

BARNSTABLE COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF DELEGATES

In the Year Nineteen Hundred and Ninety-Three

Resolution 93-13

To comment on the Biological Assessment of the potential effects of the MWRA outfall on endangered species prepared by the Environmental Protection Agency.

WHEREAS, a Science Advisory Panel (the Panel) was established by the Barnstable County Commissioners;

WHEREAS, the Panel is composed of scientists having exemplary scientific credentials and who are specialists in various aspects of oceanography pertinent to the Biological Assessment;

WHEREAS, the Panel determined that it was difficult to complete an unambiguous Assessment;

WHEREAS, the Panel has found that there is a lack of critical data on chronic, low-level nutrient input to partially enclosed coastal embayments;

WHEREAS, the Panel has found that there is a lack of critical data on dose-response relationships for complex mixtures of contaminants (including nutrients and toxins) in shallow coastal ecosystems;

WHEREAS, the Panel has found a lack of numerical modeling results anticipated for the Assessment, due to ongoing development of the modeling techniques; and

WHEREAS, the Panel has found a paucity of field data on some critical aspects of the phytoplankton dynamics in Massachusetts and Cape Cod bays.

NOW THEREFORE,

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED, the Barnstable County Assembly of Delegates:

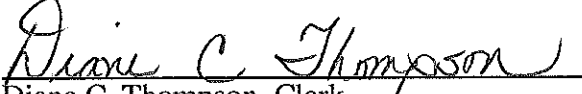
Strongly recommends that NOAA/NMFS consider a finding of jeopardy in the Biological Opinion based on the lack of critical data and the need for a comprehensive committee review of the potential effects of the outfall on endangered species and their habitat in Massachusetts and Cape Cod bays.

Requests that NOAA/NMFS consider initiation of a thorough scientific review of this issue, through an organization such as the National Academy of Sciences to obtain a scientific consensus on this highly sensitive issue and area.

Requests that NOAA/NMFS carefully review the monitoring plan for the outfall, should it be permitted, to assure that a well-defined and defensible strategy is in place to detect outfall-related changes in the environment, including but not limited to effects from low-level, continuous input of nutrients and heavy metals.

The foregoing resolution was adopted by unanimous vote of the Barnstable County Assembly of Delegates, with Delegates representing 72.08% of the population of Barnstable County present and voting at a meeting held July 21, 1993.

Attested by:


Diane C. Thompson, Clerk
Assembly of Delegates

The foregoing Resolution was endorsed by the Barnstable County Board of County Commissioners, August 4, 1993.

