

CENTRAL PLYMOUTH COUNTY
WATER DISTRICT COMMISSION

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March 12, 2021

Kathleen A. Theoharides, Secretary
Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs
100 Cambridge Street, Suite 900
Boston, MA 02114
Via email to Barbara Kickham (barbara.kickham@mass.gov)

RE: Comments on Monponsett TMDL

Dear Ms. Theoharides:

Central Plymouth County Water District Commission (CPCWDC) supports the approval of the *Final Draft, West and East Monponsett Pond System, Total Maximum Daily Loads for Total Phosphorus (CN 446.1)* (the TMDL). This project was initiated many years ago to address ongoing water quality issues with recreation and public water supply uses. While many of the interventions required by the TMDL either have been or are being implemented, there is still a significant effort required to restore this water system. The swift approval of this Final Draft will be a rallying point for stakeholders to focus and redouble their efforts toward implementing solutions.

CPCWDC was established by the Massachusetts Legislature in 1964. It is composed of three Commissioners appointed by an Advisory Board representing the eight municipalities of the Central Plymouth County Water District. We take a partnership-based approach to developing innovative, holistic solutions to the intertwined issues of water and quantity, ecosystem health, and community resiliency in our District.

We welcome the changes made to this TMDL in response to previous comments from the EPA and the public. In particular, we welcome the required 50-70% reductions in TP loading from developed land uses and stormwater sources. Although this is a significant reduction that will be challenging to meet, it is what is required to begin restoring this water system to a sustainable, resilient state. For decades the system has been degrading – a steady effort over several years will be required to turn the system around. It can be done.

Getting there will require a coordinated, collaborative effort to reduce septic and agricultural loads as well implement stormwater best management practices, lawn fertilizer management, management of sediment, and adaptive management. This will be a significant effort that should not be shied away from. The health of this water system is critical to meeting the recreational and public water supply needs of several communities, contributing to quality of life and economic development.

CPCWDC welcomes the opportunity to collaborate with stakeholders in our District, including watershed associations, elected officials, municipal governments, and interested residents. For several years, we have been building relationships and bringing stakeholders together to discuss and address water quality and quantity issues in the District. We are currently developing a water quality monitoring program for Silver Lake and are discussing another project to investigate public water supply needs in and solutions for the District. We welcome collaboration on these projects and will be reaching out to stakeholders.

Thank you for your efforts on this TMDL project, and for considering these comments.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "J. Zygmunt".

Joanne Zygmunt, Chair
jzygmunt@plymouthcountyma.gov