



For Immediate Release
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LEGISLATURE PASSES WATER DISTRICT BILL

State Representative Bill Straus (D-Mattapoisett) announced today that the House of Representatives and Senate have approved a bill that will create the Mattapoisett River Valley Regional Water District to oversee the sharing of water supply resources between Fairhaven, Marion, Mattapoisett and Rochester. The District will be made up of representatives of the four towns and will provide a sustainable, cost effective, and high quality water supply for the future.

The bill must now be approved by the Governor before becoming law. "I'm pleased that the Legislature has approved this bill. By being proactive in managing our water supplies, we are ensuring that they will be sustainable in the future," said Representative Straus.

According to Don Torres of Marion, Chairman of the River District, "this legislation will realize substantial cost savings to the towns in delivering clean water to their residents. The action by the Legislature is the icing on the cake for a year of regional cooperation by the local committee; I appreciate Bill Straus' hard work to expedite its passage at the State House."

The creation of the District was approved overwhelmingly by voters in all four towns at their Spring 2004 annual Town Meetings. Proposed facilities to be operated by the District will include a six million gallon per day water treatment plant constructed in Mattapoisett, raw water transmission mains, finished water transmission mains, and metering stations. The treatment facility will provide connections between the four towns to allow for transfer of water supply in order to meet projected future demands without developing additional sources. The legislation enables the towns to work together on long-term planning of water use in the Mattapoisett River Valley.

Legislation finalizing the creation of the new district was filed at the State House by Representative Straus and Senators Montigny, Pacheco and Menard.

The proposed schedule calls for construction of the District facilities to be completed in July of 2007. Voters in Fairhaven, Marion, and Mattapoisett approved funding to start

the design of the project this past spring. The District will execute the remaining project funding through bonding.

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