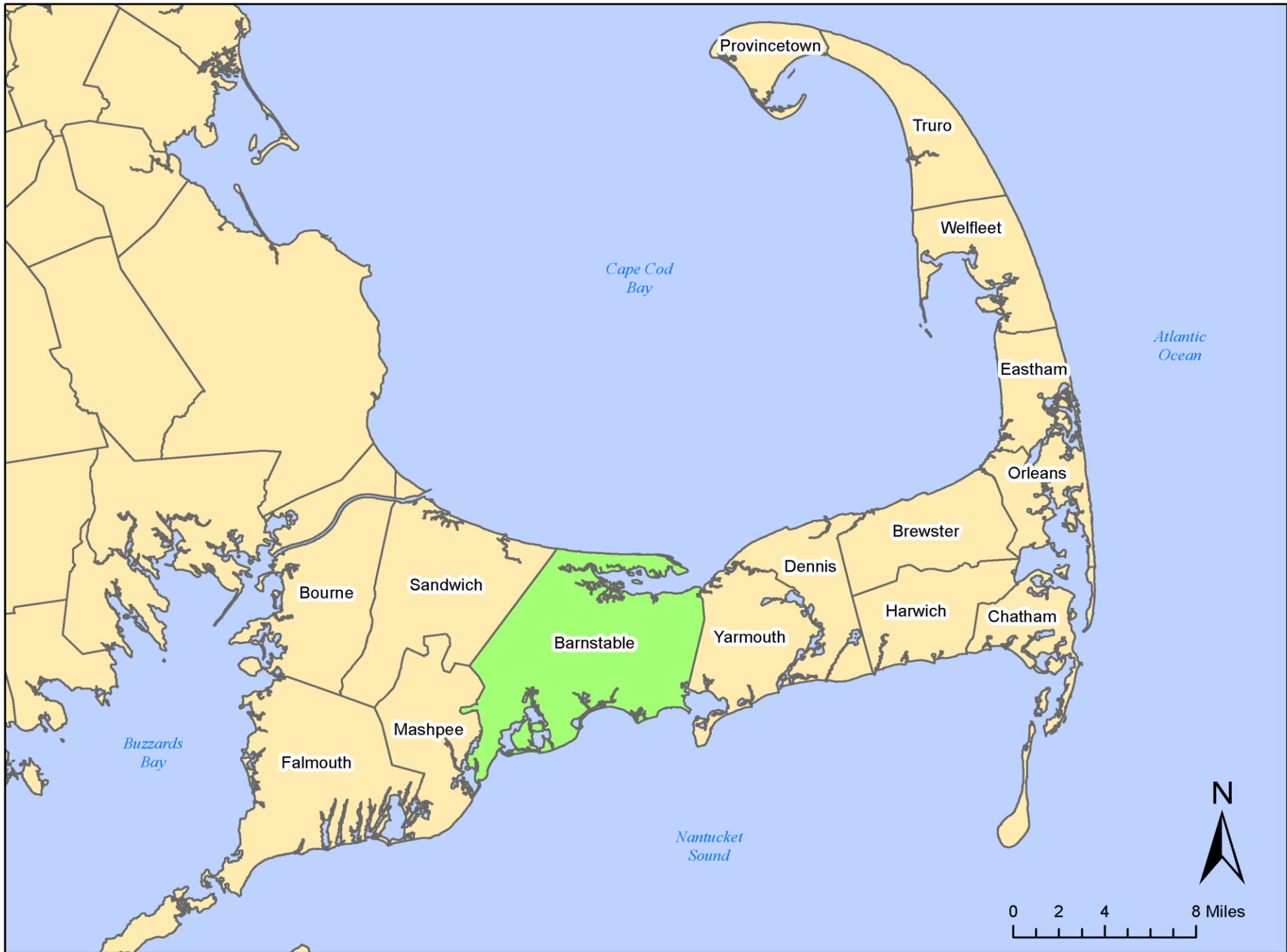


PFAS Interagency Task Force
testimony
‘Municipal Matters and Local Action’

Mark Ells, Town Manager
Barnstable, MA
July 20, 2021

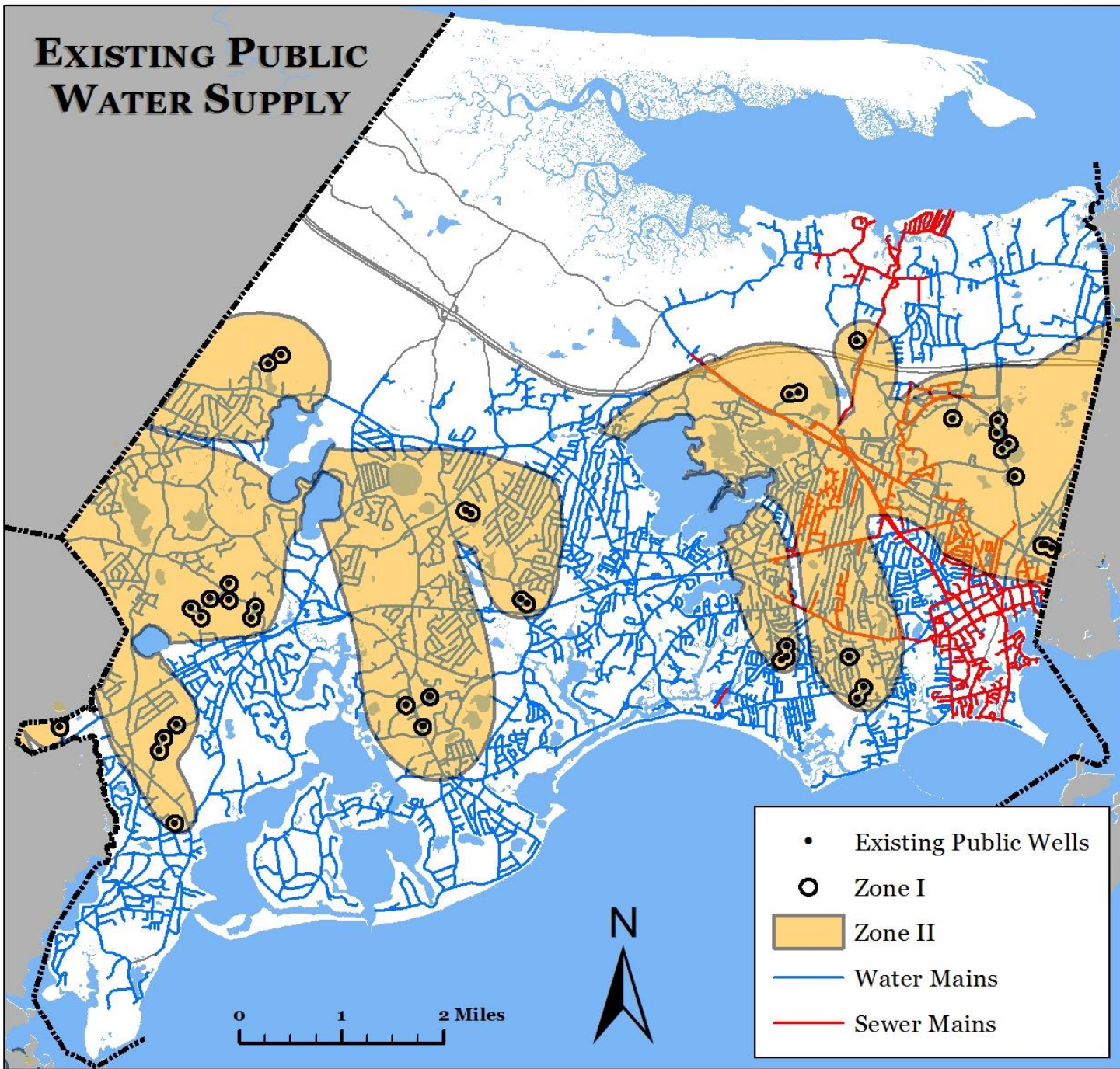


Protecting Barnstable's Quality of Life

- 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

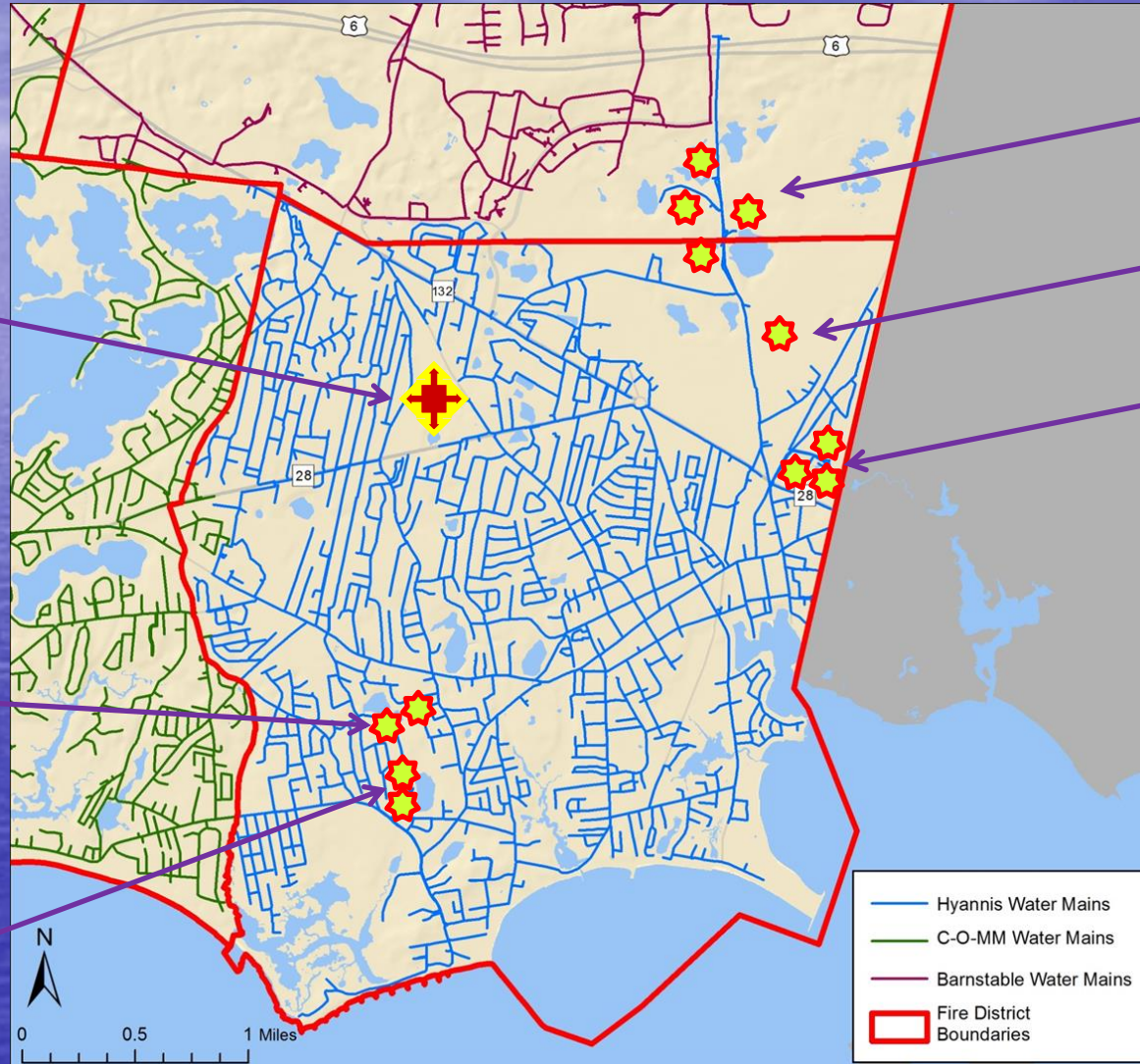


Hyannis Water District Wells

TOB's
Wastewater
Treatment Plant

Straightway
1 & 2

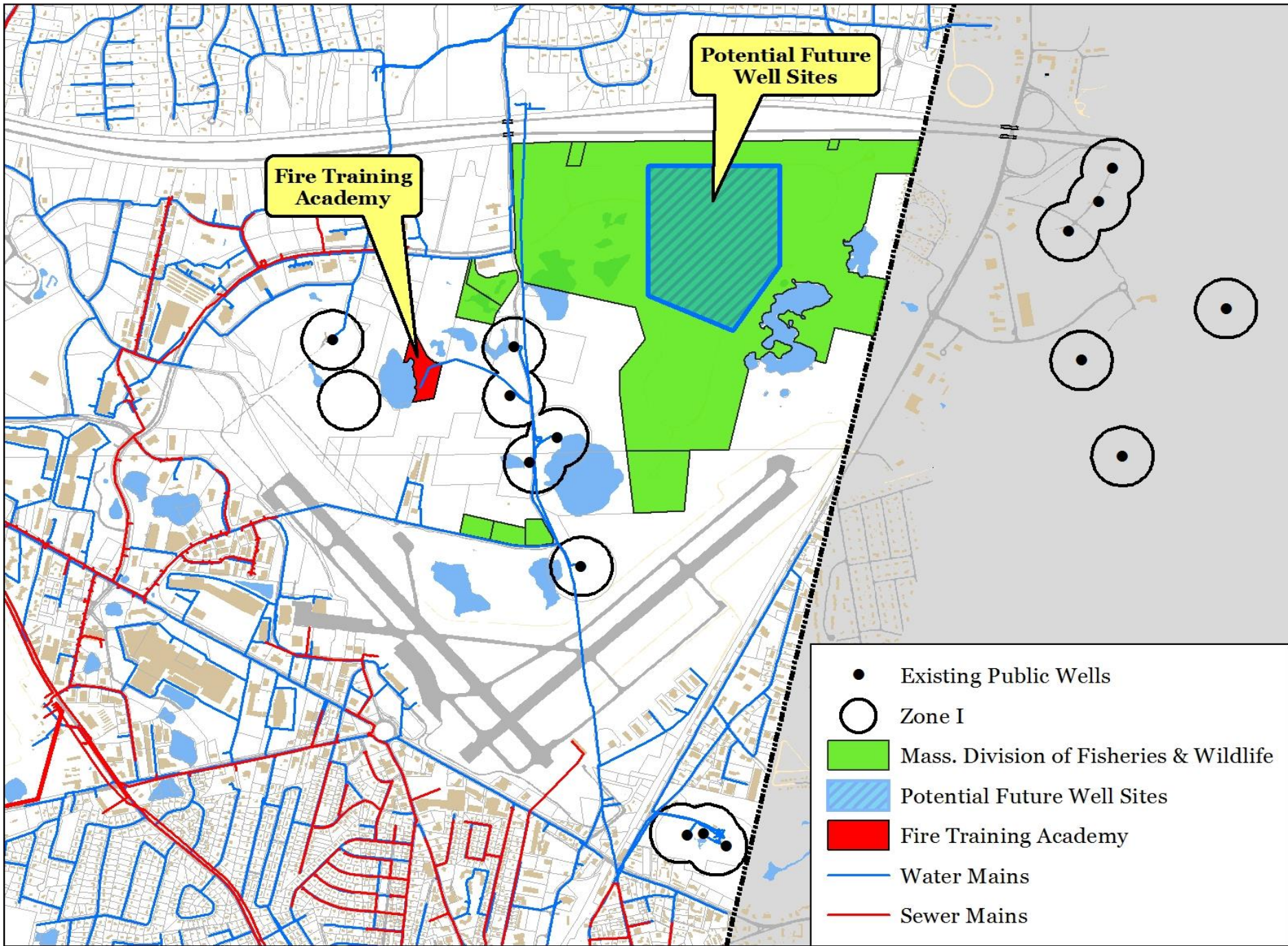
Hyannis Port &
Simmons Pond



Mary Dunn 1-4

Airport

Maher 1-3



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 PFAS?

- PFAS are a class of chemicals that companies add to consumer products to make them nonstick, waterproof, and stain-resistant. They are found in carpets and upholstery, waterproof apparel, non-stick cookware, grease-proof food packaging, and even dental floss. They are also used in firefighting foams for putting out fuel fires.



What is the problem?

- Unfortunately, studies have linked these chemicals with a range of health problems.
- Studies have also suggested that 98% of Americans have PFASs—human-made chemicals— in their blood



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



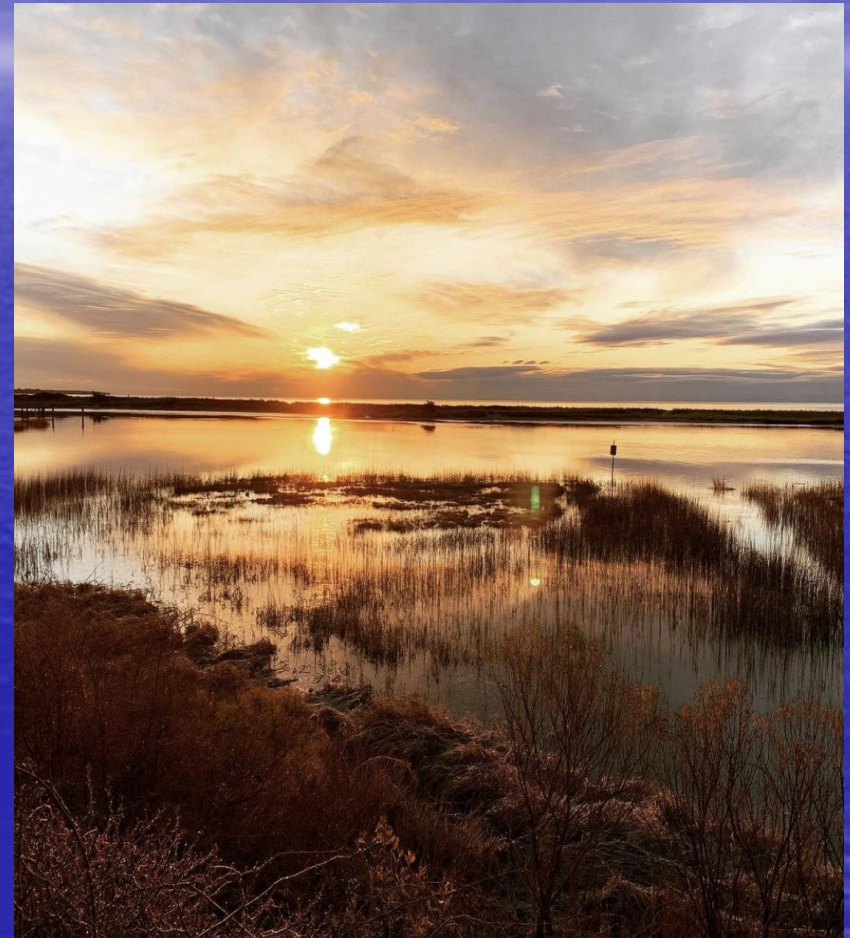
What is the challenge?

- 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



Action Items

- Support municipalities with plans to manage emerging contaminants
 - Municipalities are front line combatting this challenge
 - Work with us to manage this issue
- Use existing programs to subsidize capital expenses associated with PFAS remediation
 - SRF Program
 - Other – not everyone use SRF

Action Items

- Establish reoccurring operating programs to support:
 - Creditable research to better understand emerging contaminants and the associated risks
 - Public education especially for our youth
 - Sampling programs to assist communities
 - Procurement standards for products free from emerging contaminants
 - Modify consumer buying behaviors

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.