

August 14, 2002

Michael J. Rotondi
Division of Municipal Facilities
21 Riverside Drive
Lakeville, MA 02347

Mr. Rotondi:

The Buzzards Bay Project is in support of the Town of Acushnet's effort to expand sewer lines serving their community. The Acushnet River estuary, particularly New Bedford Inner Harbor has been monitored for many years by many organizations. It has been well documented, particularly in the decade-long eutrophication monitoring by the Coalition for Buzzards Bay, that the Inner Harbor suffers from nutrient over-enrichment, particularly from excessive nitrogen. The harbor is also on the state's 303(d) list of impaired waters. The principal sources of nitrogen to the harbor include the Fairhaven Wastewater Facility, New Bedford CSOs, stormwater, and non-point source pollution in Acushnet, particularly from residential onsite wastewater disposal systems.

Because the sewer extensions will be tied to the New Bedford wastewater facility, an advanced secondary treatment facility that discharges outside the harbor, the sewerage of additional homes in Acushnet will help reduce the nitrogen load to the harbor, and improve water quality. This action will help meet key goals and objectives of the Buzzards Bay Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan. For these reasons, we are in full support of the proposed sewer extension and funding request application for the use of Massachusetts State Revolving Funds for those purposes.

Sincerely,

Joseph E. Costa, PhD
Executive Director

cc: Acushnet Board of Selectmen, Acushnet DPW, Earth Tech