



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

September 16, 2026

Gerry Boucher
Atlantic Country Club
450 Little Sandy Pond Road
Plymouth, MA 02739

City/Town: Plymouth
Program: Water Management Act (WMA)
WMA Permit#: 9P4-4-24-239.03
Action: FINAL Renewed Permit

Dear Mr. Boucher:

Please find the following attached:

- Findings of Fact in Support of the Final Water Management Act Permit #9P4-4-24-239.03; and,
- FINAL Water Management Act Permit #9P4-4-24-239.03 (Buzzards Bay Basin) for Atlantic Country Club.

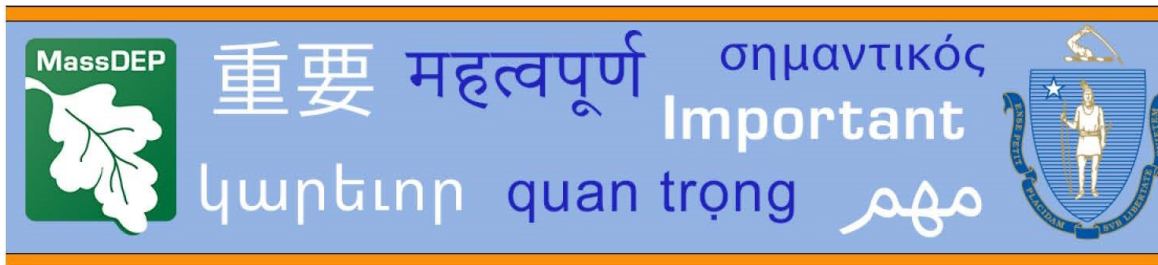
The signature on this cover letter indicates formal issuance of the attached documents. If you have any questions regarding this information, please contact Shi Chen via e-mail at: shi.chen@mass.gov.

Sincerely,

Duane LeVangie, Chief
Water Management Program
Bureau of Water Resources

Ecc: Patrick Farah, Assistant Conservation Planner, Town of Plymouth
Lydia Olson, Massachusetts Rivers Alliance
Melissa Shapiro, Massachusetts Rivers Alliance

[https://massgov.sharepoint.com/sites/DEP-BWR/DWPWMA/Permit Renewals/Buzzards Bay/Plymouth/Atlantic Country Club-9P442423903-FINAL Permit-2026-09-16](https://massgov.sharepoint.com/sites/DEP-BWR/DWPWMA/Permit%20Renewals/Buzzards%20Bay/Plymouth/Atlantic%20Country%20Club-9P442423903-FINAL%20Permit-2026-09-16)



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 Environmental Justice at the telephone number listed below.

Español Spanish

Este documento es importante y debe ser traducido inmediatamente. Si necesita traducir este documento, póngase en contacto con el Director de Justicia Ambiental de MassDEP (*MassDEP's Director of Environmental Justice*) en el número de teléfono que figura más abajo.

Português Portuguese

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繁體中文 Chinese Traditional

本文檔很重要，需要即刻進行翻譯。
如需對本文檔進行翻譯，請透過如下列示電話號碼與 MassDEP 的環境司法總監聯絡。

简体中文 Chinese Simplified

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Ayisyen Kreyòl Haitian Creole

Dokiman sa a enpòtan epi yo ta dwe tradui l imedyatman. Si w bezwen tradui dokiman sa a, tanpri kontakte Direktè. Jistis Anviwònmanal MassDEP a nan nimewo telefòn ki endike anba a.

Việt Vietnamese

Tài liệu này và quan trọng và phải được dịch ngay. Nếu quý vị cần bản dịch của tài liệu này, vui lòng liên hệ với Giám Đốc Phòng Công Lý Môi Trường của MassDEP theo số điện thoại được liệt kê bên dưới.

ប្រទេសកម្ពុជា Khmer/Cambodian

ឯកសារនេះមានសារៈសំខាន់
ហើយគួរត្រូវបានបកប្រែភ្លាមៗ។
ប្រសិនបើអ្នកត្រូវការអោយឯកសារនេះបកប្រែ
សូមទាក់ទងនាយកផ្នែកយុត្តិធម៌បរិស្ថានរបស់
MassDEPតាមរយៈលេខទូរស័ព្ទដែលបានរាយដូចខាងក្រោម។

Kriolu Kabuverdianu Cape Verdean

Es dokumentu sta important i tenki ser tradusidu imediatamenti. Se nho ta presisa ke es dokumentu sta tradisidu, por favor kontata O Diretor di Justisia di Environman di DEP ku es numero di telefoni menxionadu di baixo.

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 8.2.2023) 310 CMR 1.03(5)(a)

Русский Russian

Это чрезвычайно важный документ, и он должен быть немедленно переведен. Если вам нужен перевод этого документа, обратитесь к директору Департамента экологического правосудия MassDEP (MassDEP's Director of Environmental Justice) по телефону, указанному ниже.

العربية Arabic

هذه الوثيقة مهمة وتجب ترجمتها على الفور.

إذا كنت بحاجة إلى ترجمة هذه الوثيقة، فيرجى الاتصال بمدير العدالة البيئية في MassDEP على رقم الهاتف المذكور أدناه.

한국어 Korean

이 문서는 중대하므로 즉시 번역되어야 합니다. 본 문서 번역이 필요하신 경우, 매사추세츠 환경보호부의 "환경정의" 담당자 분께 문의하십시오. 전화번호는 아래와 같습니다.

հայերէն Armenian

Այս փաստաթուղթը կարևոր է, և պետք է անհապաղ թարգմանել այն: Եթե Ձեզ անհրաժեշտ է թարգմանել այս փաստաթուղթը, դիմեք Մասաչուսեթսի շրջակա միջավայրի պահպանության նախարարության (MassDEP) Բնապահպանական հարցերով արդարադատության ղեկավարին (Director of Environmental Justice)՝ ստորև նշված հեռախոսահամարով

فارسی Farsi Persian

این نوشتار بسیار مهمی است و باید فوراً ترجمه شود. اگر نیاز به ترجمه این نوشتار دارید لطفاً با مدیر عدالت محیط زیستی MassDEP در شماره تلفن ذکر شده زیر تماس بگیرید.

Français French

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Deutsch German

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Ελληνική Greek

Το έγγραφο αυτό είναι πολύ σημαντικό και πρέπει να μεταφραστεί αμέσως. Αν χρειάζεστε μετάφραση του εγγράφου αυτού, παρακαλώ επικοινωνήστε με τον Διευθυντή του Τμήματος Περιβαλλοντικής Δικαιοσύνης της Μασαχουσέτης στον αριθμό τηλεφώνου που αναγράφεται παρακάτω

Italiano Italian

Questo documento è importante e deve essere tradotto immediatamente. Se hai bisogno di tradurre questo documento, contatta il Direttore della Giustizia Ambientale di MassDEP al numero di telefono sotto indicato.

Język Polski Polish

Ten dokument jest ważny i powinien zostać niezwłocznie przetłumaczony. Jeśli potrzebne jest tłumaczenie tego dokumentu, należy skontaktować się z dyrektorem ds. sprawiedliwości środowiskowej MassDEP pod numerem telefonu podanym poniżej.

हिन्दी Hindi

यह दस्तावेज महत्वपूर्ण है और इसका अनुवाद तुरंत किया जाना चाहिए। यदि आपको इस दस्तावेज का अनुवाद कराने की जरूरत है, तो कृपया नीचे दिए गए टेलीफोन नंबर पर MassDEP के पर्यावरणीय न्याय निदेशक से संपर्क करें।

Contact Deneen Simpson 857-406-0738

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Findings of Fact in Support of Water Management Permit #9P4-4-24-239.03 Atlantic Country Club

The Department of Environmental Protection (the Department or MassDEP) makes the following Findings of Fact in support of the attached Water Management Act Permit Renewal #9P4-4-24-239.03 and includes herewith its reasons for issuing the Permit and for conditions of approval imposed, as required by M.G.L. c. 21G, § 11. The issuance of this permit is in response to a water withdrawal permit renewal application submitted in May 2015, by Atlantic Country Club (Atlantic CC) for the purpose of golf course irrigation.

Atlantic Country Club Water Withdrawal History

Atlantic Country Club operates an 18-hole public golf course in Plymouth, Massachusetts. The course is irrigated with water withdrawn from the Buzzards Bay Basin under Water Management Act Permit #9P4-4-24-239.03, issued on November 19, 2001 (The 2001 Permit). The 2001 Permit authorized Atlantic CC to withdraw an average daily withdrawal of 0.13 million gallons per day (MGD) from its two wells over 245 days.

Permit Expiration Date

The expiration date for Atlantic CC's permit going forward in the Buzzards Bay Basin will be September 4, 2032 to restore the staggered permitting schedule set forth in the Water Management Regulations.

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

The WMA 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, the Department 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, the Department 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;
 - mitigation of the impacts of increasing withdrawals; and
- The special permit conditions in each Water Management Act permit.

Safe Yield in the Buzzards Bay Basin

This permit is being issued under the safe yield methodology adopted by the Department 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 for the Buzzards Bay Basin is 148.4 million gallons per day (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 safe yield and may be further conditioned as outlined in the regulations. This permit does not allocate any additional withdrawal volumes, so it will not impact the safe yield of the Buzzards Bay Basin.

Findings of Fact for Permit Conditions in Atlantic Country Club's Water Management Act Permit

The following 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 Condition 1, Maximum Authorized Annual Average Withdrawal Volume, specifies the authorized annual average withdrawal volume for the term of this permit. The withdrawal volume for the Atlantic Country Club has been reduced from 0.13 million gallons per day (MGD) to 0.10 MGD or 24.5 million gallons per year (MGY) over 245 days from its irrigation wells. Atlantic CC requested this reduction as part of this permit renewal based on its recent water use. Table 1 reflects actual recent usage.

Table 1: Atlantic CC Reported Water Use 2023-2025

Year	2025	2024	2023
Average Daily Withdrawal over 245-day Irrigation Season (MGD)	0.07	0.05	0.05
Annual Total Withdrawal over 245-day Irrigation Season (MGY)	16.65	13.33	12.10

Special Condition 2, Maximum Authorized Daily Withdrawal, specifies the authorized maximum daily withdrawal rates for Atlantic CC's withdrawal sources. The maximum pumping rate for Irrigation Well #1 is 0.29 MGD and for Irrigation Well #2 is 0.23 MGD. Withdrawals in excess of these maximum daily rates require written approval from the Department. During periods when 24-hour continuous pumping is anticipated, associated meters shall be checked twice daily.

Former Special Condition 3, Groundwater Monitoring Plan, required Atlantic CC to implement a Groundwater Monitoring Plan (GMP) that had been approved by the Town of Plymouth as part of the Special Permit allowing the development of the golf course. The GMP was submitted on December 31, 1997 as part of the additional information requested in the Water Management permitting process. The GMP was required to be submitted through 2003 and was to include water quality monitoring and water level measurements. According to the Department's records monitoring reports were received between 1999 through 2003. Since the issuance of the initial permit in 1997, MassDEP has not received reports of negative impacts from the pumping of the irrigation wells at Atlantic CC. As noted above, Atlantic CC requested to lower its authorized withdrawal volume and its actual withdrawals have been less than its authorized withdrawal volume which may minimize the impact of their withdrawals. The last monitoring report submitted by Atlantic CC in 2003 states that there are no signs of groundwater contamination. Therefore, this permit condition has been removed.

Special Condition 3, Water Conservation Requirements 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/doc/massachusetts-water-conservation-standards-2/download>).

Special Condition 4, 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 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 in which the golf course is located.

The SDMP shall also be implemented from May 1st through September 30th when groundwater levels at a USGS monitoring well fall below a groundwater trigger for 60 consecutive days. The monthly trigger levels are the period of record’s monthly 25th percentile depth to water levels in a local well, as determined and published by the USGS. Restrictions could start on May 1, so monitoring of the well shall begin on March 1 of each year. 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).

Atlantic Country Club has been assigned the following USGS monitoring well:
#415453070434901 - MA-PWW 22 Plymouth, MA. The monthly groundwater trigger values are shown in Table 4 of the Permit. Should the reliability of the groundwater measurements at this well be so impaired as to question its accuracy, the Permittee may request the Department’s review and approval to transfer to another well to trigger restrictions. The Department reserves the right to require use of a different well.

Atlantic CC shall be responsible for tracking the Secretary of the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs drought declarations and recording when drought-triggered restrictions are implemented. Atlantic CC shall also be responsible for tracking groundwater levels and recording when groundwater-triggered restrictions are implemented. See the attached SDMP and USGS WaterAlert instructions for tracking information.

The SDMP is intended to address the necessary minimums of acceptable demand management required as dry conditions begin to impact the environment from May through September. 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 identifies the number of acres irrigated for tees and greens, fairways, roughs, landscaping and ornamentals, along with a percent reduction per unit area with worsening drought. The Time-Table identifies irrigation in timing reduction cycles. Atlantic CC has chosen

the Time-Table option set forth in the SDMP. Special Condition 4 requires implementation of the reductions called for in the Time-Table submitted as part of Atlantic C's SDMP. Like all golf courses, Atlantic CC is required to notify MassDEP when the SDMP or other required restrictions are implemented. Copies of the notification form can be found at <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/outdoor-water-use-restrictions-for-cities-towns-and-golf-courses>.

Other Considerations

Mitigation of Impacts for Withdrawals that Exceed Baseline Withdrawals requires mitigation of the impacts of withdrawals above the permittee's baseline, which is based on withdrawals made during 2003-2005. The calculated baseline withdrawal volume for Atlantic CC is 0.11 MGD, the amount of water withdrawn during calendar year 2005 plus 5%. Mitigation is not required at this time because as noted above, Atlantic CC requested to lower its authorized volume from 0.13 MGD to 0.10 MGD. Should Atlantic CC need more than 0.10 MGD they will need to file and obtain a new permit and provide the required mitigation if necessary and feasible.

Minimization requires 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.

Atlantic CC's permitted sources are located in an unassessed area where August net groundwater depletion has not been established. Therefore, Atlantic CC is 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 Atlantic CC's withdrawals do not impact any waters that MA Division of Fisheries and Wildlife has identified as supporting Coldwater fish at this time.

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).



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WATER WITHDRAWAL PERMIT

#9P4-4-24-239.03

Atlantic Country Club

This renewal of Permit #9P4-4-24-239.03 is approved 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.

PERMIT NUMBER: 9P4-4-24-239.03

RIVER BASIN: Buzzards Bay

PERMITTEE: Atlantic Country Club
450 Little Sandy Pond Road
Plymouth, MA 02739

EFFECTIVE DATE: September 16, 2026

EXPIRATION DATE: September 4, 2032

NUMBER OF WITHDRAWAL POINTS: 2

Groundwater: 2

Surface Water: 0

USE: Golf Course Irrigation

DAYS OF OPERATION: 245 (April-October)

LOCATION(S):

Source Name	Source Code	Latitude	Longitude	Location
Well #1	WM4887-01G	41 47 40.39	70 35 13.47	Little Sandy Pond Rd. Plymouth
Well #2	WM4887-02G	41 47 39.74	70 35 14.71	Little Sandy Pond Rd. Plymouth

SPECIAL CONDITIONS

1. Maximum Authorized Annual Average Withdrawal Volume

This permit authorizes Atlantic Country Club to withdraw water from the Buzzards Bay Basin at the rate described in Table 1. The permitted rate is expressed both as an annual average daily withdrawal rate (million gallons per day or MGD), and as a total 245 day withdrawal volume (million gallons per year or MGY).

The Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP or the Department) bases the withdrawal rates on the raw water withdrawn from the authorized withdrawal points and will use the raw water rate to assess compliance with the permitted withdrawal rate.

Table 1: Maximum Authorized Withdrawal Volume

Permit Periods	Daily Average Permit Volume (MGD)	Total Annual Permit Volume (MGY)
09/16/2026 - 09/04/2032	0.10	24.5

2. Maximum Authorized Daily Withdrawals from Withdrawal Point

Withdrawals from individual withdrawal points are not to exceed the approved maximum daily volumes listed in Table 2 without specific advance written approval from MassDEP. The authorized maximum daily volume is the approved rate of each source. In no event shall the combined withdrawals from the individual withdrawal points exceed the withdrawal volumes authorized above in Special Condition 1.

Table 2: Maximum Daily Withdrawal Volumes

Source Name	WMA Source ID	Maximum Daily Rate
Irrigation Well E-3	WM9057-01G	0.29 MGD
Irrigation Well E-5	WM9057-02G	0.23 MGD

3. Water Conservation Requirements

The Water Conservation Practices utilized at Atlantic CC submitted as part of its renewal application have been combined with the Best Management Practices that Atlantic CC indicated as being implemented. These are included in this Special Condition. This combination constitutes the water conservation requirements of the Renewed WMA Permit as outlined in Table 3.

Table 3: Water Conservation Requirements

a. Metering 100% of water use, and calibrating source meters annually.
b. New and existing irrigation ponds are lined with impervious material.
c. Implementation of an irrigation system inspection and maintenance program that includes the following on a routine basis: • Leak detection and repair: Daily monitoring of the golf course to ensure 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.
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. Improve irrigation uniformity through evaluation of design criteria such as nozzle size, spacing, scheduling coefficient and pressure selection.
g. Use of rain shutoff switches on new and existing irrigation systems.
h. Regular aerating of turf to increase the percolation of water into the soil
i. Use of mulch materials in planting beds to improve water-holding capacity of the landscaping
j. Use of environmentally safe wetting agents to improve water infiltration and minimize evaporation
k. Use of low water use or native drought tolerant plants to the greatest extent practicable
l. Employee training in water conservation and management

4. Seasonal Demand Management Plan

Atlantic Country Club shall limit nonessential outdoor water use through mandatory reductions as outlined in the Seasonal Demand Management Plan (SDMP). At a minimum, reductions 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 or county in which the golf course is located.

The SDMP shall also be implemented from May 1st through September 30th when groundwater levels fall below the groundwater triggers for 60 consecutive days. The groundwater-triggered response actions shall follow the drought-triggered response actions at the Level 1-Mild Drought.

Once implemented, the groundwater-triggered reductions 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). Atlantic Country Club has been assigned the following USGS monitoring well: #415453070434901 MA-PWW 22 Plymouth MA. The groundwater trigger values are provided in Table 4. Should the reliability of the groundwater measurements at this well be so impaired as to question their accuracy, the Permittee may request the Department's review and approval to transfer to another well to trigger restrictions. The Department reserves the right to require use of a different well.

Atlantic CC is using the Time-Table Option for its SDMP, which requires that the club identify irrigation reductions based on timing cycles (Table 5).

Table 4. Groundwater-Level Trigger Values

*Groundwater-Level Triggers (feet below ground surface) for 415453070434901 - MA-PWW 22 Plymouth, MA						
March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept
24.45	24.07	23.93	23.84	24.35	24.95	25.22

*Statistics Calculated 2026-06-05

Table 5. Atlantic Country Club Time-Reduction in its SDMP

Massachusetts Drought Levels	Irrigating for Shorter Durations as Drought Severity Increases Reduced Minutes in Irrigation Cycles							
	Irrigated Tees & Greens		Irrigated Fairways		Irrigated Roughs		Irrigated Landscape & Ornamentals	
	%	Time (min.)	%	Time (min.)	%	Time (min.)	%	Time (min.)
Normal	Full cycle	20	Full cycle	20	Full cycle	20	Full cycle	10
Level 1- Mild Drought or WMA Permit Trigger is reached	Full cycle	20	80%†	16	50%†	10	0%*	
Level 2- Significant Drought	Full cycle	20	60%†	12	0%	0		
Level 3- Critical Drought	Full cycle	20	40%†	8	0%	0		
Level 4- Emergency Drought**	TBD**	TBD	0%	0%	0%	0	0%	0

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

*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.

** Mitigation actions to be determined by the Governor`s Emergency Proclamation.

Golf permittees must notify MassDEP within 14 days of the effective date for triggering and implementing their SDMP. Notification is required for the initial implementation only each year. 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>

GENERAL PERMIT CONDITIONS (applicable to all permittees except Cranberry permits)

No withdrawal in excess of 100,000 gallons per day over the registered volume (if any) shall be made following the expiration of this permit, unless the Department has received a timely permit renewal application pursuant to 310 CMR 36.00.

1. **Duty to Comply:** The permittee shall comply at all times with the terms and conditions of this permit, the Act, the Water Management Act regulations at 310 CMR 36.00, and all other 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 water 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 the Department to enter and examine at reasonable times any property, facility, operation, equipment or activity involving the withdrawal of water, and to 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 the Department 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 the Department approves such transfer in writing, pursuant to the submittal of a transfer application in accordance with 310 CMR 36.33 on forms provided by the Department requesting such approval and received by the Department 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 as set forth in 310 CMR 4.00.
6. **Duty to Report:** The permittee shall complete and submit annually, on a form provided by the Department, all of the information required by said form including, without limitation, a certified statement of the withdrawal. Such report shall be received by the Department by the date specified on the form each year. For public water supplier permittees, the report form is the MassDEP Drinking Water Program Public Water Supply Annual Statistical Report.
7. **Annual Compliance Fee:** The permittee shall submit any applicable annual compliance fee as established in 310 CMR 4.00.
8. **Duty to Maintain Records:** The permittee shall maintain withdrawal records and other information in sufficient detail to demonstrate compliance with this permit.
9. **Metering:** All withdrawal points included within the permit shall be metered. Meters are to be calibrated annually. Meters shall be maintained and replaced as necessary to ensure the accuracy of the withdrawal records.
10. **Amendment, Suspension or Termination:** The Department may amend, suspend or terminate the permit in accordance with M.G.L. c. 21G and 310 CMR 36.29.

NOTICE OF APPEAL RIGHTS

Any person aggrieved by this decision may request an adjudicatory hearing 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 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 the 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, including a copy of the fee transmittal form and a copy of the check, 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 or money order 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.



Duane LeVangie
Water Management Program Chief
Bureau of Water Resources

September 16, 2026

Date

ATTACHMENT A

Seasonal Limits on Nonessential Outdoor Water Use using Groundwater Level

Instructions for Accessing U.S. Geologic Survey Groundwater Level and Massachusetts Drought Advisory 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 <https://waterdata.usgs.gov/state/massachusetts/#dataTypes=72019>.

- Scroll down to MA-PWW 22 Plymouth, MA-USGS-415453070434901.
- Click on “View Monitoring location page”.
- In “Daily data”, Click “Show these data types”, then Click “Graphed”
- Click “View tabular data”.
- The graph provides the “Depth to water level, feet below land surface- Daily Mean” for the most recent number of days or desired date range 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 has been at or below (*i.e.* a greater value than) the trigger values for 60 consecutive days.

Drought Status information is available at <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/drought-status>.

- Restrictions are implemented when a Mild Drought, Significant Drought, Critical Drought or Emergency Drought is announced in your region through the website.