



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

March 9, 2026

Board of Directors
South Meadow Village Cooperative
Corporation
36-10 South Meadow Village
Carver, MA 02330

PWS ID: # 4052001
Water Management Act Permit
WMA Permit #9P-4-24-052.02
Permit Renewal

Dear Board Members:

Please find the attached documents:

- Findings of Fact in Support of the Final Water Management Act Permit #9P-4-24-052.02; and
- Final Water Management Act Permit #9P-4-24-052.02 (Buzzards Bay Basin) for the South Meadow Village Cooperative Corporation.

The signature on this cover letter indicates formal issuance of the attached document. If you have any questions regarding this information, please contact Jennifer D'Urso at jen.durso@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: Jim McLaughlin, MassDEP SERO
Jen Pederson, MWWA
Lydia Olson, Massachusetts Rivers Alliance
Korrin Petersen, Buzzards Bay Coalition
John Nickerson, South Meadow Village

Joyce Tolken, South Meadow Village

<https://massgov.sharepoint.com/DEP-BWR/DWPArchive/SERO/2026/Carver-4052001-South Meadow Village WMA Final Permit Renewal-3.9.2026-a11y.pdf>



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 dokiman 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 សូមទាក់ទងមកនាយកដ្ឋានពិធីកម្មរបស់ MassDEP តាមលេខទូរស័ព្ទខាងក្រោម។

Kriolu Kabuverdianu Cape Verdean

Kel dokumentu li é impurtánti y debe ser traduzidu imidiatamenti. Se bu meste dí 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 이사에게 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

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>
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Findings of Fact in Support of a Permit Renewal Water Management Permit #9P-4-24-052.02 South Meadow Village Cooperative Corporation

The Department of Environmental Protection (the Department or MassDEP) makes the following Findings of Fact in support of the South Meadow Village Cooperative Corporation (SMVCC or SMVCC's) attached Renewed Water Management Act (WMA) Permit #9P-4-24-052.02 and includes herewith its reasons for issuing the Permit and for conditions of approval imposed, as required by M.G.L. c. 21G, § 11.

South Meadow Village Cooperative Corporation's Withdrawal Summary

SMVCC was issued a Water Management Act Permit on June 5, 1992 to authorize a withdrawal volume of 0.19 MGD from one groundwater source, Tubular Well field #1-4052001-01G. On July 2, 2015, a replacement well, Tubular Wellfield #2 (4052001-02G) was approved by MassDEP to supply redundancy and restore lost capacity for SMVCC.

The Permit Extensions

WMA permits issued during the first 20-year permitting cycle for the Buzzards Basin were due to expire on May 31, 2011. The expiration dates for all Water Management permits were extended for four years by Chapter 240 of the Acts of 2010 as amended by Chapter 238 of the Acts of 2012, collectively known as the Permit Extension Act. The expiration date for SMVCC's permit was extended to May 31, 2015. Prior to the expiration date, SMVCC filed to renew its permit.

Pursuant to M.G.L. c. 30A, § 13, and 310 CMR 36.18(7), the SMVCC's existing permit continues in force and effect until the Department issues a final decision on the permit renewal application. The expiration date for all permits going forward in the Buzzards Bay Basin will be September 4, 2032, in accordance with the staggered permitting schedule set forth in the regulations.

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

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

- Impact of the withdrawal on other water sources;
- 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* (<http://www.mass.gov/eea/docs/eea/water/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 or for more information on the Safe Yield methodology, go to the November 28, 2012 SWMI Framework Summary and Appendices);
- Water needs forecasts for public water suppliers developed by the DCR, using a methodology reviewed and approved by the Massachusetts WRC;
- Water supply protection measures for public water supplies including Zone II delineations for groundwater sources and wellhead and surface water protection measures as required by Massachusetts Drinking Water Regulations (310 CMR 22.00);

- Water conservation standards reviewed and approved by the WRC in July 2018 (<https://www.mass.gov/doc/massachusetts-water-conservation-standards-2/>) including without limitation;
 - performance standard of 65 residential gallons per capita day or less;
 - performance standard of 10% or less unaccounted-for-water;
 - seasonal limits on nonessential outdoor water use; and
 - a water conservation program that includes leak detection and repair, full metering of the system and proper maintenance of the meters, periodic review of pricing, and education and outreach to residents and industrial and commercial water users; and
- 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 the 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 148.40 MGD, and total registered and permitted withdrawals are 82.36 MGD. SMVCC's new WMA Permit reduces their permitted volume from 0.19 MGD to 0.10 MGD, thus reducing the total permitted withdrawal in the Buzzards Bay Basin by 0.09 MGD, and not causing an exceedance of the Buzzards Bay Basin's safe yield.

Findings of Fact for Special Permit Conditions in the South Meadow Village Cooperative Corporation'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 WMA 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 CONDITIONS

Special Condition 1, Authorized Annual Average Withdrawal Volume, recognizes the 0.10 MGD SMVCC is authorized to withdraw from its ground water source in the Buzzards Bay Basin. The lower allocation reflects the reduction from the prior allocation of 0.19 MGD based on historic withdrawal volumes at SMVCC. As shown in Table 1, SMVCC's annual average daily volume in recent years has been consistently below 0.10 MGD.

Table 1: CMVCC’s Water Withdrawals 2018-2024

Withdrawal Basin	Actual Withdrawals (MGD)							Permitted Volume (MGD)
	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	
Buzzards Bay	0.09	0.08	0.09	0.09	0.09	0.09	0.09	0.10

Special Condition 2, Maximum Daily Withdrawals from Withdrawal Points Withdrawals from individual withdrawal points are not to exceed the approved maximum daily volumes listed in this condition without specific advance written approval from the Department. The authorized maximum daily rate is based on the approved Zone II rate.

Special Condition 3, Zone II Delineations. SMVCC’s permitted groundwater source has an approved Zone II. No further Zone II work is required as a condition of SMVCC’s WMA Permit.

Special Condition 4, Wellhead Protection. Department records indicate that the protections in place for SMVCC’s well meet the requirements of 310 CMR 22.21(2), therefore, no further wellhead protection work is required.

Special Condition 5, Water Conservation Requirements. This Special Condition incorporates the Water Conservation Standards for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts reviewed and approved by the Water Resources Commission in July 2018 (<https://www.mass.gov/doc/massachusetts-water-conservation-standards-2/>).

Special Condition 6, Seasonal Limits on Nonessential Outdoor Water Use. requires SMVCC to implement nonessential outdoor water use restrictions from May 1st through September 30th, beginning in 2026, when:

- Groundwater levels fall to the monthly 25th percentile for 60 consecutive days at the assigned groundwater monitoring well; or
- A Level 1- Mild Drought or higher is declared for the Drought Region (Southeast), county (Plymouth) or watershed (Buzzards Bay) where SMVCC withdrawals are located by the Secretary of Energy and Environmental Affairs.

SMVCC restrictions will be triggered based on a depth to water (ft) measurement at USGS well gage # 415453070434901 (PWW-22) in Plymouth, MA.

SMVCC shall notify MassDEP within 14 days of when restrictions are put in place.

Nothing in the permit shall prevent SMVCC from implementing water use restrictions that are more stringent than those set forth in this permit.

Note that the Department encourages all PWS's to adopt the Massachusetts Drought Management Plan's recommendations during times of a declared drought (Please see Table 2 below). The current drought status across Massachusetts can be found at [Drought Status | Mass.gov](#). The map is updated monthly during a declared drought.

Table 2: Massachusetts Drought Management Plan Recommendations

<p>At Level 1 - Mild Drought: Outdoor watering with irrigation systems and sprinklers should be limited to no more than one day per week; and Watering with a handheld hose or watering-can, should be limited to after 5 pm or before 9 am (to avoid evaporative losses).</p>
<p>At Level 2 - Significant Drought: Outdoor water use should be limited to handheld watering with a hose or a watering-can after 5 pm or before 9 am (to avoid evaporative losses); and Filling swimming pools, washing cars and washing buildings should be prohibited.</p>
<p>At Level 3 - Critical Drought: Outdoor water use should be eliminated.</p>
<p>At Level 4 - Emergency Drought: Outdoor water use should be eliminated.</p>

Special Condition 7, Reporting Requirements, ensures that the information necessary to evaluate compliance with the conditions included herein is accurately reported.

Additional Considerations

Coldwater Fishery Resource (CFR) Protection

Permittees with withdrawals that may impact streamflow of a CFR (identified on subbasin maps¹) must evaluate reducing impacts to CFRs through feasible optimization. There are no CFRs identified at this time that may be impacted by SMVCC's Buzzards Bay basin source. Therefore, SMVCC is not required to evaluate CFR impacts.

Minimization

Permittees with groundwater sources in subbasins having August net groundwater depletion (August NGD) greater than 25% are required to develop a plan to minimize the impacts of their withdrawals. There are no delineated subbasins in the location of SMVCC's groundwater supply. Therefore, minimization planning is not required.

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).

Mitigation

SMVCC's baseline is their 2005 withdrawal plus 5%, which is 0.10 MGD. SMVCC is a Tier 1 permittee, as their permit is being renewed for their baseline of 0.10 MGD and does not require mitigation at this time.



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WATER WITHDRAWAL PERMIT

#9P-4-24-052.02

South Meadow Village Cooperative Corporation

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: 9P-4-24-052.02

RIVER BASIN: Buzzards Bay

PERMITTEE: South Meadow Village Cooperative Corporation

EFFECTIVE DATE: March 9, 2026

EXPIRATION DATE: September 4, 2032

NUMBER OF WITHDRAWAL POINTS: 1

Groundwater: 1

Surface Water: 0

USE: Public Water Supply

DAYS OF OPERATION: 365

Table 1: Withdrawal Point Identification

Source Name	Source Code
Tubular Wellfield #2	4052001-02G

SPECIAL CONDITIONS

1. Maximum Authorized Annual Average Withdrawal Volume

This permit authorizes the South Meadow Village Cooperative Corporation (SMVCC) to withdraw water from the Buzzards Bay Basin at the rate described below in Table 2. The authorized withdrawal 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 of the permit term. The Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) will use the raw water withdrawal volume from all authorized withdrawal points to assess compliance with the permitted withdrawal volumes.

Table 2: Authorized Withdrawals

Permit Periods	Raw Water Withdrawal Volumes	
	Permit	
	Daily Average (MGD)	Total Annual (MGY)
3/9/2026 to 9/4/2028	0.10	36.50
9/5/2028 to 9/4/2032	0.10	36.50

2. Maximum Authorized Daily Withdrawals from Withdrawal Points

Withdrawals from permitted withdrawal point is not to exceed the approved maximum daily volumes listed below without specific advance written approval from MassDEP (Table 3).

Table 3: Maximum Authorized Daily Withdrawal Rates

Source Name	Source Code	MGD
Tubular Wellfield #2	4052001-02G	0.47

3. Zone II Delineation

MassDEP records show that SMVCC has an approved Zone II delineation for its groundwater source. Therefore, no further Zone II delineation work is required.

4. Wellhead Protection

MassDEP records show that SMVCC has successfully adopted local zoning and non-zoning controls that prohibit all uses and activities cited in the MA Wellhead Protection Regulations. Therefore, no further wellhead protection work is required.

5. Water Conservation Requirements

At a minimum, SMVCC shall implement the following conservation measures. Compliance with the water conservation requirements shall be reported to MassDEP upon request, unless otherwise noted in Table 4.

Table 4: Minimum Water Conservation Requirements

System Water Audits and Leak Detection
1. At a minimum, conduct a full leak detection survey every three years. The first full leak detection survey shall be completed no later than 3 years from the date of the last documented leak detection survey.
2. Conduct field surveys for leaks and repair programs in accordance with the AWWA Manual 36.
3. SMVCC shall have repair reports available for inspection by MassDEP. SMVCC shall establish a schedule for repairing leaks that is at least as stringent as the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leaks of 3 gallons per minute or more shall be repaired within 3 months of detection. • Leaks of less than 3 gallons per minute at hydrants and appurtenances shall be repaired as soon as possible. • Leaks of less than 3 gallons per minute shall be repaired in a timely manner, but in no event more than 6 months from detection, except leaks in freeway, arterial or collector roadways shall be repaired when other roadwork is being performed on the roadway. Leaks shall be repaired in accordance with SMVCC’s priority schedule including leaks up to the property line, curb stop or service meter, as applicable. SMVCC shall have water use regulations in place that require property owners to expeditiously repair leaks on their property.
Metering
1. SMVCC shall continue to calibrate all source and finished water meters at least annually and report date of calibration on the ASR.
Residential and Public Sector Conservation
1. SMVCC shall ensure that the standards set forth in the Federal Energy Policy Act, 1992 and the Massachusetts Plumbing Code are met when buildings are constructed or renovated.
2. SMVCC reports metering water used by contractors using fire hydrants for pipe flushing and construction and shall continue to do so.
Public Education and Outreach
1. Within ninety days of the effective date of this permit, SMVCC shall submit to MassDEP a plan and schedule for the development and implementation of a water conservation education and outreach plan designed to educate customers on ways to conserve water. Without limitation, the plan may include the following actions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include in bill stuffers and/or bills, information to residents on the water use and conservation efforts at SMVCC;

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public space advertising/media stories on successes (and failures); • Speakers for community organizations; • Joint advertising with hardware stores to promote conservation devices; • Use of civic and professional organization resources; • Special events such as Conservation Fairs; • Providing multilingual materials as needed.
<p>2. Thereafter, SMVCC shall develop and implement the water conservation education and outreach plan and schedule as approved by MassDEP. Upon request of MassDEP, SMVCC shall report on its public education and outreach efforts.</p>

6. Seasonal Limits on Nonessential Outdoor Water Use

SMVCC shall limit nonessential outdoor water use through mandatory restrictions from May 1st through September 30th as outlined in Table 5. SMVCC shall be responsible for tracking groundwater levels and drought levels and recording and reporting when restrictions have been triggered and implemented. See Table 5 for Instructions for Accessing U.S. Geologic Survey Groundwater Level and Massachusetts Drought Advisory Website Information. SMVCC shall also document compliance with the limits on nonessential outdoor water use annually in its Annual Statistical Report (ASR).

Nonessential Outdoor Water Use and Water Use Restrictions

Nonessential Outdoor Water Use means a use that is not required:

- (a) for health or safety reasons, including public facilities used for cooling such as splash pads and swimming pools, and for washing of boats, engines, or marine equipment to prevent negative saltwater impacts or the transfer of invasive aquatic species;
- (b) by permit, license, statute or regulation;
- (c) for the production of food, including vegetable gardens, and fiber;
- (d) for the maintenance of livestock;
- (e) to meet the core functions (those functions essential to the commercial operations) of a business, including but not limited to:
 1. plant nurseries as necessary to maintain stock;
 2. golf courses as necessary to maintain greens and tees, and limited fairway watering per 310 CMR 36.07(2)(c)2.a. through c.;
 3. venues used for weddings or similar special events that limit watering to hand-held hose or drip irrigation as necessary to maintain gardens, flowers and ornamental plants;
 4. professional washing of exterior building surfaces, parking lots, driveways and/or sidewalks as necessary to apply surface treatments such as paint, preservatives, stucco, pavement, or cement in the course of construction, reconstruction or renovation work;
- (f) for irrigation of public parks before 9:00 a.m. and after 5:00 p.m.,

- (g) for irrigation of public and private recreation fields, including those operated by schools, colleges, universities and athletic associations, before 9:00 a.m. and after 5:00 p.m.,
- (h) for irrigation of publicly-funded shade trees and trees in the public right-of way; or
- (i) to establish a new lawn as necessary to stabilize soil in response to new construction or following the repair or replacement of a Title 5 system.

Nonessential outdoor water uses that are subject to mandatory restrictions include:

- irrigation of lawns via sprinklers or automatic irrigation systems;
- filling swimming pools;
- washing of vehicles, except in a commercial car wash or as necessary for operator safety; and
- washing exterior building surfaces, parking lots, driveways, or sidewalks, except as necessary to apply surface treatments such as paint, preservatives, stucco, pavement, or cement.

Table 5: Seasonal Limits on Nonessential Outdoor Water Use

Permittee must at a minimum implement the following outdoor water use restrictions:						
Groundwater level Triggered Restrictions from May 1st through September 30th						
Nonessential outdoor water use is allowed no more than TWO DAYS per week before 9 am and after 5 pm whenever:						
<p>a) Groundwater levels at USGS Monitoring Well 415453070434901 (PWW-22) in Plymouth, MA decline to or below the groundwater trigger for 60 consecutive days. The monthly trigger levels are listed below and are the period of record monthly 25th percentile depth to water level values, as determined and published by the USGS. Restrictions could start on May 1, so monitoring of PWW-22 begins on March 1 of each year.</p>						
Trigger Values for Outdoor Water Use Restrictions (feet below land surface)						
March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept
24.5	24.1	24.1	24.0	24.5	25.0	25.25
Once implemented, the restrictions shall remain in place until the daily value of the groundwater levels at the assigned USGS monitoring well have recovered to less than the trigger for 30 consecutive days (when the water table elevation has risen above the trigger level).						

OR;

b) A Level 1-Mild Drought or higher is declared by the Secretary of Energy and Environmental Affairs for the Southeast Drought Region, Plymouth County or Buzzards Bay watershed where the permittee's withdrawals are located. Once implemented, the restrictions shall remain in place while the Level 1-Mild Drought or higher is in effect between May 1st and September 30th.

Instructions for Accessing U.S. Geologic Survey Groundwater Level and Massachusetts Drought Website Information

Groundwater level information is available at the USGS National Water Information System (NWIS): Web Interface. The USGS NWIS default shows Massachusetts groundwater levels in real time, i.e., the most recent, usually hourly, water level measured and recorded at each USGS monitoring well.

Seasonal Limits on Nonessential Outdoor Water Use are implemented when the daily mean depth to water level exceeds the designated trigger for 60 consecutive days (*i.e.*, when the depth to water becomes larger than the trigger value as the water table elevation declines). The daily water level is compared to the trigger for that month. To determine if restrictions must be implemented on May 1 it is necessary to monitor the daily water level in March and April.

Mean daily groundwater level readings are available at the USGS NWIS Web Interface at http://waterdata.usgs.gov/ma/nwis/current/?type=gw&group_key=county_cd

- Click on "Depth to Water Level"
- Scroll down to 415453070434901 (PWW-22) in Plymouth, MA under header "Plymouth County".
- Click on "View Monitoring location Page" at the station number.
- Click on the "Legacy Real Time Page".
- On the pull-down menu "Available data for this site" choose "Daily data".
- Under "Available Parameters" click on "WaterLevel, BelowLSD (Mean)".
- Under "Output Format" click on "Table" and enter the number of days of records (the default is 7 days; entering 60 will give you 60 days of data) and hit "GO".
- The table provides the "Daily Mean Depth to water level, feet below land surface" for the most recent number of days chosen.
- Compare each day's value to its month's trigger value (25th percentile) in your permit. Outdoor water use restrictions must be implemented when the daily depth to water level is at or below the trigger for 60 consecutive days.

Drought information is available at the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) Drought Status Website at [Drought Status | Mass.gov](http://www.mass.gov/drought)

- The color-coded map displays the drought regions in Massachusetts. Restrictions are implemented when a Mild, Significant, Critical or Emergency Drought is announced through the DCR website.

Public Notice of Water Use Restrictions

Permittee shall notify its customers of all provisions, including all restrictions, requirements and conditions imposed as soon as possible, but not later than 48 hours after the implementation of said restrictions. The Notice shall include a detailed description of the restrictions and penalties for violations.

Notification from May 1 - September 30 shall be by at least two methods reasonably calculated to reach and inform all customers (water users), and may include any of the following methods: publication in a newspaper of general circulation within the service area of the Permittee, by signage on major roadways or intersections within said service area, in writing, by email, on web sites, by public service announcements on local media, by reverse 911 calls or other such means.

Notice that restrictions have been put in place shall be filed with MassDEP within 14 days of the restriction's initial effective date by completing and submitting to MassDEP the **Notification of Water Use Restrictions** form, which can be found at [Outdoor Water Use Restrictions for Cities, Towns, and Golf Courses | Mass.gov](#) .

Enforcement Authority

This permit condition does not confer enforcement authority to the permittee. If the Permittee does not have appropriate enforcement authority, then beginning as soon as possible, but no later than 24 months after issuance of the Permit, the Permittee shall establish enforceable restrictions limiting nonessential outdoor water use.

Nothing in the permit shall prevent the Permittee from implementing water use restrictions that are more stringent than those set forth in this permit.

7. Reporting Requirements

SMVCC shall report annually as required by completing the electronic Annual Statistical Report (eASR) for public water suppliers and shall provide other reporting as specified in the Special Conditions above.

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

APPEAL RIGHTS AND TIME LIMITS

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.

EXEMPTIONS

The filing fee is not required if the appellant is a municipality (or municipal agency), county, district of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, or a municipal housing authority.

WAIVER

MassDEP may waive the adjudicatory hearing filing fee for any person who demonstrates to the satisfaction of MassDEP that the fee will create an undue financial hardship. A person seeking a waiver must file, together with the hearing request, an affidavit setting forth the facts which support the claim of undue hardship.



Duane LeVangie
Water Management Program Chief
Bureau of Water Resources

3/9/2026

Date