



**Buzzards Bay  
National Estuary Program**

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Ms. Mercado:

This electronic file constitutes our submission of the 2009 Program Evaluation of the Buzzards Bay National Estuary Program (BBNEP) covering the federal funding work plan years FY05 through FY08. This submission and all supporting documents are available at the BBNEP website ([www.buzzardsbay.org/2009-program-evaluation.htm](http://www.buzzardsbay.org/2009-program-evaluation.htm)). This submission is also available on CD, which can be requested through the above link.

Our submission includes the following elements:

- the program management core elements response checklist with clarifying comments and supporting documentation,
- an NEP work plan narrative summary, including NEPORT and leveraging summaries, and
- a budget summary.

This submission reflects an important facet about the structure of the BBNEP, namely, that we work collaboratively with two important watershed partners, both non-profit corporations. These partners are the municipal official organization, the Buzzards Bay Action Committee, and the citizen advocacy group, The Coalition for Buzzards Bay.

These two non-governmental organizations are more than "partners" in a casual sense of the term. The three Buzzards Bay organizations, in one form or another have pledged to work to achieve the goals and objectives contained within the Buzzards Bay Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan. Moreover, the BBNEP has consistently incorporated both organizations into our annual work plans, we provide specialized services to both, and each undertakes important tasks and provides essential match to our grants.

In 1997, the BBNEP signed a Memorandum of Understanding with these two organizations that improved collaboration and reduced redundancy in our common efforts to protect and restore the water quality and living resources of Buzzards Bay and its surrounding watershed. The three groups reaffirmed the [MOU](#) in 2005. Because of the 1997 MOU, the BBNEP decided to curtail many general public outreach efforts and instead rely more on the public outreach efforts of The Coalition for Buzzards Bay for general public outreach, as well as utilize the news letter and



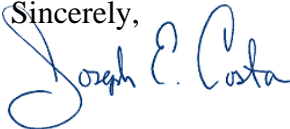
outreach program of Massachusetts Coastal Zone Management. At the same time, the BBNEP decided to focus more effort on providing technical assistance and training to local government and our partners, and to focus our website on more technical issues.

In many respects, each Buzzards Bay organization plays to its strengths. As a planning and technical assistance unit of the Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone Management, and with the administrative support of state government, the BBNEP is particularly well suited to administer and oversee a municipal grant program. With our focus on technical assistance and position in state government, the BBNEP is not only an important resource used by Buzzards Bay municipalities and our partners, but we have increased their capacity to undertake projects and helped leverage additional state and federal support to projects in the Buzzards Bay watershed. Because the NEP is part of state government, we are uniquely positioned to ensure that our actions and programs are consistent with state coastal policy, and equally important, we help guide other state agency actions toward consistency with the Buzzards Bay CCMP.

The Buzzards Bay Action Committee compliments our efforts by providing a forum for municipal government to exchange ideas, guide BBNEP efforts, and create collaborations that cross municipal borders and help work toward regional solutions and regionally consistent strategies. The Coalition for Buzzards Bay compliments the other organizations because they are more than a citizen education group. The Coalition is also a highly successful advocacy group and a leading agent of change. Among the three Buzzards Bay organizations, only The Coalition can, and has, legally challenged government to take action. The Coalition has also repeatedly helped draft and publically promote the adoption of new laws and regulations that achieve CCMP goals. They also implement one of the most successful and effective citizen based water quality monitoring programs in the country. This monitoring program is not only an essential element of our efforts to track environmental protection progress in Buzzards Bay, but their data is being used by MA DEP as the basis of establishing nitrogen TMDLs for Buzzards Bay embayments.

It is for all these reasons that we highlight the activities of The Coalition for Buzzards Bay and the Buzzards Bay Action Committee in this document.

We look forward to the on-site review team's visit so that we can further highlight the successes of our program.

Sincerely,  


Joseph E. Costa PhD,  
Executive Director

Cc: BBNEP Steering Committee