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CAPE COD
COMMISSION

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By Electronic Mail

May 19, 2016

Matthew A. Beaton, Secretary
Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA)
Attn: MEPA Office, Anne Canaday, Analyst
100 Cambridge Street, Suite 900
Boston, MA 02114

**Re: *Single Environmental Impact Report - EEA No. 15474
Cedar Pond Water Quality Management Plan- Town of Orleans
(CCC File No. 16003)***

Dear Secretary Beaton:

The SEIR provides considerable evidence to suggest that Cedar Pond has been a freshwater pond for a very long time. Its name, Cedar Pond, found on maps as far back as 1880, also suggests that this pond had low- or non-existent salinity levels for over a century, sufficient to support a cedar community in great enough number to provide the basis for the historical name of the pond. The proposed re-installation of the flash boards to manage saltwater intrusion into the pond will support the restoration of this pond from the current brackish to a freshwater system. As presented in the SEIR, currently stressed freshwater vegetation, including red maples and Atlantic white cedars, will benefit from a return to lower salinity levels. In addition, anadromous fish species will benefit from the return of pond water salinity to lower levels. Given this evidence, the proposed restoration is consistent with and supported by wetland performance standards and goals in the Barnstable County Regional Policy Plan.

As this project was required to prepare an EIR, the Cape Cod Commission must review and permit the project, prior to the Town obtaining local permits, licenses and approvals.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the above-referenced SEIR. Cape Cod Commission staff is available and happy to answer any questions about these comments.

Sincerely,

Jonathon Idman
Jonathon Idman
Chief Regulatory Officer

Cc: Project File
Brian Madden, LEC, Project Consultant via email
George Meservey, Orleans Town Planner via email
Town of Orleans Cape Cod Commission representative via email