

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Executive Office of Environmental Affairs ■ MEPA Office

ENF

Environmental Notification Form

For Office Use Only Executive Office of Environmental Affairs
EOE No.: 14413 MEPA Analyst: Purvi Patel Phone: 617-626-1029

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: Sengecontacket Inside Channel		
Street: Seaview Ave		
Municipality: Oak Bluffs	Watershed: Sengecontacket Pond	
Universal Tranverse Mercator Coordinates:	Latitude: 41 25 28.43 N Longitude: 70 33 12.22 W	
Estimated commencement date:	Estimated completion date: 3/2010	
Approximate cost: \$500,000	Status of project design: 95% Complete	
Proponent: Town of Oak Bluffs Attn: Liz Durkee		
Street: 56 School Street		
Municipality: Oak Bluffs	State: MA	Zip Code: 02557
Name of Contact Person From Whom Copies of this ENF May Be Obtained: Liz Durkee		
Firm/Agency: Conservation Commission	Street: PO Box 1327	
Municipality: Oak Bluffs	State: MA	Zip Code: 02557
Phone: 508-693-3554 x 118	Fax: 508-696-7736	E-mail: edurkee@ci.oakbluffs.ma.us

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

Are you requesting coordinated review with any other federal, state, regional, or local agency?
 Yes (Specify: DEP, Marine Fisheries to insure complete review) No

List Local or Federal Permits and Approvals:
For Beach Nourishment Site:

- Order of Conditions from Oak Bluffs Conservation Commission
- DEP Waterways Chp 91 Permit and License
- 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	19.1 Dredge Area			
New acres of land altered		0		
Acres of impervious area	0	0		
Square feet of new bordering vegetated wetlands alteration		0		
Square feet of new other wetland alteration		19.1 acres dredging		
Acres of new non-water dependent use of tidelands or waterways		0		
STRUCTURES				
Gross square footage	N/A	N/A	N/A	
Number of housing units	N/A	N/A	N/A	
Maximum height (in feet)	N/A	N/A	N/A	
TRANSPORTATION				
Vehicle trips per day	N/A	N/A	N/A	
Parking spaces	N/A	N/A	N/A	
WATER/WASTEWATER				
Gallons/day (GPD) of water use	N/A	N/A	N/A	
GPD water withdrawal	N/A	N/A	N/A	
GPD wastewater generation/ treatment	N/A	N/A	N/A	
Length of water/sewer mains (in miles)	N/A	N/A	N/A	

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 Estimated Habitat & Priority Site of Rare Species approved plan at disposal site) 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.)

As a continuation of the Sengecontacket Regional Dredging Program, this project proposes to amend the current permits to include dredging of 57,000 cubic yards of material inside Sengekontacket Pond from a previously permitted and existing navigational channel running from the "Little Bridge" Inlet to the "Big Bridge" Inlet, plus outside the Little Bridge channel. The project will include a combination of maintenance and improvement dredging. Dredged material will be reused as beach nourishment. The goal is to improve small boat navigation and improve coastal resiliency to storms and flooding on Joseph A. Sylvia State Beach, Pay Beach, and Inkwel Beach. The project also has the potential to help improve the pond's degraded water quality. The pond has been closed by Mass Division of Marine Fisheries to summer shellfishing for two seasons due to degraded water quality (see Appendix --??--).

The existing channel, dredged in 1967, 1978, and 1993(see Appendix A), has been previously permitted for 42000 cu yds (see Appendix C Previous permits) and therefore should be considered maintenance dredging. Some of the channel is proposed to be deepened and may be considered to be improvement dredging. The existing channel is approximately 6600 ft long, 100 ft wide and varies in depth from 1 to 2 ft. Dredging will impact approximately 832,000 sq ft of the previously dredged channel. This project proposes to dredge the channel to -5 MLW, 2 ft deeper than originally permitted. The revised project will generate approximately 57000 cu yds of beach compatible sand to be reused on Sylvia State Beach, which is currently permitted to receive 80,000 cu yds of beach nourishment (see Appendix D Current permits). Dukes County and the Barrier Beach Task Force have implemented a beach management and monitoring plan which indicates the need for more material to fill the depleted groin system (see Appendix A). Town beaches at Pay and Inkwel Beach will receive nourishment above MHW. Dredging and beach nourishment will be completed with the Town of Edgartown Dredge. The dredged material will be hydraulically pumped to State Beach and less than 6000 cu yd will be trucked to Inkwel and Pay Beaches. Some shellfish will be impacted by the project. The Oak Bluffs Shellfish Warden has completed a shellfish survey and mitigation plan which includes moving some shellfish in addition to reseeding. (see Compliance Assessment Appendix A)

This project is consistent with the most current Town of Oak Bluffs Master Plan, with current Open Space & Recreation Plan, and with the 418 Community Development Plan.(see Appendix A).The completed project will enhance navigational safety and enhance the sediment-starved beaches and protect against continuous storm damage and flooding. Endangered shorebird habitat will be enhanced. The proposed dredging will also likely enhance shellfish habitat and may help improve water quality.

Sengekontacket Pond continuously receives sand through the two inlets that connect it to Nantucket Sound. Over the course of time shoaling impacts navigation of both commercial and recreational shellfishing boats and reduces tidal circulation. The Pond has been dredged on a routine basis since the 1950's (see Appendix A). Historically, public maintenance dredging has been performed in volumes averaging 16,000 cubic yards per year (Martha's Vineyard Commission, 1998). The costs of the dredging projects have generally been funded 75% by the Commonwealth and 25% by the Towns of Oak Bluffs and Edgartown.

The project area is located on publicly owned property in the Town of Oak Bluffs, County of Dukes County, Massachusetts. Sengekontacket Pond spans the Towns of Oak Bluffs and Edgartown and is part of a barrier beach system that includes Joseph A. Sylvia State Beach and Nantucket Sound. The barrier beach system is intersected by Sea View Avenue, a primary highway owned and maintained by Mass Highway.

Alternative 1 - Do Nothing

Should the project not proceed, the navigation within Sengekontacket Pond will continue to be hazardous and tidally dependent because at low tide navigation is only possible for the smallest boats. If this alternative is implemented the barrier beaches will continue to erode and threaten the Town infrastructure (roads, bridges, structures), and recreational value. Water quality and shellfish habitat will continue to decline.

Alternative 2 - Perform Dredging with offshore disposal

This Alternative would include the required dredging, but would not provide the much-needed benefit of beach nourishment on the adjacent coastal and barrier beach. The dredge procedure would require barging the material to an offshore disposal site, where it would be dumped. This process would require dredging the entrance channel to the Pond at Big Bridge deeper than necessary to accommodate the draft of the sediment filled barge, or would require the use of a smaller barge, which would substantially increase the cost of the project. Additionally, running a large number of barges through the small entrance channel increases the possibility of the barge running aground. If this occurs there is increased chance of damage to the barge and more importantly, the subsurface benthic habitat. Additionally, there is currently no approved offshore disposal site that is in proximity to the project site. Therefore, the costs to implement this alternative would require exhaustive research and would be cost prohibitive. Alternative 2 is not recommended.

Alternative 3 - Perform Dredging with Upland Disposal

This Alternative would include the required dredging, but again, would not provide the much-needed benefit of beach nourishment on the adjacent coastal and barrier beaches. Additionally, it would be necessary to establish a suitable location to dewater the 57,000 cubic yards of material. Transporting this quantity of material to an upland disposal site would require at least 3,000 truckloads of material to be transported from the site. This has the possibility of creating public safety concerns as well as potential damage to local roadways. Alternative 3 is not recommended.

Alternative 4 - No Dredging Import Beach Nourishment

This Alternative would not include the dredging. There is no suitable source of compatible beach nourishment on Martha's Vineyard. Sand would have to be imported by barge and then trucked to Sylvia State Beach. The cost of importing sand would be approximately \$40 per cy as compared to \$10 per cy by dredging. Importing of sand would be cost prohibitive for the Town. Without dredging, the channels would continue to fill in. Navigation would become more dangerous and water quality would continue to degrade. This alternative is not recommended.

Alternative 5 - Preferred Alternative, Project as Proposed This alternative would provide benefits to navigation, and make available the dredge material for beneficial use as beach nourishment and recreational enhancement. Sylvia State Beach is already permitted to receive over 80,000 cy of material. Endangered shorebird habitat will be enhanced and there is an approved beach design and bird monitoring program in place. The completion of this project would also likely improve the tidal flushing and water quality within pond. Implementing this alternative will have some impact on shellfish and a mitigation program is in place (see Compliance Assessment Appendix A). It is believed that this project will ultimately improve the degraded shellfish habitat, reopen the pond to shellfishing, and benefit commercial as well as recreational shell fishermen. It is recommended that this Alternative be implemented.