



Massachusetts Association of Conservation Commissions

protecting wetlands, open space and biological diversity through education and advocacy

September 30, 2025

The Honorable Maura Healey
Massachusetts State House
24 Beacon Street, Room 280
Boston, MA 02133

RE: Request for Prompt Release of Revised Wetlands Protection Act Regulations
(310 CMR 10.00)

Dear Governor Healey,

On behalf of the Massachusetts Association of Conservation Commissions (MACC), we write to express our appreciation for your administration's commitment to environmental protection and climate resilience. We particularly commend the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection's (MassDEP's) thoughtful approach to developing the revised Wetlands Protection Act and Water Quality Certification regulations (aka "Climate Resilience 1.0 regulations").

As you know, in December 2023, MassDEP published draft revisions to the Wetlands Protection Act regulations (310 CMR 10.00) and Water Quality Certification regulations (314 CMR 9.00). These proposed regulations include crucial wetlands-related resilience updates that will enhance environmental protection and public safety as Massachusetts adapts to climate change. During the four-month public comment period in 2023 and 2024, dozens of municipal conservation commissions and staff provided valuable comments to MassDEP, demonstrating strong local support for these important regulatory improvements.

We recognize the significant effort required to review and consider the 280 unique comment letters and 800 support letters that MassDEP received. Balancing the need for robust, modern environmental regulations while addressing stakeholder concerns is indeed challenging work, and we appreciate MassDEP's careful deliberation.

However, we are concerned about the continued delays in releasing these vital regulations. The anticipated release date has shifted from mid-2024 to late 2024, to Spring 2025, to early summer 2025, and now to "soon". Conservation commissions in all 351 municipalities have been waiting over 16 months for these updated regulations, which support nature-based solutions, include updated precipitation data, and for the first time ever, provide performance standards for work in coastal floodplains. These are essential tools to help protect our communities and natural resources in the face of climate change.

We respectfully urge your office, the Executive Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs, and MassDEP to prioritize the release of the final Wetlands Climate Resilience 1.0 regulations and promulgate them as soon as possible.

Our members, the volunteer conservation commissioners, the conservation agents, and environmental consultants across the Commonwealth, are eager to implement these important updates as they continue their critical work protecting Massachusetts' wetland resources.

Thank you for your leadership on environmental issues and your consideration of this important matter.

Sincerely,

Massachusetts Association of Conservation Commissions



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