

NEPONSET RIVER WATERSHED ASSOCIATION

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January 14, 2005

Mr. Steven McCurdy
Director
Division of Municipal Services
MA Department of Environmental Protection
One Winter St.
Boston, MA 02108

Dear Mr. McCurdy:

The Neponset River Watershed Association (NepRWA) respectfully requests that you remove the MWRA's Blue Hills Covered Storage Project from your Draft Intended Use Plan for the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund. This project has not yet received its Final Order of Conditions from the Department of Environmental Protection, and NepRWA is strongly opposed to the project in its present form. If permitted to move forward as proposed, the MWRA covered storage project will result in a net loss of 8.7 acres of wetlands in the Blue Hills Reservation. DEP has never allowed such a major wetland loss, without at least 1:1 replication, in the history of the agency. The Department should not be encouraging such a project by declaring it eligible for SRF funding.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely yours,

Ian Cooke
Executive Director

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