

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 18, 2007

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**REP. STRAUS ANNOUNCES 2006 MUNICIPAL MINIGRANT PROGRAM
AWARD RECIPIENTS OF THE BUZZARDS BAY ESTUARY PROGRAM**

Representative Bill Straus (D.-Mattapoisett) announced today that the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs (EOEA), through its Office of Coast Zone Management (CZM) has awarded the following grants to the towns of Mattapoisett, Marion, Rochester and Fairhaven.

- **Town of Marion.** The Buzzards Bay National Estuary Program will fund up to \$15,000 for engineering designs for storm water remediation. Marion's proposal seeks to remediate storm water discharges affecting the northern portion of Sippican Harbor. This area of the harbor is on the State 303d list for bacterial loading, is affected by shellfish bed closures, and is home to three state listed threatened species. The discharge is on town-owned land and a planned road project in the area may allow for cost sharing for future project implementation.
- **Town of Rochester.** Rochester has been awarded \$5,500 to hire a professional engineer/land surveyor to prepare a Conservation Restriction Plan for a 9-acre property on which the owners have offered to place a permanent conservation restriction. The property is located within the Mattapoisett River watershed, contains bordering vegetated wetlands and an intermittent stream, and provides significant wildlife habitat.
- **Town of Mattapoisett.** Mattapoisett has been awarded \$3,375 to update their GIS parcel data so that it will be MassGIS Level II compliant. Mattapoisett's parcel data has not been updated in 10 years. The town will hire a consultant to complete this work.
- **Town of Fairhaven.** Fairhaven has been awarded \$6,500 to update their GIS parcel data so that it will be MassGIS Level II compliant. The town will hire a consultant to complete this work.

"I am extremely pleased that these towns with the assistance of federally funded grants allow for the remediation of numerous stormwater discharges that could pollute our beaches and shellfish beds. These monies also help repair herring runs and restore damaged wetlands" said Rep. Straus.

The Buzzards Bay Municipal Minigrant Program supports watershed municipalities in their efforts to implement the Buzzards Bay Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan.

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