

November 20, 2015

Mr. Adam Turner  
Martha's Vineyard Commission  
The Stone Building  
33 New York Avenue  
Oak Bluffs, MA 02557

Re: North Bluff Seawall Project  
Oak Bluffs, MA

Ref: 1) Letter from *Packish* to *Foley* dated November 13, 2015  
2) E-Mail from *Turner* to *Whritenour* dated November 18, 2015  
3) MVC DRI Regulations dated October 2014  
4) MVC DRI Checklist Version 12

Dear Mr. Turner:

Pursuant to the letter from the Oak Bluffs Planning Board dated November 13, 2015, please accept this letter and noted attachment to explain the proposed North Bluff Seawall project and opine on its public and environmental benefits and regional impacts.

CLE understands the North Bluff Seawall project does not meet the criteria for a DRI referral under the guidelines of the DRI Regulations dated October 2014. The local seawall project is one (1) of three (3) projects either constructed or proposed for the town parcel located on Sea View Avenue Extension in the Town of Oak Bluffs. The three (3) North Bluff projects are as follows:

1. OFBA Fish Pier: Completed in 2014.
2. North Bluff Seawall: Construction contract awarded on November 18, 2015 with a substantial completion date of June 30, 2016.
3. Beach Nourishment II: Permitting to be completed in 2016.

The North Bluff area between the SSA Ferry Facility and the Harbor is in very poor condition and presents a grave hazard to the public and town infrastructure. The existing concrete seawall and coastal bank are in failed (F) condition and subject to collapse during a major coastal storm event. The loss of the seawall and coastal bank would imperil public facilities, infrastructure and private residences and businesses along Sea View Avenue extension. The concrete seawall, coastal bank and beach were severely damaged during Hurricane Sandy in 2012 and the coastal structures continue to deteriorate with each passing coastal storm event.



View of the North Bluff Seawall (2014)

The intent and objectives of the three (3) projects are as follows:

- Restore the six (6) timber groins and raise and expand the beach seaward by 50' to 60' by placing approximately 15,000 cubic yards (CY) of sand dredged from Sengekontacket or from compatible sediment sources.
- Construct a timber boardwalk to provide a pedestrian link between the SSA Ferry Facility and the Oak Bluffs Harbor.
- Provide ADA/MAAB public access to the beach and across the site from the SSA Ferry Facility, the Bath House, Sea View Avenue Extension, the Fish Pier, the beach and the harbor.
- Provide ADA/MAAB public access to the waterfront for the purpose of fishing and recreation.
- Provide enhanced coastal storm protection and sea level rise by creating a sacrificial beach (15,000 CY), stone revetment (3-4 ton), raised seawall (4') and restored coastal bank.

The North Bluff Seawall project began in 2007 with the intent of performing seawall repairs and constructing access improvements for an authorized structure (MA DPW), the project footprint was established in 2009 and the project has evolved into its current design based on Town of Oak Bluffs project objectives, local and state funding mechanisms, environmental requirements and the integration of the seawall project into the framework of the existing OFBA Fish Pier and proposed OB Beach Nourishment II projects. The North Bluff Seawall project was bid this fall (2015) and the Town of Oak Bluffs accepted a bid of \$4,979,747 from Northern Construction located in Weymouth, MA. The project is funded by a \$2,000,000 Seaport Grant, a \$3,600,000 DCR Dam/Seawall Grant and local Oak Bluffs Community Preservation Act (CPA) funding.

The North Bluff Seawall Project is fully permitted and obtained the following:

1. Amended Order of Conditions (SE53-0582) from the Oak Bluffs Conservation Commission dated February 8, 2010, May 25, 2010, June 3, 2014 and June 16, 2015 with notification of abutters within 300' of the project site for each hearing.
2. Confirmation from the Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) dated June 15, 2015 stating a General Permit 1 form is required to be submitted two (2) weeks before the commencement of construction.
3. Confirmation from the DEP Chapter 91 dated July 1, 2015 stating that the proposed North Bluff seawall repairs and access improvements may be undertaken as a "Minor Project Modification" to licensed structures pursuant to the Chapter 91 Waterways Regulations at 310 CMR 9.22 (3).

The North Bluff Seawall Project is a local project designed to address the needs of the Town of Oak Bluffs, protect public facilities and infrastructure and provide public waterfront access. The seawall project has been designed to minimize visual impacts for town residents and visitors while providing ADA/MAAB public access to the beach and fish pier.

Please feel free to contact me directly if you have any questions.

Sincerely,  
**CLE Engineering, Inc.**



Carlos G. Peña, P.E.  
Vice President

Cc: Robert M. Whritenour (Town of Oak Bluffs)  
Elizabeth Dolan Durkee (Town of Oak Bluffs)

Attachments:

- 1) CLE Project (3) Compilation Plan dated November 19, 2015
- 2) CLE Project Presentation dated June 23, 2015