October 14, 2014

Mr. Julian Suso, Town Manager  
59 Town Hall Square  
Falmouth, Massachusetts 02540

RE: FALMOUTH – Targeted Watershed Management Plan for the Little Pond Watershed

Dear Mr. Suso:

MassDEP is in receipt of your document titled “Amended Targeted Watershed Management Plan for Little Pond, Town of Falmouth, MA” dated October 6, 2014 and prepared by GHD, Inc. This Targeted Watershed Management Plan (TWMP) was prepared to supplement the “Comprehensive Wastewater Management Plan and Final Environmental Impact Report, and Targeted Watershed Management Plan” as required by the Certificate of the Secretary of Energy and Environmental Affairs on the Final Environmental Impact Report dated January 10, 2014.

The TWMP outlines a preferred scenario to meet nitrogen threshold requirements in Little Pond ultimately to comply with the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for nitrogen. This scenario includes:

1. Sewering of a portion of the Little Pond watershed (“the Little Pond Sewer Service Area”);
2. Continued use of conventional on-site treatment and disposal systems in the non-sewered properties in the Little Pond watershed;
3. Fertilizer management in compliance with the Town’s approved bylaw;
4. Stormwater management;
5. Shellfish aquaculture;
6. Little Pond inlet opening; and
7. Use of enhanced innovative and alternative on-site treatment and disposal systems for non-sewered properties in the Little Pond watershed.

This preferred scenario relies, in part, on alternative technologies and approaches to mitigate nitrogen loads which will require evaluation through demonstration projects. In the event that these alternatives do not achieve expected levels of nitrogen removal, the Town has developed a contingency scenario that would either employ innovative and alternative on-site treatment and
disposal systems to the remaining non-sewered properties or extend sewer service to the requisite number of non-sewered properties. The use of innovative and alternative on-site treatment and disposal systems is predicated on achieving a 13 mg/L total nitrogen effluent limit. The Town should be advised that MassDEP has not at this time approved any such technology to meet that effluent limit.

The final element of the TWMP is the implementation timeline. It anticipates evaluation of the preferred plan until 2027 at which time, if necessary, the contingency plan would be initiated. MassDEP will assist the Town in evaluating measures to expedite this timetable.

After careful review of the TWMP, MassDEP has determined that it satisfactorily addresses the issues raised in the Secretary’s Certificate, and, therefore, issues this letter of approval.

If you have any questions or require further information, please feel free to contact me at (508)946-2814.

Very truly yours,

[Signature]
Brian A. Dudley
Bureau of Resource Protection

cc: Mr. Raymond Jack, Director
Department of Public Works
416 Gifford Street
Falmouth, MA 02540

Mr. Gerald Potamis, Wastewater Superintendent
Department of Public Works
416 Gifford Street
Falmouth, MA 02540

ecc: DEP/Boston
Attn: Gary Moran
    Steven McCurdy
    David Ferris

DEP/SERO
Attn: David Johnston

P:/bdudley/Falmouth CWMP/TWMP/Little Pond WMP Approval Letter.docx