



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs
100 Cambridge Street, Suite 900
Boston, MA 02114

March 7, 2008

DEVAL L. PATRICK
GOVERNOR

TIMOTHY P. MURRAY
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

IAN A. BOWLES
SECRETARY

Tel: (617) 626-1000
Fax: (617) 626-1181
<http://www.mass.gov/envir>

CERTIFICATE OF THE SECRETARY OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS
ON THE
ENVIRONMENTAL NOTIFICATION FORM

PROJECT NAME : Prospect Hill Park – Conversion & Replacement
PROJECT MUNICIPALITY : 314 Totten Pond Road - Waltham
PROJECT WATERSHED : Charles River
EEA NUMBER : 14184
PROJECT PROPONENT : City of Waltham
DATE NOTICED IN MONITOR : February 6, 2008

Pursuant to the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act (G. L. c. 30, ss. 61-62H) and Section 11.06 of the MEPA regulations (301 CMR 11.00), I determine that the above project **does not require** the preparation of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR).

According to the Environmental Notification Form (ENF), the proposed project consists of the replacement of 35,344 square feet (sf) of land that houses two water tanks in Prospect Hill Park with 78,364 sf of Water Department land contiguous to the park and at the end of Dale Street. The water tanks, which each hold a total of 4 million gallons of water, supply the City with potable water. In the mid 1970's the City of Waltham's Department of Public Works (DPW) constructed the two water tanks and a water main in Prospect Hill Park. The DPW records from this time period were destroyed in a fire. The replacement parcel would provide improved public pedestrian access to the park from Dale Street and Prospect Hill Road.

This project is subject to MEPA review pursuant to Section 11.03(1)(b)(3) because the project converts land held for natural resources purposes in accordance with Article 97 of the Amendments to the Constitution. The Prospect Hill Park has received federal Land and Water Conservation funding and state Urban Self-Help funds. On February 21, 2008, the Waltham Conservation Commission (WCC) approved by majority vote the transfer of the land under the water tanks to the Water Department and the transfer of the old water tank site off Dale Street to the Recreation Department. On December 27, 2001 and December 10, 2002, the Waltham City Council approved the use of portions of Prospect Hill Park for the two water tanks. The Legislature approved the use of parkland for water purposes in Waltham in Chapter 231 on July

30, 2004. The Waltham Recreation Board approval of the land transfer will be brought to a vote at its March 2008 meeting. The proponent must now comply with the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) Article 97 Land Disposition Policy.

Stormwater runoff at the site of the existing Water Department parcel is sheet flow, and it will remain sheet flow. The existing smaller water tank and utility building will be removed by the proponent. Runoff from the driveway and from the roof of the water tanks will continue to be sheet flow.

As part of its compliance with the EEA Article 97 Land Disposition Policy, the proponent has obtained appraisals for the converted and replacement parcels and the replacement land is of greater value than the converted property. The City of Waltham and the EEA should execute an amendment to the original Urban Self-Help project agreement. The City of Waltham should also close on the replacement parcel and dedicate it to recreation use via a City Council vote. The proponent should record the Urban Self-Help project amendment and the City Council vote as adjuncts to the deed for the replacement land.

Based on a review of the information provided by the proponent and after consultation with relevant public agencies, I find that the potential impacts of this project do not warrant the preparation of an EIR and can be properly addressed in the state and local permitting processes.

March 7, 2008
Date


Ian A. Bowles

Comments received:

- EEA, 2/8/08
- Waltham Planning Department (WPD), 2/11/08
- WPD, 2/26/08
- Jeannette A. McCarthy – Waltham Mayor, 2/26/08

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