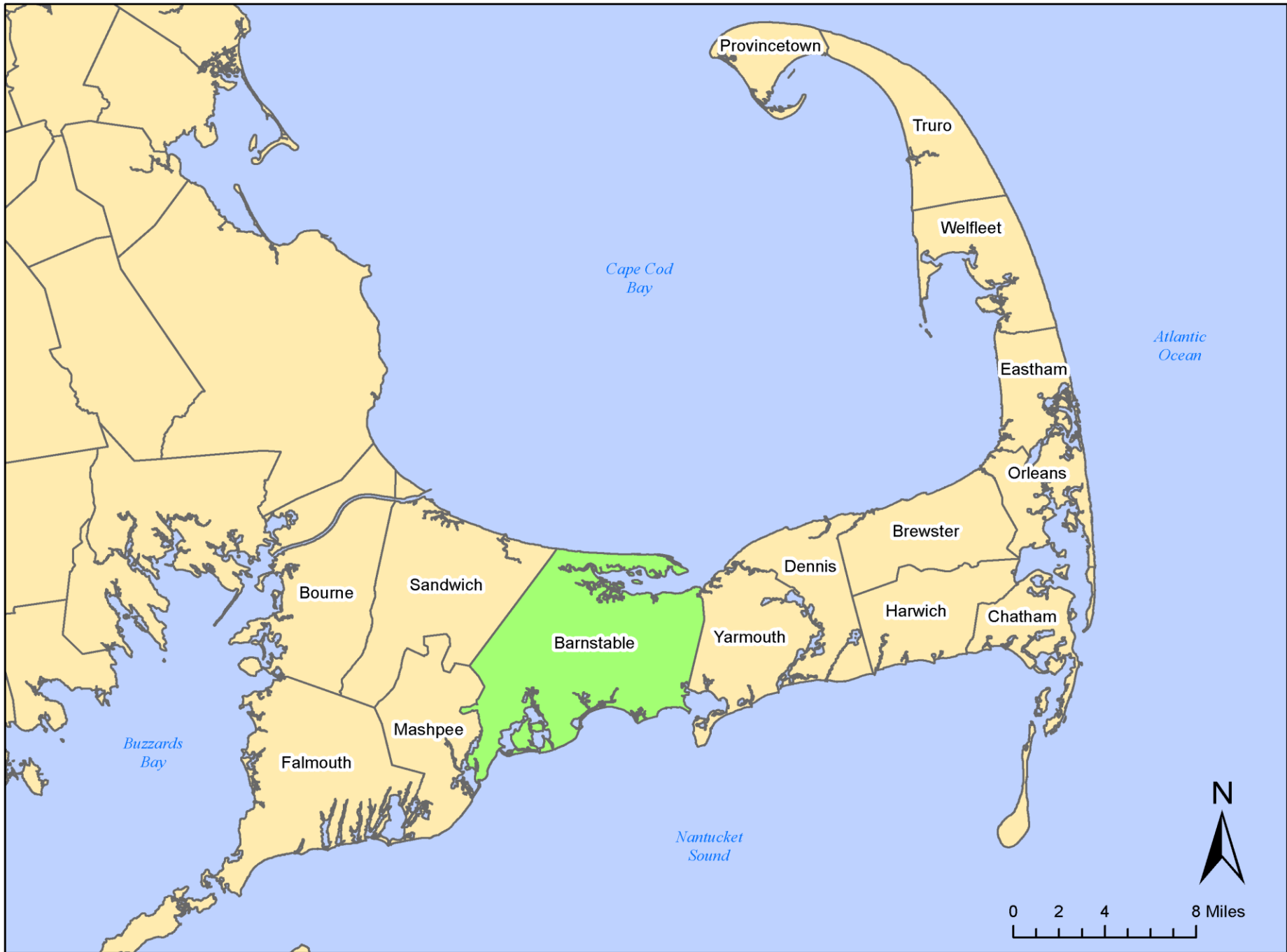


PFAS in Food Packaging and Related Policy Challenges

Mark Ells, Town Manager

Barnstable, MA

August 11, 2021

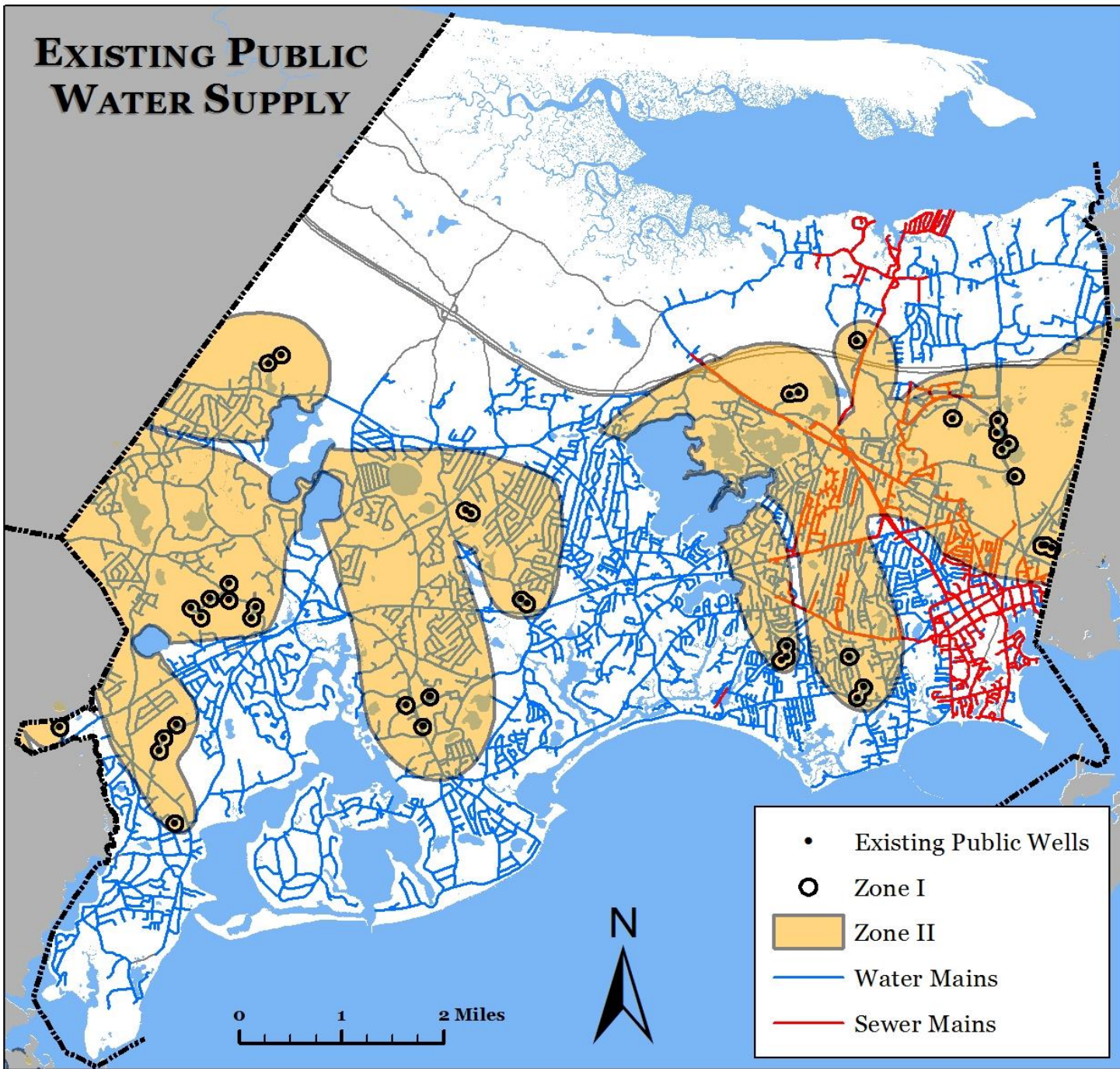


Protecting Barnstable's Quality of Life

- Perhaps no feature is more important to the quality of life and unique character of our community than the health of our coastal waters, freshwater ponds, and drinking water.
- We all benefit from our water resources being protected and preserved.



EXISTING PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY



- Existing Public Wells
- Zone I
- Zone II
- Water Mains
- Sewer Mains

0 1 2 Miles

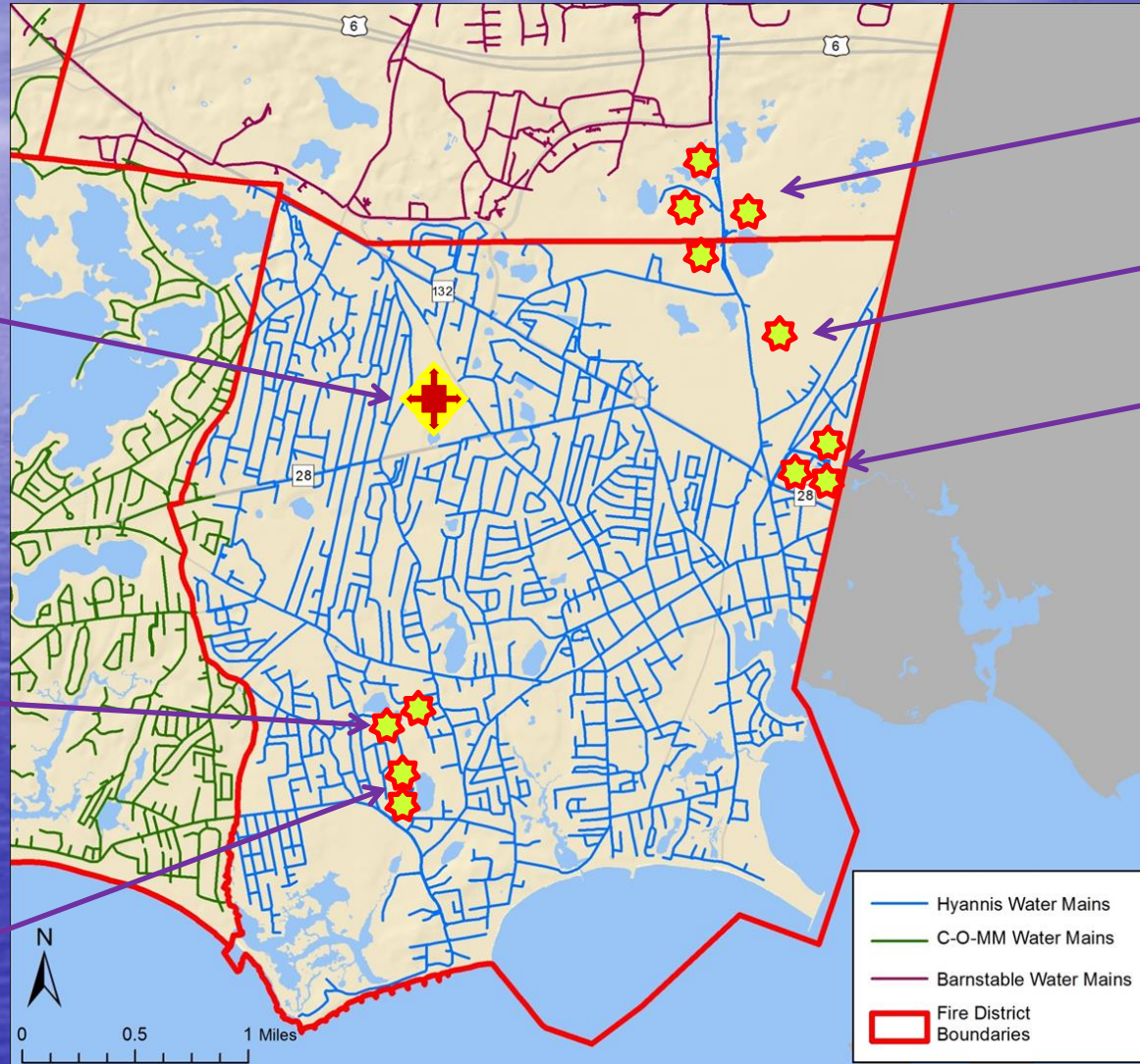


Hyannis Water District Wells

TOB's
Wastewater
Treatment Plant

Straightway
1 & 2

Hyannis Port &
Simmons Pond



Mary Dunn 1-4

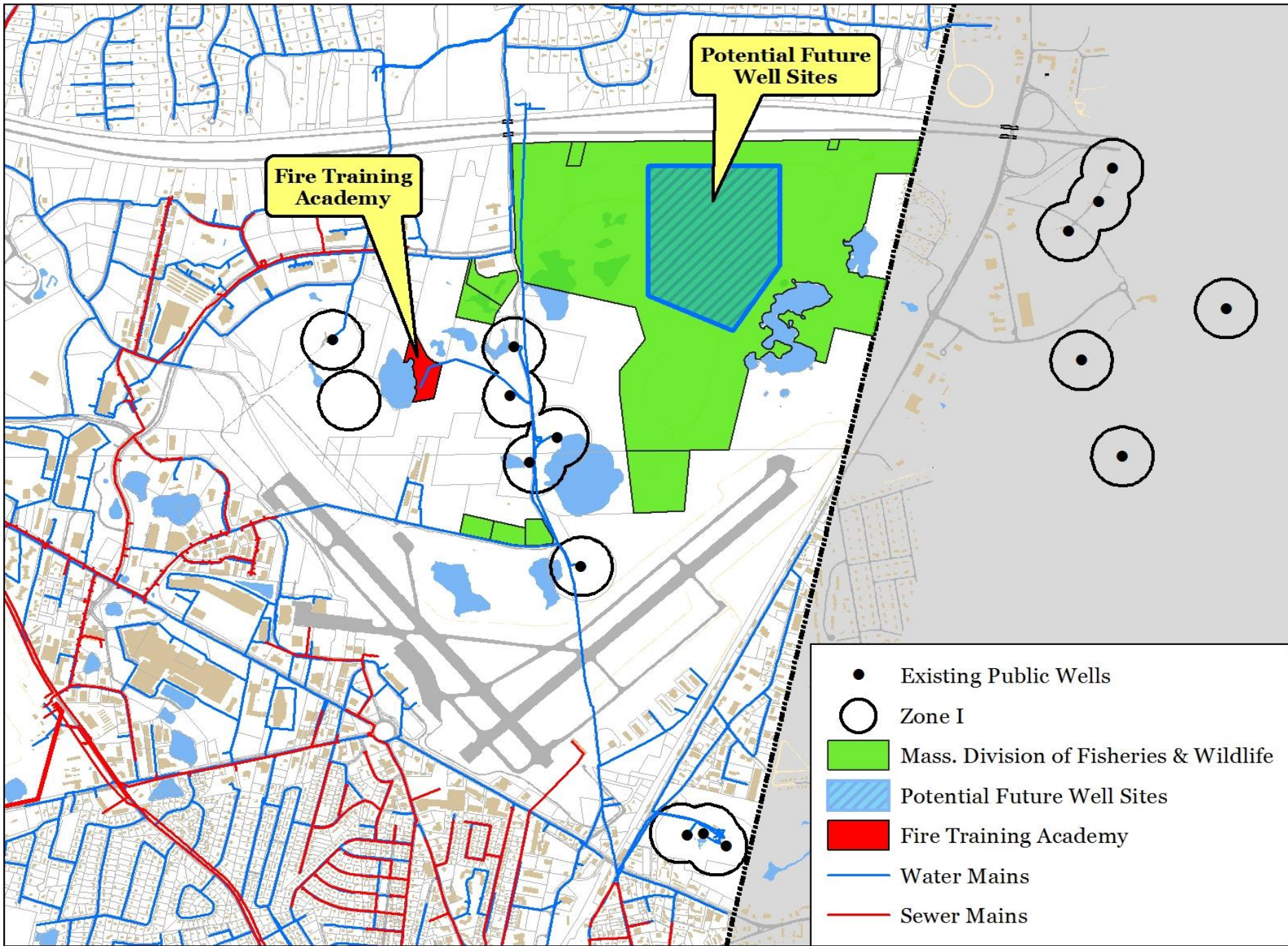
Airport

Maher 1-3

Wells

WPCF

— Hyannis Water Mains
— C-O-MM Water Mains
— Barnstable Water Mains
□ Fire District Boundaries



Solutions

- Installed carbon treatment systems Mary Dunn 1-4, 3 wells at Maher well field, Straightway and Airport
 - \$22M Capital costs
 - \$600K annual operating costs
 - Resulting is significant rate increases to the users of the system
- Established a permanent interconnection with the Town of Yarmouth and COMM Water District
- Conducting a study to look at future potential drinking water sources throughout Town



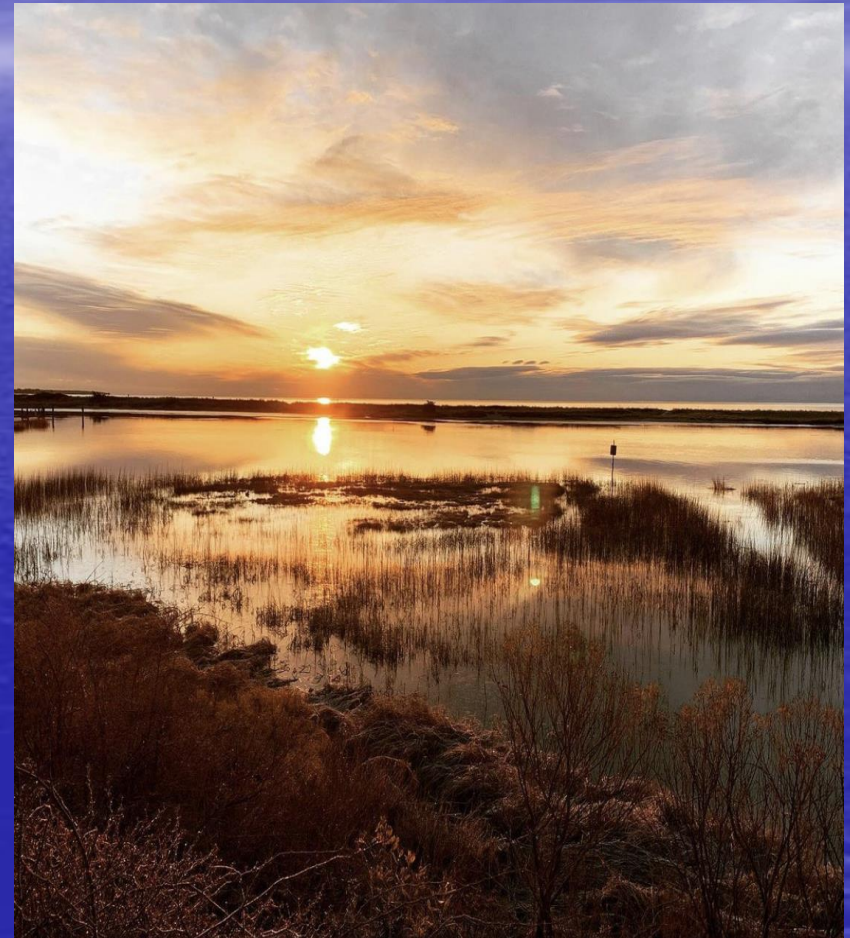
What is the challenge?

- These chemicals travel through our environment, referred to as “forever chemicals” because they do not easily breakdown in the environment and can ultimately end up in sensitive down gradient receptors such as our water supply.



What is the challenge?

- In Barnstable, PFAS is a challenge.
- We live on top of the water we drink.
- A majority of properties have on site septic systems and these chemicals are in many common products that we use. They exit our property through on site septic systems and enter the environment.
- Even if these properties had sewerage treatment most facilities are not designed to remove chemicals of emerging concern



What can we do?

- We can choose not to use certain products that contain these chemicals of concern
- It is not as easy as it sounds.
- These chemicals of concerns are in wide spread use and not regulated at the point of sale.
- Barnstable has begun including language in their purchasing documents asking for “PFAS free” products
- We educate our public especially our youth with the hope that consumer buying behavior will be modified



Concluding Statement

- This is not just a point source issue for Barnstable
- Educational and preventative programs are critical to our long term success
- Massachusetts should lead the nation in efforts to prevent the introduction of emerging contaminants into our water resources
- Barnstable's Hyannis Water System has successfully responded to this challenge so let's learn from that experience and build upon it.