

**ENF Environmental
 Notification Form**

<i>For Office Use Only</i> Executive Office of Environmental Affairs	
EOEA No.:	14342
MEPA Analyst:	Anne Canada
Phone:	617-626-1035

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 Shore Community Church		
Street: Assessors Map 30, Lot 1, 2, 3 & 4 - Elm Street, Bridgewater Assessors Map 72, Lot 3 - Maple Street, West Bridgewater		
Municipality: Bridgewater/West Bridgewater	Watershed: Taunton River	
Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates:	Latitude:	Longitude:
Estimated commencement date: 3/1/2009	Estimated completion date: 10/31/2010	
Approximate cost: TBD	Status of project design: 75%complete	
Proponent: South Shore Community Church an affiliate of the New England District of the Christian and Missionary Alliance		
Street: 120 Main Street, Suite 1		
Municipality: Bridgewater	State: MA	Zip Code: 02324
Name of Contact Person From Whom Copies of this ENF May Be Obtained: Lawrence P. Silva, P.E.		
Firm/Agency: Silva Engineering Associates	Street: 1615 Bedford Street	
Municipality: Bridgewater	State: MA	Zip Code: 02324
Phone: (508) 697-3100	Fax: (508) 697-3136	E-mail: info@silvaeng.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 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): None

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

List Local or Federal Permits and Approvals: Town of Bridgewater Planning Board & Conservation Commission, Zoning Board of Appeals.

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

- | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Land | <input type="checkbox"/> Rare Species | <input type="checkbox"/> Wetlands, Waterways, & Tidelands |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Water | <input type="checkbox"/> Wastewater | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transportation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Energy | <input type="checkbox"/> Air | <input type="checkbox"/> Solid & Hazardous Waste |
| <input checked="" 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 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 <i>(including Legislative Approvals) – Specify:</i> *Excluding Spire. ** Sunday volume, see attached Traffic Study ***Does Not Include Gravel Overflow Parking: 266 spaces.
Total site acreage	59.05			
New acres of land altered		0		
Acres of impervious area	0	6.84	6.84	
Square feet of new bordering vegetated wetlands alteration		0		
Square feet of new other wetland alteration		0		
Acres of new non-water dependent use of tidelands or waterways		0		
STRUCTURES				
Gross square footage	0	72,500	72,500	
Number of housing units	0	0	0	
Maximum height (in feet)	0	55	55*	
TRANSPORTATION				
Vehicle trips per day	0	2,607	2,607**	
Parking spaces	0	454	454***	
WATER/WASTEWATER				
Gallons/day (GPD) of water use	0	7,500	7,500	
GPD water withdrawal	0	0	0	
GPD wastewater generation/ treatment	0	6,000	6,000	
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: Estimated Habitat of Rare Species) 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? N/A

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

Yes (Specify: Hockomock Swamp) 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.)

- a) The proposed redevelopment project is a new church facility on the easterly side of Elm Street in Bridgewater, MA just south of the West Bridgewater/Bridgewater town line. The 59.05-acre site consists of five parcels of land, four of which are in Bridgewater. Fifty eight percent of the area (34.27 acres) is uplands. The proposed church will have a footprint of approximately 0.91 acres; approximately 5.93 acres of additional impervious areas will be created by paved parking and internal roadways. All impervious development will occur on previously-disturbed upland areas. The property has been utilized for farming, historically for blueberries and more recently for corn. Retention/relocation of many of the remaining blueberry bushes is envisioned as part of the landscape plan. The new church facility will serve the growing needs of the South Shore Community Church, which currently rents space at the Bridgewater-Raynham Regional High School.

The site plan consists of a 980-seat sanctuary building with educational and administrative space, and parking areas with a total of 454 permanent parking spaces and the ability to park up to 266 vehicles in a gravel area adjacent to the parking lots. The church will be connected to public utilities including new water and sewer mains that the Town of Bridgewater has extended along Elm Street. The Town's decision to extend these utilities pre-dates and is unrelated to the proposed project, and reflects the Town's decision to promote growth in the Elm Street area.

The project site is located at the edge of the Hockomock Swamp Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC). A small area at the northern edge of the site is designated as a potential habitat for rare or endangered species. The project will avoid disturbance of the designated habitat area and will use vegetated stormwater basins and swales to help separate the development from the

environmentally sensitive areas. The lack of any anticipated rare species impacts is discussed further in the attached habitat assessment study.

Project-related environmental impacts will be minimal. The layout and design of the project avoids sensitive resource areas. The vegetated storm water management basins will be open for wildlife use. The project site is heavily disturbed by historic farming activities. No new wooded areas will be altered as part of the project. The existing corn and blueberry fields will provide the base area for development.

The project will have minimal impacts on area roadways. Church services will be held on Sundays, when other uses in the area will generate much lower, or negligible, traffic volumes. As detailed in the attached traffic study, the project's peak hour traffic generation (on Sundays when the church is at full capacity) will be only 617 vehicle trips, just over half of which will be entering trips. Weekday traffic generation will be much lower, as the only regular church services will be on Sundays. Similarly, the project's weekday water demand and wastewater generation levels will be very low, while Sunday usage will coincide with the lowest demand and generation levels for most nearby uses. The uses of the church facility may include educational and child care functions to benefit the congregation and community.

The project site is quite large and has been selected, in part, for its ability to accommodate possible future growth. The project has been designed with an internal ring road around the perimeter of the church building (which also provides access for emergency vehicles), with parking lots around the perimeter of that roadway. Future expansion could be accommodated by building on the parking lot inside the ring road, to the north of the proposed church facility, and adding parking to the southeast of the initial development. All of this future development would occur on historically disturbed portions of the site. When, and if, such future growth occurs will depend on several factors including the congregation's rate of growth and the availability of funds. Alternatively, if the need to expand does not materialize, some of the previously-developed southern portion of the project site might be sold or leased for commercial, recreational, or other revenue-generating purposes. The Church does not anticipate proceeding further with the design of or actual expansion until at least several years after the current Project is completed. In the near- and mid-term, congregation growth could be accommodated by adding Sunday services rather than increasing the sanctuary's size.

- b) On site alternatives would be the use of this industrial zoned land for a distribution warehouse or other industrial activity. The impacts would have been an increase in the traffic associated with such a use. Industrial development of the site likely would result in a larger impervious footprint for buildings, parking, truck docks, etc. Unlike the proposed church, such uses would generate peak traffic, water, and wastewater flows at the same times as surrounding uses.

Offsite alternatives would be to find an alternative location or continue to use the current, rented facility. Other locations were evaluated in Raynham and Bridgewater but were infeasible because of excessive site development and/or land acquisition costs, or a lack of convenient access for congregation members.

- c) The proposed alternative was chosen because it redevelops a previously-disturbed site while providing convenient access and the possibility of future growth. The mitigation measures include

incorporation of compliant stormwater management designs including low impact design (LID) features. Avoidance of the potential rare or endangered species habitat areas in favor of redeveloping previously-disturbed areas was considered a responsible approach to developing the property.

Table 1: Alternative Land Uses and Their Impacts

Alternative Use	Site Impacts						Mitigation Measures		
	Potential Contaminant Release	Noise	High Truck Traffic	Large Building	Significant Increase in Traffic	Increase in Water/Sewerage	Treatment Plant	Traffic Improvements	On Site Water Source
* Laundry & Dry Cleaning Plant * Manufacturing Facilities	X	X	X				X		X
* Bottling of Beverages			X	X		X	X	X	
* Professional Business Offices * Medical Center * Laboratory/Research Facility	X				X	X		X	X
* Retail Center					X			X	
* Warehouse & Storage with Retail Facility * Trucking/Freight Terminals	X	X	X	X				X	