



Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs

Department of Environmental Protection

Address: 100 Cambridge Street, Suite 900, Boston MA 02114 | Phone: 617-292-5500

Maura T. Healey
Governor

Kim Driscoll
Lieutenant Governor

Rebecca Tepper
Secretary

Bonnie Heiple
Commissioner

April 7, 2026

Mr. Stephen B. Tibbels, Superintendent
Acushnet River Valley Golf Course
685 Main Street
Acushnet, MA 02743

TOWN OF ACUSHNET
Acushnet River Valley Golf Course
WMA Permit #: 9P2-4-24-003.01
Program: Water Management Act
Action: FINAL Renewed Permit

Dear Mr. Tibbels:

Please find the attached documents:

- Findings of Fact in Support of the FINAL Water Management Act New Permit # 9P2-4-24-003.01; and
- FINAL Water Management Act Renewed Permit # 9P2-4-24-003.01 in the Buzzards Bay Basin for Acushnet River Valley Golf Course.

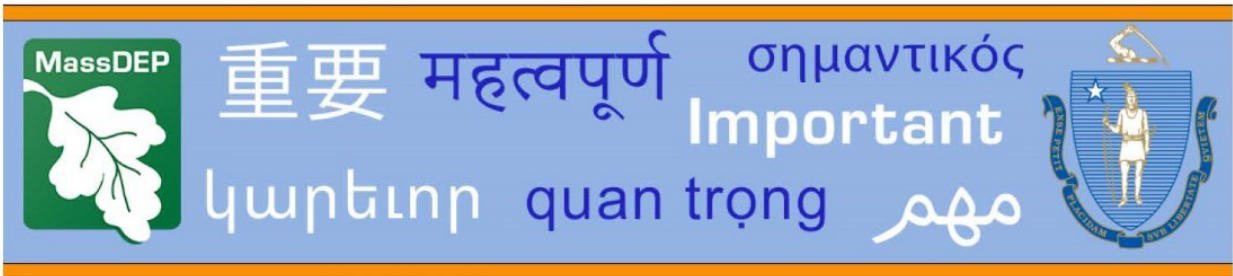
If you have any questions regarding the Final permit, please contact Linjun Yao at linjun.yao@mass.gov or me at (617) 780-1962 or via e-mail at duane.levangie@mass.gov.

Sincerely,

Duane LeVangie, Chief
Water Management Program
Bureau of Water Resources

Ecc: Lydia Olson, Mass Rivers Alliance
Korin Petersen and Mark Rasmussen, Buzzards Bay Coalition

[https://massgov.sharepoint.com/DEP-BWR/Permit Renewals/Acushnet- Acushnet River Valley GC-FINAL WMA Permit Renewal-9P2-4-24-003.01-2026-4-7_a11y](https://massgov.sharepoint.com/DEP-BWR/Permit%20Renewals/Acushnet-Acushnet%20River%20Valley%20GC-FINAL%20WMA%20Permit%20Renewal-9P2-4-24-003.01-2026-4-7_a11y)



Communication for Non-English-Speaking Parties

This document is important and should be translated immediately.

If you need this document translated, please contact MassDEP's Director of EJ at the telephone number listed below.

Español Spanish

Este documento es importante y debe ser traducido de inmediato. Si necesita este documento traducido, comuníquese con la Directora de Diversidad de MassDEP al número de teléfono que aparece más abajo.

Português Portuguese

Este é um documento importante e deve ser traduzido imediatamente. Se precisar de uma tradução deste documento, entre em contato com o Diretor de Diversidade da MassDEP nos números de telefone listados abaixo.

繁體中文 Chinese Traditional

本文件非常重要，應立即翻譯。如果您需要翻譯這份文件，請用下面列出的電話號碼聯絡 MassDEP 多元化負責人。

简体中文 Chinese Simplified

本文件非常重要，應立即翻譯。如果您需要翻譯這份文件，請用下面列出的電話號碼與 MassDEP 的多元化主任聯繫。

Ayisyen Kreyòl Haitian Creole

Dokiman sa-a se yon bagay enpòtan epi yo ta dwe tradwi l imedyatman. Si ou bezwen dokimar sa a tradwi, tanpri kontakte Direktè Divèsite MassDEP la nan nimewo telefòn endike anba.

Việt Vietnamese

Tài liệu này rất quan trọng và cần được dịch ngay lập tức. Nếu quý vị cần dịch tài liệu này, xin liên lạc với Giám đốc Đa dạng của MassDEP theo các số điện thoại ghi dưới đây.

ប្រទេសកម្ពុជា Khmer/Cambodian

ឯកសារនេះគឺសំខាន់ហើយត្រូវបានបកប្រែភ្លាមៗ។ ប្រសិនបើអ្នកត្រូវការឱ្យគេបកប្រែឯកសារនេះ:

សូមទាក់ទងមកនាយកផ្នែកពិពិធកម្មរបស់ MassDEP តាមលេខទូរស័ព្ទខាងក្រោម។

Kriolu Kabuverdianu Cape Verdean

Kel dokumentu li é inportáti y debe ser traduzidu imediatamenti. Se bu meste di kel dokumentu traduzidu, pur favor kontakta Diretor di Diversidádi di MassDEP na numeru abaxu indikadu.



Contact Deneen Simpson 857-406-0738

Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection
100 Cambridge Street 9th Floor Boston, MA 02114

TTY# MassRelay Service 1-800-439-2370 • <https://www.mass.gov/environmental-justice>
(Version revised 4.21.2023) 310 CMR 1.03(5)(a)

Русский Russian

Это важный документ, и он должен быть безотлагательно переведен. Если вам нужен перевод данного документа, пожалуйста, свяжитесь с директором по вопросам многообразия (Diversity Director) компании MassDEP по указанному ниже телефону.

العربية Arabic

هذه الوثيقة مهمة ويجب ترجمتها على الفور. إذا كنت بحاجة إلى هذه الوثيقة مترجمة، يرجى الاتصال بمدير التنوع PMassDE على أرقام الهواتف المدرجة أدناه.

한국어 Korean

이 문서는 중요하고 즉시 번역해야 합니다. 이 문서의 번역이 필요하시다면, 아래의 전화 번호로 MassDEP의 다양성 담당 이사에 문의하시기 바랍니다.

հայերեն Armenian

Այս փաստաթուղթը կարևոր է և պետք է անմիջապես թարգմանվի:
Եթե Ձեզ անհրաժեշտ է այս փաստաթուղթը թարգմանել, դիմեք MassDEP-ի բազմազանության տնօրենին ստորև նշված հեռախոսահամարով:

فارسی Farsi Persian

این سند مهم است و باید فوراً ترجمه شود.
اگر به ترجمه این سند نیاز دارید، لطفاً با مدیر بخش تنوع نژادی MassDEP به شماره تلفن ذکر شده در زیر تماس بگیرید.

Français French

Ce document est important et devrait être traduit immédiatement. Si vous avez besoin de ce document traduit, veuillez communiquer avec le directeur de la diversité MassDEP aux numéros de téléphone indiqués ci-dessous.

Deutsch German

Dieses Dokument ist wichtig und sollte sofort übersetzt werden. Sofern Sie eine Übersetzung dieses Dokuments benötigen, wenden Sie sich bitte an den Diversity Director MassDEP unter der unten aufgeführten Telefonnummer.

Ελληνική Greek

Το παρόν έγγραφο είναι σημαντικό και θα πρέπει να μεταφραστεί αμέσως. Αν χρειάζεστε μετάφραση του παρόντος εγγράφου, παρακαλούμε επικοινωνήστε με τον Διευθυντή Διαφορετικότητας του MassDEP στους αριθμούς τηλεφώνου που αναγράφονται παρακάτω.

Italiano Italian

Comunicazione per parti che non parlano inglese. Questo documento è importante e dovrebbe essere tradotto immediatamente. Se avete bisogno di questo documento tradotto, potete contattare il Direttore di Diversità di MassDEP al numero di telefono elencato di seguito.

Język Polski Polish

Dokument ten jest ważny i powinien zostać natychmiast przetłumaczony. Jeśli potrzebujesz przetłumaczonej wersji dokumentu, prosimy o kontakt z dyrektorem ds. różnorodności MassDEP pod jednym z numerów telefonu wymienionych poniżej.

हिन्दी Hindi

यह दस्तावेज़ महत्वपूर्ण है और इसका तुरंत अनुवाद किया जाना चाहिए. यदि आपको इस दस्तावेज़ का अनुवाद करने की आवश्यकता है, तो कृपया नीचे सूचीबद्ध टेलीफोन नंबरों पर मासडेप्स डाइवर्सिटी के निदेशक से संपर्क करें.

Contact Deneen Simpson 857-406-0738

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FINAL Findings of Fact in Support of Water Management Permit # 9P2-4-24-003.01 Acushnet River Valley Golf Course

The Department of Environmental Protection (the Department or MassDEP) makes the following Findings of Fact in support of the attached FINAL Water Management Act (WMA) Permit #9P2-4-24-003.01 and includes herewith its reasons for issuing the Final Permit and for conditions of approval imposed, as required by M.G.L. c. 21G, § 11.

Acushnet River Valley Golf's Withdrawal History

Original Permit: On July 9, 1997, ARVGC was issued a WMA Permit (9P2-4-24-003.01) to withdraw an average annual daily volume of 0.10 million gallons per day (MGD) or 18.34 million gallons per year (MGY) over a 183-day operating season. ARVGC is authorized to withdraw water for irrigation purposes from two groundwater sources (WM4880-01G and WM4880-02G) in the Buzzards Bay Basin.

Permit Expiration Date: In April of 2015, ARVGC submitted a 20-year permit renewal application for their Buzzards Bay Basin permit. The Permit Extension Act, Section 173 of Chapter 240 of the Acts of 2010, and as amended by Sections 74 and 75 of Chapter 238 of the Acts of 2012, extended all existing WMA permits by four years. Therefore, WMA permits for withdrawals in the Buzzards Bay Basin were extended to May 31, 2015. In a letter of March 28, 2016, MassDEP informed ARVGC and other permittees in the Buzzards Bay Basin that MassDEP would need additional time before making a determination on their application in order to ensure that all permit renewal applicants in the Buzzards Bay Basin fully understood the new Water Management Regulations (discussed below), and to give proper consideration to all permit renewal applications within the basin. Pursuant to M.G.L. c.30A, Section 13, and 310 CMR 36.18(7), the ARVGC's permit will continue in force and effect until MassDEP issues a final decision on its renewal application.

In accordance with 310 CMR 36.17(1), the expiration date for ARVGC's renewed permit in the Buzzards Bay Basin will be September 4, 2032.

Permit Renewal Application: As noted above, MassDEP received a WMA 20-year permit renewal application from ARVGC for their withdrawals in the Buzzards Bay Basin on April 7, 2015. The submitted application requested to maintain the permitted withdrawal volume of 0.10 MGD or 18.34 MGY. Pursuant to M.G.L. c. 30A, § 13, and 310 CMR 36.18(7), ARVGC's existing permit

continues in force and effect until the Department issues a final decision on the permit renewal application.

The Water Management Act (M.G.L. c. 21G)

The Water Management Act (Act) requires MassDEP to issue permits that balance a variety of factors including without limitation:

- Impact of the withdrawal on other water sources;
- Time of year when the withdrawal will be made;
- Water available within the safe yield of the water source;
- Reasonable protection of existing water uses, land values, investments and enterprises;
- Proposed use of the water and other existing or projected uses of water from the water source;
- Municipal and Massachusetts Water Resources Commission (WRC) water resource management plans;
- Reasonable conservation consistent with efficient water use;
- Reasonable protection of public drinking water supplies, water quality, wastewater treatment capacity, waste assimilation capacity, groundwater recharge areas, navigation, hydropower resources, water-based recreation, wetland habitat, fish and wildlife, agriculture, flood plains; and
- Reasonable economic development and job creation.

Water Management Regulation Revisions

In 2010 the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) convened the Sustainable Water Management Initiative (SWMI) for the purpose of incorporating the best available science into the management of the Commonwealth's water resources. SWMI was a multi-year process that included a wide range of stakeholders and support from the Departments of Environmental Protection, Fish and Game, and Conservation and Recreation. In November 2012 the Massachusetts Sustainable Water Management Initiative Framework Summary (<https://www.mass.gov/files/documents/2016/08/wf/swmi-framework-nov-2012.pdf>) was released.

On November 7, 2014, MassDEP adopted revised Water Management Regulations at 310 CMR 36.00 that incorporate elements of the SWMI framework and the Water Conservation Standards adopted by the Massachusetts WRC. The regulations reflect a carefully developed balance to protect the health of Massachusetts' water bodies while meeting the needs of businesses and communities for water.

Without limitation, MassDEP has incorporated the following into Water Management permitting:

- Safe yield determinations for the major river basins based on a new methodology developed through SWMI (see the Safe Yield in the Buzzards Bay Basin section of this document);
- Environmental protections developed through SWMI, including without limitation:
 - protection for coldwater fish resources;
 - minimization of withdrawal impacts in areas stressed by groundwater use; and

- mitigation of the impacts of increasing withdrawals.

Safe Yield in the Buzzards Bay Basin

This permit is being issued under the safe yield methodology adopted by MassDEP on November 7, 2014, and described in the regulations at 310 CMR 36.13. As of the date of issuance of this permit, the Safe Yield calculation for the Buzzards Bay Basin is 148.4 MGD, and total registered and permitted withdrawals are 82.36 MGD. The maximum withdrawals that will be authorized in this permit, and all other permits currently under review by the Department within the Buzzards Bay Basin, will be within the remaining safe yield and may be further conditioned as outlined in the regulations.

Findings of Fact for Permit Conditions in ARVGC’s Water Management Act Permit

The Findings of Fact for the special conditions included in the permit generally describe the rationale and background for each special condition in the permit. This summary of permit special conditions is not intended to and should not be construed as modifying any of the permit special conditions. In the event of any ambiguity between this summary and the actual permit conditions, the permit language shall control.

SPECIAL PERMIT CONDITIONS

Special Condition 1, Maximum Authorized Annual Average Withdrawal Volume, reflects the previously permitted volume of 0.10 million gallons per day (MGD) over the 183-day irrigation season for a total of 18.34 million gallons per year (MGY). This rate has not been changed from the previous permit.

For the years 2020 through 2024, ARVGC slightly exceeded its total authorized annual average daily withdrawal volume in 2020 due to a significant drought that year and increased fairway turf irrigation demands as single user cart requirements were imposed to address Covid-19 concerns.

Table 1. Authorized and Actual Average Daily Water Withdrawal Volumes (MGD)

Permitted	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Average 2020-2024
0.10	0.106	0.070	0.093	0.068	0.091	0.085

Special Condition 2, Maximum Daily Withdrawal Rates from Authorized Withdrawal Points, reflects a combined maximum daily withdrawal volume limit of 0.30 MGD to withdraw from two groundwater sources in the Buzzards Bay Basin. Withdrawals in excess of these maximum daily rates require approval from the Department.

The maximum daily volumes withdrawn from Irrigation Well #1 and #2 since 2020 are shown in Table 2. ARVGC has exceeded its approved maximum daily pumping rate during the years 2022, 2023 and 2024. Based upon the OTC response from ARVGC, the exceedance of the approved

maximum daily pumping rate noted on July 16, 2022 occurred due to the watering-in of a soil surfactant (wetting agent – applied to fairways) in the morning hours followed by a complete irrigation cycle that evening to complete the watering-in process of the surfactant as well as to irrigate the remainder of the course. The exceedance of the approved maximum daily pumping rate noted on May 24, 2023 occurred due to a similar watering-in process, in this case an insecticide applied to greens and fairways in the morning hours again followed by a complete irrigation cycle that evening to complete the watering-in process while also irrigating the rest of the course.

Since the OTC response ARVGC reported exceeding the maximum daily volume on September 18, 2024. This exceedance appears to be an aberration with average daily pumping in September 2024 averaging less than 0.10 MGD. The Department will continue to monitor ARVGC’s average daily and maximum daily withdrawals.

Table 2. Authorized and Actual Maximum Daily Water Withdrawal Volume

Source Name	Source ID	Authorized MAX Daily Withdrawal (MGD)	Reported MAX Daily Withdrawals (MGD)				
			2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Irrigation Well #1	WM4880-01G	0.30	0.294 on 5/28	0.299 on 6/10	0.329 on 7/16	0.331 on 5/24	0.353 on 9/18
Irrigation Well #2	WM4880-02G		0	0	0	0	0

Formerly Special Condition 3, Wetlands Monitoring, required that ARVGC monitor two vegetative wetland plots and collect ground water elevations. According to the annual Groundwater Elevation Monitoring Report and Wetland Vegetative Monitoring Report submitted by ARVGC, MassDEP determined that the withdrawal, as conditioned in the Permit, would not cause significant impacts on species abundance and the function of wetland. Therefore, this wetland monitoring requirement has been eliminated from the renewed permit.

Special Condition 3, Seasonal Demand Management Plan

Consistent with good water conservation practices, permitted golf courses will be required to implement a drought triggered Seasonal Demand Management Plan (SDMP) as a condition of their Water Management Permit. The SDMP, at a minimum, restricts nonessential outdoor water use when the Secretary of the Executive Office of Energy and Energy and Environmental Affairs declares a Level 1-“Mild Drought” or higher (“Significant Drought, Critical Drought or Emergency Drought”) for the region or watershed in which the golf course is located.

The SDMP shall also be implemented from May 1st through September 30th when streamflow falls below a designated flow trigger measured at an assigned, web-based, real-time U.S. Geologic Survey (USGS) stream gage from May 1st through September 30th. At a minimum, restrictions shall commence when streamflow falls below the trigger for three consecutive days. Once implemented, the restrictions shall remain in place until streamflow at the assigned USGS local

stream gage meets or exceeds the trigger streamflow for seven consecutive days. The low-flow statistic being applied, referred to as the “7-day low-flow statistic,” is the median value of annual 7-day low flows for the period of record for the assigned gage.

The ARVGC has been assigned the following USGS stream gage #01105933– Paskamanset River near South Dartmouth, MA. The 7-day low flow at this site is 1.4 cubic feet per second (cfs). Should the reliability of the flow measurement at the Paskamanset River near South Dartmouth gage be so impaired as to question its accuracy, the Permittee may request MassDEP`s review and approval to transfer to another gage to trigger restrictions. MassDEP reserves the right to require use of a different gage.

The ARVGC shall be responsible for tracking Massachusetts Drought status and recording when drought-triggered restrictions are implemented. The ARVGC shall also be responsible for tracking streamflow and recording when streamflow-triggered restrictions are implemented.

The SDMP is intended to address the necessary minimums of acceptable demand management required as dry conditions begin to impact our environment. Of particular importance in developing your SDMP and in evaluating its effect on your golf course`s irrigation, is the recognition of nonessential outside water uses. MassDEP considers the irrigation of tees and greens as essential uses, but fairways and roughs less so.

Section C of the SDMP provides three options for water use reduction. Two options for water use reduction are in table format with the third option being an open-ended alternative approach. The Acres Table requires that you identify the number of acres you irrigate for tees and greens, fairways, roughs, landscaping and ornamentals, along with a percent reduction per unit area with worsening drought. The Time-Table requires that you identify irrigation in timing reduction cycles.

The ARVGC submitted a SDMP dated January 30, 2025, that selected the Time-Table reduction approach. This approach has been incorporated into the permit.

Special Condition 4, Water Conservation Requirements

This condition have been updated and now incorporates the water conservation requirements that are subject to the July 2018 Water Conservation Standards for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts (<https://www.mass.gov/files/documents/2018/09/11/ma-water-conservation-standards-2018.pdf>).

Mitigation of Impacts for Withdrawals that Exceed Baseline Withdrawals, requires mitigation of withdrawals over a baseline volume, if feasible, if future withdrawals exceed the assigned baseline volume. Baseline withdrawal means the volume of water withdrawn during calendar year 2005 plus 5%, or the average annual volume withdrawn from 2003 through 2005 plus 5%, whichever is greater provided that:

- (a) baseline cannot be less than a permittee`s registered volume;
- (b) baseline cannot be greater than the permittee`s authorized volume for 2005; and

(c) if, during the period from 2003 to 2005, the permittee's withdrawals from the water source were interrupted due to contamination of the source or construction of a treatment plant, the Department will use best available data to establish a baseline volume from the water source.

The calculated baseline withdrawal volume for ARVGC is 0.10 MGD, which is the 2005 authorized withdrawal volume. Because the ARVGC's authorized withdrawal volume is 0.10 MGD and does not exceed its baseline volume, no mitigation measures are required at this time.

Minimization of Groundwater Withdrawal Impacts in Stressed Subbasins, requires permittees with permitted groundwater sources in subbasins¹ with net groundwater depletion of 25% or more during August to minimize their withdrawal impacts on those subbasins to the greatest extent feasible.

Since ARVGC's permitted sources are located in subbasin 22005 in the Buzzards Bay Basin where August net groundwater depletion is less than 25%, they are not currently required to implement measures to minimize the withdrawal impact.

Coldwater Fish Resource Protection was incorporated into the Water Management Regulations in November 2014. Coldwater Fish Resource Protection is not a condition of this permit because the ARVGC's withdrawals do not impact any waters that MA Division of Fisheries and Wildlife has identified as supporting coldwater fish at this time.

Changes from the Draft

In the FINAL permit, MassDEP updated the reporting requirements in Special Condition (SC) 3. SC 3 has been revised from the Draft to require that golf permittees notify MassDEP within 14 days of the effective date whenever restriction on nonessential outdoor water use are implemented or revised in accordance with the permit requirements.



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Address: 100 Cambridge Street, Suite 900, Boston MA 02114 | Phone: 617-292-5500

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Kim Driscoll
Lieutenant Governor

Rebecca Tepper
Secretary

Bonnie Heiple
Commissioner

WATER WITHDRAWAL PERMIT
#9P2-4-24-003.01
ACUSHNET RIVER VALLEY GOLF COURSE

This permit is issued pursuant to the Massachusetts Water Management Act (WMA) for the sole purpose of authorizing the withdrawal of a volume of water as stated below and subject to the following special and general conditions. This permit conveys no right in or to any property beyond the right to withdraw the volume of water for which it is issued.

PERMIT NUMBER: 9P2-4-24-003.01

RIVER BASIN: Buzzards Bay

PERMITTEE: Acushnet River Valley Golf Course
685 Main Street
Acushnet, MA 02743

EFFECTIVE DATE: April 7, 2026

EXPIRATION DATE: September 4, 2032

NUMBER OF WITHDRAWAL POINTS: 2

Groundwater: 2

Surface Water: 0

USE: Golf Course Irrigation

DAYS OF OPERATION: 183

LOCATIONS:

Source Name	Source ID	Latitude	Longitude	Location
Irrigation Well #1	WM4880-01G	41°43'17"	70°53'45"	Leonard St., Acushnet, MA
Irrigation Well #2	WM4880-02G	41°43'19"	70°53'45"	Leonard St., Acushnet, MA

SPECIAL CONDITIONS

1. Maximum Authorized Annual Withdrawal Volume from Buzzards Bay Basin

This permit authorizes the Acushnet River Valley Golf Course (ARVGC) to withdraw water from the Buzzards Bay Basin at the rate described below in Table 1. The permitted volume is expressed both as an annual average daily withdrawal rate (million gallons per day or MGD), and as a total annual withdrawal volume (million gallons per year or MGY) for each permit period over the term of this permit. ARVGC does not have a WMA Registration.

Table 1: Maximum Authorized Withdrawal Rates

Permit Periods	Total Raw Water Withdrawal Volumes	
	Daily Average (MGD)	Total Annual (MGY)
4/7/2026 to 9/4/2032	0.10	18.34

2. Maximum Daily Withdrawal Rates from Authorized Withdrawal Points

Withdrawals from combined withdrawal points are not to exceed the approved daily volume listed below without specific advance written approval from MassDEP (Table 2) Maximum daily withdrawals for individual sources must be provided in annual reporting forms.

Table 2: Maximum Authorized Daily Withdrawal Volumes

Source Name	Source ID	Maximum Daily Rate (MGD)
Irrigation Well #1	WM4880-01G	0.30
Irrigation Well #2	WM4880-02G	

3. Seasonal Demand Management Plan

Acushnet River Valley Golf Course shall limit nonessential outdoor water use through mandatory restrictions from May 1st through September 30th as outlined in the Seasonal Demand Management Plan (SDMP) and discussed below. At a minimum, restrictions shall commence when the Secretary of the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs declares a Level 1- Mild Drought or higher (Level 2- Significant Drought, Level 3-Critical Drought, or Level 4-Emergency Drought) for the region (Southeast Drought Region) or basin (Buzzards Bay) in which the golf course is located.

The SDMP shall also be implemented from May 1st through September 30th when streamflow falls below a designated flow trigger measured at an assigned, web-based, real-time U.S. Geologic Survey (USGS) stream gage from May 1st through September 30th. At a minimum, restrictions shall commence when streamflow falls below the trigger for three consecutive days. Once

implemented, the restrictions shall remain in place until streamflow at the assigned USGS local stream gage meets or exceeds the trigger streamflow for seven consecutive days. The low-flow statistic being applied, referred to as the “7-day low-flow statistic,” is the median value of annual 7-day low flows for the period of record for the assigned gage. ARVGC has been assigned USGS stream gage #01105933– Paskamanset River near South Dartmouth, MA. The 7-day low flow at this site is 1.4 cubic feet per second (cfs). Should the reliability of the flow measurement at the Paskamanset River near South Dartmouth gage be so impaired as to question its accuracy, the Permittee may request MassDEP’s review and approval to transfer to another gage to trigger restrictions. MassDEP reserves the right to require use of a different gage.

ARVGC has selected Option 2, the Time-Table, for their SDMP (Table 3).

Table 3: Acushnet River Valley Golf Course Seasonal Demand Management Plan

Irrigating for Shorter Durations as Drought Severity Increases Reduced Minutes in Irrigation Cycles								
Massachusetts Drought Levels	Irrigated Tees & Greens		Irrigated Fairways		Irrigated Roughs		Irrigated Landscape & Ornamentals	
	Percent	Time (min.)	Percent	Time (min.)	Percent	Time (min.)	Percent	Time (min.)
Normal	Full cycle	12	Full cycle	10	Full Cycle	8	100%	NA
Mild Drought or 7-Day Low Flow Trigger is reached	Full cycle	10	80%†	8	50%†	0	0%**	
Significant Drought	Full cycle	8	60%†	0	0%			
Critical Drought	Full cycle	8	40%†	0				
Emergency *	TBD		0%				0%	

† Irrigation shall not occur between the hours of 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., except that hand-watering of hot spots may occur at any time

* Additional actions to be determined by the Governor’s Emergency Proclamation

** Courses whose core business includes a special event venue may continue to irrigate gardens, flowers, and ornamental plants by means of hand-held hose or drip irrigation during a Mild, Significant, or Critical Drought.

Golf permittees must notify MassDEP within 14 days of the effective date whenever implemented or revised in accordance with permit requirements on restricting nonessential outdoor water use. Copies of the notification forms for golf courses can be found at [Outdoor Water Use Restrictions for Cities, Towns, and Golf Courses | Mass.gov](https://www.mass.gov/info-details/outdoor-water-use-restrictions-for-cities-towns-and-golf-courses)

4. Water Conservation Requirements

At a minimum, Acushnet River Valley Golf Course shall implement the following conservation measures forthwith (Table 4). Compliance with the water conservation requirements shall be reported to MassDEP upon request, unless otherwise noted below.

Table 4: Water Conservation Requirements

a. Metering 100% of water use, and calibrating source meters annually.
b. Implementation of an irrigation system inspection and maintenance program that includes the following on a routine basis: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leak detection and repair: Daily monitoring of the golf course to insure no leaks throughout the system are present. • Weekly Sprinkler head maintenance and replacement to ensure proper trajectory, pressure, and rotation • Weekly cleaning or replacing clogged nozzles.
c. Use of a computerized-control irrigation system that allows for irrigation of only those areas in need.
d. Use of portable soil moisture sensors and golf weather apps to increase the efficiency of the irrigation system
e. Irrigating in the early morning or evening hours when evaporation rates are at their lowest, to extent practicable to maintain the turf
f. Regular aerating of turf to increase the percolation of water into the soil
g. Use of mulch materials in planting beds to improve water-holding capacity of the landscaping
h. Use of environmentally safe wetting agents to improve water infiltration and minimize evaporation
i. Use of low water use or native drought tolerant plants to the greatest extent practicable
j. Employee training in water conservation and management

General Permit Conditions (applicable to all Permittees)

1. **Duty to Comply** The Permittee shall comply at all times with the terms and conditions of this permit, the Act and all applicable State and Federal statutes and regulations.
2. **Operation and Maintenance** The Permittee shall at all times properly operate and maintain all facilities and equipment installed or used to withdraw up to the authorized volume so as not to impair the purposes and interests of the Act.
3. **Entry and Inspections** The Permittee or the Permittee's agent shall allow personnel or authorized agents or employees of MassDEP to enter and examine any property, inspect and monitor the withdrawal, and inspect and copy any relevant records, for the purpose of determining compliance with this permit, the Act or the regulations published pursuant thereto, upon presentation of proper identification and an oral statement of purpose.
4. **Water Emergency** Withdrawal volumes authorized by this permit are subject to restriction in any water emergency declared by MassDEP pursuant to M.G.L. c. 21G, §§ 15-17, M.G.L.c. 111, § 160, or any other enabling authority.
5. **Transfer of Permits** This permit shall not be transferred in whole or in part unless and until MassDEP approves such transfer in writing, pursuant to a transfer application on forms provided by MassDEP requesting such approval and received by MassDEP at least thirty (30) days before the effective date of the proposed transfer. No transfer application shall be deemed filed unless it is accompanied by the applicable transfer fee established by 310 CMR 36.37.

6. **Duty to Report** The Permittee shall submit annually, on a form provided by MassDEP, a certified statement of the withdrawal. Such report is to be received by MassDEP by the date specified by MassDEP. Such report must be mailed or hand delivered to the address specified on the report form.
7. **Duty to Maintain Records** The Permittee shall be responsible for maintaining withdrawal records as specified by this permit.
8. **Metering** Withdrawal points shall be metered. Meters shall be calibrated annually. Meter shall be maintained and replaced as necessary to ensure the accuracy of the withdrawal records.
9. **Amendment, Suspension or Termination** The Department may amend, suspend or terminate this permit in accordance with M.G.L. c. 21G or 310 CMR 36.29.

APPEALS

Any person aggrieved by this decision may request an adjudicatory hearing on this Permit by timely filing a Notice of Claim for an Adjudicatory Appeal (“Notice of Claim”) in accordance with 310 CMR 36.37 and 310 CMR 1.01 within twenty-one (21) days of its receipt of this Permit. The Notice of Claim shall state specifically, clearly and concisely the facts that are grounds for the appeal, the relief sought, and any additional information required by applicable law or regulation. A copy of this Permit shall be included with a Notice of Claim. No request for an appeal of this Permit shall be validly filed unless a copy of the request is sent at the same time by certified mail, or delivered by hand, to the local water resources management official in the community in which the withdrawal point is located; and for any person appealing this decision, who is not the Permittee, unless such person notifies the Permittee of the appeal in writing by certified mail or by hand within five (5) days of mailing the appeal to the Department.

The Notice of Claim and supporting documentation must be sent by certified mail or hand delivered to:

Case Administrator
Office of Appeals and Dispute Resolution
Department of Environmental Protection
100 Cambridge Street, Suite 900
Boston, MA 02114

In addition, the Department’s fee transmittal form, together with a valid check made payable to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in the amount of \$100 for the appeal filing fee, if required, must be mailed to:

Commonwealth of Massachusetts Lock Box
Department of Environmental Protection
P.O. Box 4062
Boston, MA 02211

The Notice of Claim may be dismissed if the filing fee is not paid, unless the appellant is exempt or granted a waiver. The filing fee is not required if the appellant is a city, town (or municipal agency), county, district of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, or a municipal housing authority. The

Department may waive the adjudicatory filing fee for a person who shows that paying the fee will create an undue financial hardship. A person seeking a waiver must file, along with the hearing request, an affidavit setting forth the facts believed to support the claim of undue financial hardship.



April 7, 2026

Duane LeVangie, Program Chief
Water Management Act Program
Bureau of Water Resources

Date

Attachments:

Endnotes

Appendix: Instructions for Accessing Streamflow Website Information

ENDNOTES

- ¹ Subbasins used for WMA permitting are the 1,395 subbasins delineated by the U.S. Geological Survey in *Indicators of Streamflow Alteration, Habitat Fragmentation, Impervious Cover, and Water Quality for Massachusetts Stream Basins* (Weiskel et al., 2010, USGS SIR 2009-5272).

APPENDIX

Instructions for Accessing Streamflow Website Information

Streamflow information is available at the USGS National Water Information System (NWIS): Web Interface. The USGS NWIS default shows Massachusetts streamflows in real time, i.e., the most recent, usually quarterly hourly, reading made at each USGS stream gage.

Seasonal Limits on Nonessential Outdoor Water Use are implemented when the mean daily streamflow falls below the designated trigger. The mean daily flow is not calculated until after midnight each day when the USGS computes the hourly data into a mean daily streamflow. As a result, permittees must use the mean daily streamflow from the preceding day when tracking streamflows.

Mean daily streamflow gage readings are available at the USGS NWIS Web Interface at [USGS Current Conditions for USGS 01105933 PASKAMANSET RIVER NEAR SOUTH DARTMOUTH, MA](#)

- Scroll down to Daily Data and click on “Show these data types”.
- Choose “Mean” under “Show graph lines for”. Then choose ‘Graph it”.
- Scroll up and you’ll see a graph of daily data.
- Click “Show graph details”, the mean of daily cubic feet per second (cfs) measurement shown on the table.
- Or click the “View data records” and the daily mean flow values are displayed in a table below the graph.
- Compare the cfs measurement shown on the table to the cfs shown under Streamflow Triggered Restrictions.

Acushnet River Valley Golf Course shall document compliance with the Seasonal Nonessential Outdoor Water Use Restrictions annually. All permitted golf courses must notify MassDEP within 14 days of the effective date whenever implemented or revised their SDMP. Copies of the notification forms for golf courses can be found at <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/outdoor-water-use-restrictions-for-cities-towns-and-golf-courses>.