

Office of the Mayor

One JFK Memorial Drive
Braintree, Massachusetts 02184

Joseph C. Sullivan
Mayor

781-794-8100

February 28, 2012

Bethany A. Card, Assistant Commissioner
Bureau of Resource Protection
MassDEP
One Winter Street
Boston, MA 02108

Subject: Tri-Town Regional Water Treatment Facility Progress

Dear Ms. Card: *BETHANY*

Thank you for our recent conversation. As you know, the Tri-Town Board of Water Commissioners (Board) is in receipt of the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection's (MassDEP's) letter dated January 13, 2012. At our meeting of February 16, 2012, we discussed your letter and are pleased that you will be joining us on March 15 at 10 am at Braintree Town Hall.

We are aware of MassDEP's concerns associated with our two aging water treatment facilities and the need for a reliable solution that meets current and future drinking water standards. The Board has, and continues to operate in "good faith" towards a solution that is in the best interest of its member communities. In this regard, the Board has moved forward with design of a 12.5 million gallon per day water treatment facility on the basis of pilot work accepted and approved by MassDEP. In parallel with this work, the Board has proceeded with initiatives to ensure the most robust and cost-effective system for our member communities and ratepayers.

The Board is moving forward with evaluations of our Upper and Lower Pond dams to ensure compliance with accepted standards. Additionally, the Board has secured the appropriate permits to allow continued dredging of the Upper Pond to improve our safe yield. More recently, the Board had a bathymetric survey prepared for the Richardi Reservoir. The results of this survey indicate greater than expected available volume within the Richardi Reservoir, which could serve to potentially provide a greater safe yield within our reservoir system. Based on this new information, the Board is further evaluating plans for additional dredging of the reservoirs to ensure the greatest benefit in terms of safe yield.

As you know, discussions between the Tri-Town communities regarding cost sharing for a new treatment facility have been ongoing for some time. However, while this process has been lengthy, the progress we have made towards an agreement has been in the best interest of our member communities


Ms. Bethany A. Card
February 22, 2012
Page 2

and our ratepayers. In parallel with these discussions and the advancement of our treatment plant design, we have "truth tested" the choice of a new regional facility by inviting the MWRA and Aquaria Water to present alternatives for supplying water to Tri-Town and/or any of our individual member communities. While each of these alternatives is viable, the life cycle cost of either alternative is significantly higher than that of building our own plant. Therefore, the Board remains committed to design and construction of a new regional treatment facility, and we believe the process of exploring other supply alternatives has helped strengthen support for a regional plant within the three communities.

Finally, the Board has explored the use of the design/build (D/B) process for implementation of a new treatment facility. As part of this effort, we have developed draft D/B procurement documents, including a preliminary (approximately 20 percent) design of the new facility. We feel the work completed to date represents a strong first step towards a new facility and will accelerate completion of the project under any project delivery format.

In summary, we believe that the Board has taken several significant, positive steps towards implementation of a new treatment facility, while performing due diligence on other supply alternatives and taking steps to strengthen the safe yield of our system. We are pleased to have the opportunity to discuss this progress with you in more detail when we meet on March 15, 2012. The Board looks forward to continued cooperation and support from the MassDEP as we implement these important and costly water supply and treatment projects. If you have any questions or wish to discuss any issues prior to our meeting, please feel free to contact me directly at (781) 794-8026.

Very truly yours,



Honorable Joseph C. Sullivan, Mayor of Braintree
Chairman
Tri-Town Board of Water Commissioners