



The Town of Barnstable

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June 13, 2022

Ms. Maria Pinaud, Director
Division of Municipal Services
Mass DEP
One Winter St, 5th floor
Boston, MA 02108

RE: Revised Clean Water State Revolving Fund criteria for 2022 Project Evaluation Form (attached Public Hearing Notice and link to the proposed 5-Tier Project Evaluation System).

Dear Ms. Pinaud:

Please accept this letter as the Town of Barnstable's strong support of the Department's proposal entitled Revised Clean Water State Revolving Fund criteria for 2022 Project Evaluation Form. I will be submitting written testimony by June 24, 2022 and oral testimony at the virtual hearing on June 24, 2022.

The proposed changes simplify and clarify the hierarchy of priorities for the allocation of low and no interest loans from the State Revolving Fund (SRF). The revised ranking system properly and clearly places the funding of nutrient management projects so critical to the restoration of Cape Cod's degraded estuaries in the highest tier for priority funding. This formal recognition in your funding eligibility criteria of the importance of assuring Cape Cod municipalities of their access to SRF financing sends an important signal that will encourage our ongoing efforts to continue.

The SRF program is both the backbone of municipal finance strategies for all Cape Cod towns as well as the key to accessing additional subsidy from the Cape Cod and Islands Water Protection Fund (CCIWPF). The proposed revisions to the SRF funding criteria provide additional assurance to Cape Cod towns that their access to the CCIWPF's 25% principle subsidy opportunity provided will continue. The enhanced access to the SRF assured by the Department's proposal and the ongoing cost relief provided by the CCIWPF are complimentary strategies that are essential if the newly developed momentum for water quality restoration on Cape Cod is to be successful.

We urge the Department to adopt these criteria as originally proposed. If you have any comments or question regarding this letter of support please contact me at your earliest possible convenience.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark S. Ellis', with a stylized, cursive script.

Mark S. Ellis
Barnstable Town Manager

CC. Matthew Levesque, Town Council President
Mark Milne, Barnstable Finance Director
Dan Santos, Barnstable Director of Public Works
Karen Nober, Barnstable Town Attorney