

ENF Environmental Notification Form

For Office Use Only
Executive Office of Environmental Affairs
EOEA No.: 13916
MEPA Analyst: Holly Johnson
Phone: 617-626-1623

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: Taunton River Pilot Wetlands Mitigation Bank		
Street: Off Hawks Avenue		
Municipality: Hanson	Watershed: Taunton	
Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates: 4702986.8 Northing 1339860.9 Easting	Latitude: 42° 01' 43" Longitude: 70° 51' 35"	
Estimated commencement date: March 2007	Estimated completion date:	
Approximate cost: \$1.6 million	Status of project design:	80% complete
Proponent: BlueWave Capital, LLC		
Street: 137 Newbury Street, 7 th floor		
Municipality: Boston	State: MA	Zip Code: 02116
Name of Contact Person From Whom Copies of this ENF May Be Obtained: Stephen Barrett		
Firm/Agency: BlueWave Strategies, LLC	Street: 137 Newbury Street, 7 th Floor	
Municipality: Boston	State: MA	Zip Code: 02116
Phone: 617-266-0505	Fax: 617-859-9889	E-mail: sbarrett@bluewavestrategies.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. _____) 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 301 CMR 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

A request for a Special Review Procedure was filed on November 2, 2006.

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): _____ **No financial assistance has been provided to date. No land transfer is anticipated; the site for the pilot bank will remain continuously under the ownership of the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife.**

Are you requesting coordinated review with any other federal, state, regional, or local agency?

Yes (Specify See Nov. 2 request for Special Review Procedure) No

List Local or Federal Permits and Approvals: **US Army Corps of Engineers review of Prospectus for Wetlands Bank, US Army Corps of Engineers Section 404 Permit, NPDES Construction General Permit, Hanson Conservation Commission Order of Conditions**

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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other Permits <i>(including Legislative Approvals) – Specify:</i> Restoration and Monitoring Plans to be reviewed and approved under Chapter 291 of the Acts of 2004; Agreement among Bank Sponsor, Executive Office of Environmental Affairs and Executive Office of Transportation under chapter 291 of the Acts of 2004
Total site acreage	1,700			
New acres of land altered		25 acres		
Acres of impervious area		0		
Square feet of new bordering vegetated wetlands alteration		700,700		
Square feet of new other wetland alteration		14,440 If of bank (13,040 which is bog canal)		
Acres of new non-water dependent use of tidelands or waterways		0		
STRUCTURES				
Gross square footage		0		
Number of housing units		0		
Maximum height (in feet)		0		
TRANSPORTATION				
Vehicle trips per day		0		
Parking spaces		0		
WATER/WASTEWATER				
Gallons/day (GPD) of water use		0		
GPD water withdrawal		0		
GPD wastewater generation/ treatment		0		

Length of water/sewer mains (in miles)		0		
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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

The applicant has met with a biologist at the NHESP. The biologist recommended that, in appropriate areas along the fringes of wetlands, tree species be replaced with shrub species in the planting plan and that specified forested areas be actively managed to promote shrub species for habitat purposes. The applicant is committed to incorporating these recommendations into the project in future revisions of the plans.

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.)

Section 89 of Chapter 291 of the Massachusetts Acts of 2004, enacted on August 10, 2004, directed the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs to establish a pilot wetlands mitigation bank in the Taunton River watershed. A wetlands mitigation bank is a wetlands restoration, creation, or enhancement project that is undertaken in order to compensate for losses to wetlands resources in a defined geographic area, such as the Taunton River watershed, by providing compensatory mitigation for adverse impacts to wetlands that are permitted by local, state or Federal regulatory agencies. The bank sells "credits" created through the

bank's restoration efforts and purchasers use these credits to offset impacts to wetlands from transportation, other public works projects and projects requiring wetlands variances and orders of conditions within the watershed.

If properly implemented, the pilot wetlands mitigation bank can have numerous benefits including: substantially improved wetlands restoration quality; accelerated bridge replacement and road repair in Southeastern Massachusetts; significant contribution to meeting wetlands permitting requirements for large, public purpose infrastructure projects; enhanced wetlands enforcement activity; and more certain, cost-effective and timely wetlands permitting. The pilot bank will create a working pilot to help the Commonwealth better understand whether and how best to implement wetlands mitigation banking, an important regulatory option which various federal and state agencies have been trying to implement in Massachusetts for many years.

In spring 2005, the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs selected BlueWave Capital, LLC as the bank's sponsor to assist in the selection of a bank site and to undertake design, permitting, restoration, management, and long-term monitoring of the Taunton River Pilot Bank. Working with the Mitigation Banking Review Team, consisting of federal, state, and local agency and stakeholder representatives, BlueWave Capital selected the degraded cranberry bogs at the MA Division of Fisheries and Wildlife's 1,700-acre Burrage Pond Wildlife Management Area as the site for the pilot bank. Based on a detailed evaluation of existing site conditions, the pilot bank will enhance approximately 16 acres of disturbed wetlands and create 9 acres of new wetlands from existing upland areas. While the project will result in the alteration of 16 acres of existing wetland resource area, the work will enhance the natural functions and values of these wetlands that have been degraded through their conversion to cranberry production purposes. The project will also create 9 acres of new wetlands at Burrage Pond, significantly improving the wildlife habitat aspects of the property.

This Expanded Environmental Notification Form is being filed pursuant to a November 2 request for a Special Review Procedure. While the area of alteration triggers a mandatory Environmental Impact Report (EIR) threshold of 1 acre, the purpose of the work is to enhance those wetlands. In addition, as explained in the Request for a Special Review Procedure, the project has and will continue to undergo extensive review at the local, state and federal level. Together, these factors suggest an alternative approach under which a single document is prepared, in lieu of an EIR, that incorporates and explains the many other review documents being generated in connection with the creation of the Pilot Wetlands Bank. A number of these review documents are included as attachments to this Expanded Environmental Notification Form, as follows:

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|---------------------|---|
| Attachment 1 | Prospectus submitted to the US Army Corps of Engineers |
| Attachment 2 | Draft Restoration Plan for the Taunton River Watershed Pilot Wetlands Bank |
| Attachment 3 | Draft Monitoring Plan for the Taunton River Watershed Pilot Wetlands Bank |
| Attachment 4 | Pilot Bank Summary |
| Attachment 5 | Distribution List |