



Mr. Tim Carroll
Executive Secretary to the Board of Selectmen
Chilmark Town Hall
401 Middle Road, P.O. Box 119
Chilmark, MA. 02535

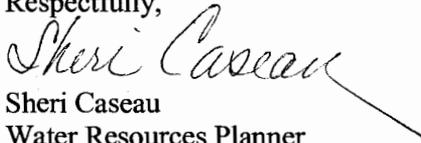
Dear Mr. Carroll:

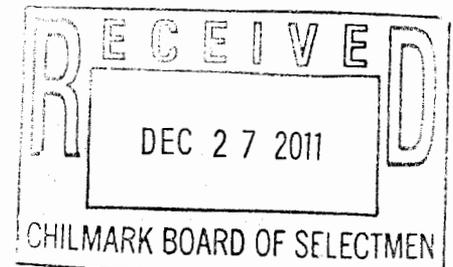
The Martha's Vineyard Commission would like to express its continued support of the Massachusetts Estuaries Project effort for the in-depth evaluation of the nitrogen loading limits for the coastal embayment systems of the Town of Chilmark, specifically Chilmark Pond as well as Menemsha Pond and Squibnocket Pond.

Since the mid-1990's, the MVC has been cooperating with regular water quality monitoring efforts across the coastal systems of the Island of Martha's Vineyard with a vision towards being able to develop or having developed a meaningful nutrient analysis of all the estuaries of the island. The Martha's Vineyard Commission has closely monitored similar activity on Cape Cod and sees continued collaboration with the Estuaries Project as an effective way to bring multiple efforts together into a comprehensive evaluation of complex coastal systems such as Chilmark Pond and Menemsha/Squibnocket Ponds. More importantly, since 2002 the MVC has been actively involved in the implementation of the Estuaries project on the Island and sees that Towns that engaged early in the process have received the nutrient related restoration targets and tools needed to move forward with rational and defensible nutrient management.

The Martha's Vineyard Commission believes it is critical for the Town of Chilmark to continue its participation in the Estuaries Project through analysis of the two remaining estuaries in the Town. Significant time and resources have been invested to date on collecting water quality and habitat data for the Chilmark Pond and Menemsha/Squibnocket Ponds systems and it would be satisfying to see the value of this data maximized through its use in meeting the objectives of the Estuaries Project in these two systems. The Massachusetts Estuaries Project is well on its way to providing the Island of Martha's Vineyard accurate nutrient thresholds and estuarine specific tools to guide nutrient management for restoration of the estuaries of the Island. As such, we must continue with the completion of the MEP analyses such that a consistent and defensible restoration effort can be implemented for the benefit of the entire Island. We look forward to continued work with the SMAST/MassDEP Massachusetts Estuaries Project in order to secure the health and value of the precious coastal resources of the Town of Chilmark.

Respectfully,


Sheri Caseau
Water Resources Planner
The Martha's Vineyard Commission



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