

**Town of Freetown
Request for Determination of Applicability
Under the Interbasin Transfer Act**

Staff Recommendation and Request for Vote

Massachusetts Water Resources Commission
November 13, 2025

Freetown – Existing Conditions

- The Assonet area of Freetown has land area in the Taunton River Basin
- Most properties in Assonet are serviced by individual septic systems
- There is an existing wastewater connection between Freetown and Fall River, which serves some customers in Assonet who also receive water supply from Fall River's sources in the Buzzards Bay Basin and the Narragansett Bay and Mount Hope Bay Shore Basin

Description of Proposed Transfer

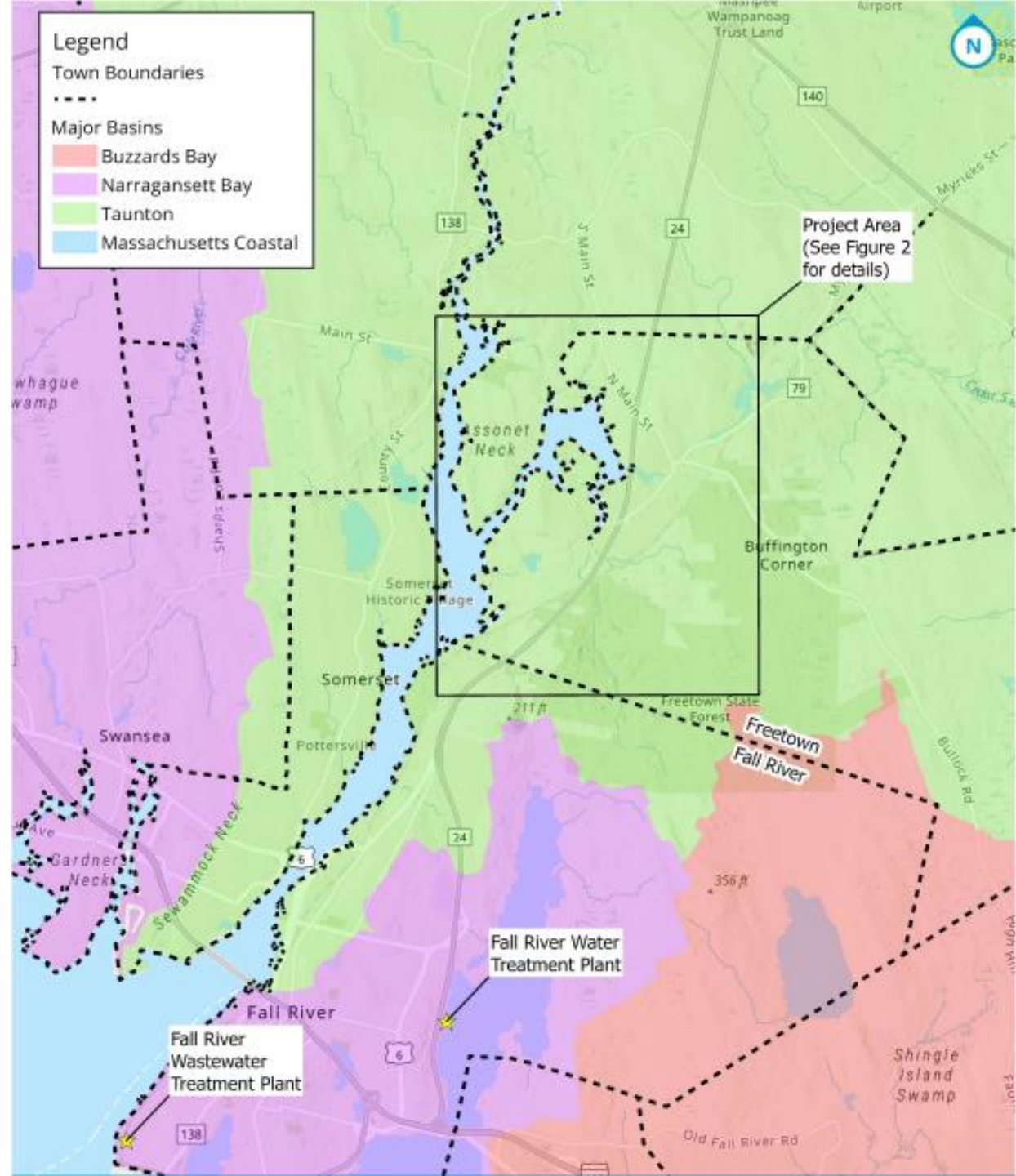
- The Town is proposing to extend sewer services in the Assonet area of Town
- The wastewater will be conveyed to the Fall River Wastewater Treatment Facility (WWTF), which discharges to the Massachusetts Coastal Basin
- The new total transfer (existing plus proposed) would have an average daily flow of 170,863 gpd with a maximum daily flow of 541,369 gpd.

Legend

- Town Boundaries (dashed line)
- Major Basins
 - Buzzards Bay (orange)
 - Narragansett Bay (purple)
 - Taunton (green)
 - Massachusetts Coastal (blue)

Map Labels:

- Project Area (See Figure 2 for details)
- Fall River Water Treatment Plant
- Fall River Wastewater Treatment Plant
- Buzzards Bay
- Narragansett Bay
- Taunton
- Massachusetts Coastal
- Somerset
- Swansea
- Freetown
- Shingle Island Swamp
- Old Fall River Rd
- Free State Forest
- County St
- Main St
- N Main St
- Myricks St
- Wampanoag Trust Land
- Airport
- Shawmut
- Gardner Neck
- Sewamock Neck
- Pottersville
- 211 ft
- 356 ft
- 138
- 24
- 79
- 140
- 6



The map displays the Freetown, Maryland area, including the Fall River and the proposed sewer service area. The map shows the following features:

- Town Boundaries:** Dashed black lines indicating the boundaries of Freetown and Assonet.
- Pump Stations:**
 - 4 South Main Street Pump Station (indicated by a green square)
 - 23 Alexandra Drive Pump Station (indicated by a green square)
- Sewer Lines:**
 - Existing 8" PVC Gravity Main (solid orange line)
 - Existing 12" DI Force Main (solid brown line)
 - Proposed 4" PVC Force Main (dashed green line)
 - Proposed 8" PVC Gravity Main (dashed light green line)
 - Proposed 12" PVC Force Main (dashed dark green line)
- Geographic Features:**
 - Assonet Neck, Camp Merriwood, Shoves Neck, Camp Welch, Freetown, and Berkley.
 - Streets: Ferry Ln, Ridge St, Riverside Dr, Highland Ridge Rd, N Main St, Friend St, Bay View Ave, Dean St, Forge Rd, Locust St, Mill St, Gramp Deane Rd, Copcut Rd, High St, Payne Rd, Hathaway Rd, State Forest Rd, and Bell Rock.
 - Water bodies: Fall River, Forge Pond, and Hospital Hill.
- Legend:**
 - • Town Boundaries
 - Pump Stations
 - Existing 8" PVC Gravity Main
 - Existing 12" DI Force Main
 - - - Proposed 4" PVC Force Main
 - - - Proposed 8" PVC Gravity Main
 - - - Proposed 12" PVC Force Main

Applicability Analysis

- The Town has existing intermunicipal agreements (IMAs) with Fall River for the supply of water and treatment of wastewater
 - The oldest available sewer IMA is dated February 1992
 - Oldest available water supply IMA: effective November 1, 1978, which pre-dates the ITA's effective date of March 8, 1984
 - Water supply IMA specifies 600,000 gallons per day

Applicability Analysis

- 313 CMR 4.05(9) exempts certain secondary transfers from review
 - “Transfer of wastewater that was previously authorized to be transferred as water or wastewater from one river basin to a second river basin, and is now being proposed for transfer into a third river basin”
- Water supply can be transferred to Freetown from Fall River’s sources under an IMA that pre-dates the ITA. Therefore, sending this wastewater to the MA Coastal Basin does not cause a new interbasin transfer

Applicability Analysis

- The exemption applies only to wastewater generated from properties served by Freetown's water system
- Total volume of wastewater transferred from Freetown to Fall River must not exceed the max day volume of 600,000 gpd as specified in the 1978 water supply IMA
- The Town intends to establish regulations requiring customers on private wells to connect to the Town's water system and disconnect from their wells before they can connect to the Town's sewer system

Staff Recommendation

- Staff recommends that the WRC finds the ITA is not applicable to the proposed project
- A vote on the RDA is requested today