

**ENF**

**Environmental  
 Notification Form**

12753 R  
 Bill GAGE  
 617-626-1025

The information requested on this form must be completed to begin MEPA Review in accordance with the provisions of the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act, 301 CMR 11.00.

Project Name: South River Dredging		
Street:		
Municipality: Scituate and Marshfield	Watershed: South Coastal	
Universal Tranverse Mercator Coordinates: N 4666750 E 359600	Latitude: 42°08'30" N	Longitude: 70°42'00" W
Estimated commencement date: Nov. 2004	Estimated completion date: Feb. 2004	
Approximate cost: \$500,000	Status of project design: 75%complete	
Proponent: Town of Scituate Waterways Commission		
Street: 600 Chief Justice Cushing Highway		
Municipality: Scituate	State: Mass.	Zip Code: 02066
Name of Contact Person From Whom Copies of this ENF May Be Obtained: Burton B. Bryan		
Firm/Agency: Robert L. Fultz & Associates	Street: 74 Colonial Road	
Municipality: Marshfield	State: Mass.	Zip Code: 02050
Phone: 781-659-2003	Fax: 781-659-2003	E-mail: bnayrb@aol.com

Does this project meet or exceed a mandatory EIR threshold (see 301 CMR 11.03)?  
 Yes  No

Has this project been filed with MEPA before?  
 Yes (EOEA No. 12630 & 12753)  No

Has any project on this site been filed with MEPA before?  
 Yes (EOEA No. \_\_\_\_\_)  No

Is this an Expanded ENF (see 301 CMR 11.05(7)) requesting:

a Single EIR? (see 301 CMR 11.06(8))	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
a Special Review Procedure? (see 301CMR 11.09)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
a Waiver of mandatory EIR? (see 301 CMR 11.11)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
a Phase I Waiver? (see 301 CMR 11.11)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

Identify any financial assistance or land transfer from an agency of the Commonwealth, including the agency name and the amount of funding or land area (in acres): Department of Environmental Management

Are you requesting coordinated review with any other federal, state, regional, or local agency?  
 Yes (Specify \_\_\_\_\_)  No

List Local or Federal Permits and Approvals: Order of Conditions, Scituate Conservation

Commission; Order of Conditions, Marshfield Conservation Commission; U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Permit

Which ENF or EIR review threshold(s) does the project meet or exceed (see 301 CMR 11.03):

- |                                 |                                       |  |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Land   | <input type="checkbox"/> Rare Species | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wetlands, Waterways, & Tidelands |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Water  | <input type="checkbox"/> Wastewater   | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation                              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Energy | <input type="checkbox"/> Air          | <input type="checkbox"/> Solid & Hazardous Waste                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ACEC   | <input type="checkbox"/> Regulations  | <input type="checkbox"/> Historical & Archaeological Resources       |

Summary of Project Size & Environmental Impacts	Existing	Change	Total	State Permits & Approvals
<b>LAND</b>				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Order of Conditions <input type="checkbox"/> Superseding Order of Conditions <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chapter 91 License <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 401 Water Quality Certification <input type="checkbox"/> MHD or MDC Access Permit <input type="checkbox"/> Water Management Act Permit <input type="checkbox"/> New Source Approval <input type="checkbox"/> DEP or MWRA Sewer Connection/ Extension Permit <input type="checkbox"/> Other Permits (including Legislative Approvals) – Specify: _____ _____ _____ _____ _____
Total site acreage				
New acres of land altered		39.6		
Acres of impervious area	0	0	0	
Square feet of new bordering vegetated wetlands alteration		0		
Square feet of new other wetland alteration		1,727,300		
Acres of new non-water dependent use of tidelands or waterways		0		
<b>STRUCTURES</b>				
Gross square footage	0	0	0	
Number of housing units	0	0	0	
Maximum height (in feet)	N/A			
<b>TRANSPORTATION</b>				
Vehicle trips per day	N/A			
Parking spaces	0	0	0	
<b>WATER/WASTEWATER</b>				
Gallons/day (GPD) of water use	0	0	0	
GPD water withdrawal	0	0	0	
GPD wastewater generation/ treatment	0	0	0	
Length of water/sewer mains (in miles)	0	0	0	

**CONSERVATION LAND:** Will the project involve the conversion of public parkland or other Article 97 public natural resources to any purpose not in accordance with Article 97?

- Yes (Specify \_\_\_\_\_ )  No

Will it involve the release of any conservation restriction, preservation restriction, agricultural preservation restriction, or watershed preservation restriction?

Yes (Specify \_\_\_\_\_ )  No

**RARE SPECIES:** Does the project site include Estimated Habitat of Rare Species, Vernal Pools, Priority Sites of Rare Species, or Exemplary Natural Communities?

Yes (Specify \_\_\_\_\_ )  No

**HISTORICAL /ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES:** Does the project site include any structure, site or district listed in the State Register of Historic Place or the inventory of Historic and Archaeological Assets of the Commonwealth?

Yes (Specify \_\_\_\_\_ )  No

If yes, does the project involve any demolition or destruction of any listed or inventoried historic or archaeological resources?

Yes (Specify \_\_\_\_\_ )  No

**AREAS OF CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN:** Is the project in or adjacent to an Area of Critical Environmental Concern?

Yes (Specify \_\_\_\_\_ )  No

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:** The project description should include (a) a description of the project site, (b) a description of both on-site and off-site alternatives and the impacts associated with each alternative, and (c) potential on-site and off-site mitigation measures for each alternative (You may attach one additional page, if necessary.)

The project involves dredging a 10,000 foot (1.89 mile) stretch of the South River extending north from the Sea Street Bridge connecting the mainland in Marshfield to the barrier beach of Humarock, which is part of Scituate (see attached locus map). Of this length, only approximately 6,200 linear feet (1.17 mi.) is shallow enough to require dredging. The town line between Scituate and Marshfield goes approximately down the center of the channel in its southern half; the northern part is in Scituate. The area to be dredged will be 75 feet wide at the bottom. It is proposed to dredge the sediments mechanically and barge them to the nearshore area off Humarock, on the other side of the barrier beach, in approximately 15 to 20 feet of water. This will keep the material in the nearshore/beach system, in which sediments are washed into the beach and back out to the nearshore area depending on the intensity of wave action.

### Alternatives

- 1. No Build- No dredging is conducted. Considerable shoaling in the proposed project area will continue to provide a risk to public safety, property and water quality due to vessels grounding and colliding with other vessels. The potential for collision is increased because vessels have no clear line of navigation. The shoaling represents a threat to public safety and public health by: restricting vessels from using the established course; potential vessel damages from avoiding and/or coming in contact with a hazard (such as shoaling, or another vessel) and jeopardizing safe turning. Any continued impairment to the ability of the United States Coast Guard and the Scituate Harbormaster Office to respond to emergencies puts commercial and recreational boaters at even greater risk.**
- 2. Maintenance dredging is conducted, spoils are dewatered and trucked to upland disposal site, possibly a landfill. The project would not then provide the multiple benefits of storm**

**damage prevention and flood control that beach nourishment would. There is not a suitable site for dewatering in the vicinity of the project area. This alternative is more costly than the proposed alternative.**

- 3. The entire channel is mechanically dredged and the sediment of disposed of at the Mass. Bay Disposal Site. Sediment samples from this entire stretch of the river have been approved for disposal at MBDS by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, but this option would prevent the suitable portion of the sediments from being used as beach nourishment. The Scituate Waterways Commission, The Conservation Commission, the Save Humarock Association, Humarock residents, and Mass. Coastal Zone Management are all interested in keeping as much of the material as possible in the Humarock barrier beach system.**
- 4. Maintenance dredging is conducted with a hydraulic dredge and suitable spoil material is disposed of in a slurry through a pipeline onto Humarock Beach, with the remainder being mechanically dredged and disposed of at MBDS. This option would enhance the beach's functions of storm damage prevention and flood control. However, the material could go only to a relatively small area of the beach, not that in greatest need of nourishment, because of legal constraints. The majority of the material would be lost to the barrier beach system.**
- 5. Mechanically dredge all material and transport it by barge to the nearshore area off Humarock, on the other side of the barrier beach, in approximately 15 to 20 feet of water. This alternative keeps all the material in the barrier beach system and is cost-effective, since only a single dredging method is used, no transfer of the material is needed, and the route of barge transportation is short. Since the area proposed as the disposal site is far larger than needed for this single project, the site once permitted, can be used as a disposal area for other regional projects. This is the preferred alternative.**