

ENF Environmental Notification Form

12753
 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: <u>South River Dredging</u>		
Street:		
Municipality: <u>Scituate</u>	Watershed: <u>South Coastal</u>	
Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates: N 4666750 E 359600	Latitude: <u>42°08'30" N</u>	Longitude: <u>71°42'00" W</u>
Estimated commencement date: <u>Nov. 2002</u>	Estimated completion date: <u>Feb. 2003</u>	
Approximate cost: <u>\$500,000</u>	Status of project design: <u>75%complete</u>	
Proponent: <u>Town of Scituate Waterways Commission</u>		
Street: <u>600 Chief Justice Cushing Highway</u>		
Municipality: <u>Scituate</u>	State: <u>Mass.</u>	Zip Code: <u>02066</u>
Name of Contact Person From Whom Copies of this ENF May Be Obtained: <u>Burton B. Bryan</u>		
Firm/Agency: <u>Robert L. Fultz & Associates</u>	Street: <u>74 Colonial Road</u>	
Municipality: <u>Marshfield</u>	State: <u>Mass.</u>	Zip Code: <u>02050</u>
Phone: <u>781-659-2003</u>	Fax: <u>781-659-2003</u>	E-mail: <u>bnayrb@aol.com</u>

- 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. _____) 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)) Yes No
 - a Special Review Procedure? (see 301CMR 11.09) Yes No
 - a Waiver of mandatory EIR? (see 301 CMR 11.11) Yes No
 - a Phase I Waiver? (see 301 CMR 11.11) Yes 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; 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
LAND				<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		6.15		
Acres of impervious area	0	0	0	
Square feet of new bordering vegetated wetlands alteration		0		
Square feet of new other wetland alteration		268,105		
Acres of new non-water dependent use of tidelands or waterways		0		
STRUCTURES				
Gross square footage	0	0	0	
Number of housing units	0	0	0	
Maximum height (in feet)	N/A			
TRANSPORTATION				
Vehicle trips per day	N/A			
Parking spaces	0	0	0	
WATER/WASTEWATER				
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

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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 6,500 foot (1.23 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). The town line between Scituate and Marshfield goes approximately down the center of the channel for most of its length. The area to be dredged will be 75 feet wide at the bottom. It is proposed to use a hydraulic dredge and pump the sediments from the northern part of the channel to the beach at Humarock. In the southern part of the channel, the 3400 feet between Little's Creek and the Sea Street Bridge, the sediments are too coarse and rocky for hydraulic dredging, and will be dredged mechanically and disposed of at the Massachusetts Bay Disposal site.

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 using as much of the material as possible for beach nourishment at the severely eroding Humarock Beach.

- 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. It would cause extremely minimal amounts of environmental impacts to water quality and/or to coastal resource areas because dredging would be done during cold seasons when there is less growth in nearby resource areas, as well as less fisheries activity (in an area that is an anadromous fish run). Hydraulic dredging has the least environmental impact of dredging methods, and because the sediments are coarse, there would be relatively little re-suspension during the mechanical dredging process. This is the preferred alternative.**