



MEMORANDUM

To: Buzzards Bay coastal watershed municipal boards of selectmen, public works departments, boards of health, and natural resource officers.

From: Joseph E. Costa, Executive Director

Date: June 9, 2017

Re: Free laboratory testing to perform bacteria testing of stormwater discharges

The Buzzards Bay National Estuary Program is providing free laboratory testing to assist Buzzards Bay watershed municipal public works departments, boards of health, and natural resource departments to perform bacteria testing of stormwater discharges suspected of contributing to water quality degradation of beaches, shellfish beds, and other resources in the Buzzards Bay watershed.

Participation in the program requires training using the methods described at <http://stormwater.buzzardsbay.org/monitoring.html>. The Buzzards Bay NEP staff will provide monitoring training to all the participating towns. The NEP has some test kits for nitrates, surfactants, and other field test equipment to evaluate stormwater discharge water quality which can be loaned out on a first come-first serve basis. Participation of the local Department of Public Works is mandatory as some pipe discharges are inaccessible and will require the removal of manhole or catch basin covers. Monitoring results must be shared with the NEP and will be included in our Buzzards Bay water quality database.

The value of the laboratory testing service is \$8,000. It will be the responsibility of participants to coordinate bacteria testing with the participating laboratories (Envirotech in Sandwich or New Bedford Health Lab) and to drop off samples. The purpose of this support task is to help municipalities meet stormwater permit requirements and to help identify illicit connections to municipal stormwater systems. Towns may also use the testing support to identify upstream sources of pollution, collect data for the establishment of rainfall-conditional shellfish bed openings (please consult with your Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries area biologist to ascertain whether potential rainfall conditional areas exist in your community), conduct rainfall discharge time-course studies at swimming beaches, and other areas that are affected by runoff pollution to ascertain where automatic rainfall closures are warranted, and for what period of time. All monitoring sites must be pre-approved by the Buzzards Bay NEP.

For more information about participating in the program, contact Bernadette.Taber@state.ma.us.

