

Robert Cady
Department of Environmental Protection
Bureau of Resource Protection
1 Winter St.
Boston MA

June 19, 1997

Re: Sewering of Neds Pt. Mattapoisett

Dear Mr. Cady,

I am writing you in support of the Town of Mattapoisett's application for the expansion of its sewer system in the Neds Point section of town. Because many of the 130 homes that are being proposed to be tied in to the new sewer extension have cesspools or have failing septic systems, we believe that this sewer expansion will have a beneficial effect on water quality in Mattapoisett Harbor. Elsewhere around Buzzards Bay, areas like this have contributed to closed shellfish beds because failed system overflows can be conveyed to coastal waters with stormwater flow.

It is worth noting that the Town of Mattapoisett has been working with the Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries and the Buzzards Bay Project to identify and remediate sources of fecal coliform bacteria contributing to shellfish bed closures. This project will be one more step by the town of Mattapoisett toward the abatement of these pollution sources. It is for these reasons that we support this project.

Sincerely,

Joseph E. Costa Ph.D.
Executive Director

cc. Mattapoisett Board of Selectmen

The Buzzards Bay supports Massachusetts Coastal Zone Policy # 3, Executive Order 149, and the Buzzards Bay Project's own policies that public funds should not be used to encourage development in high hazard areas prone flood damage, and which would require future tax payer expenditures after storms. It is our understanding that the Town of Mattapoisett has addressed Massachusetts Coastal Zone Management's concerns on this matter, and will not extend the sewer line into these hazard prone areas.

Another concern with sewer expansions near the coast is that lots and parcels previously unbuildable become buildable when a sewer line is extended into these low lying areas. Because these lots are not now buildable because of high water table and the presence of wetlands, there is a concern that wetland would be encroached upon and filled in. We believe that the Town of Mattapoisett recognizes this potential threat to wetlands from a coastal sewer expansion project like this and will take appropriate steps to minimize wetland impacts.