



Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe
483 Great Neck Rd So. Mashpee, MA 02649
Phone (508) 477-0208 * Fax (508) 477-1218

2021-RES-077
APPROVAL OF LETTER OF SUPPORT
FOR
THE NPS - NCBN SEAGRASS RESEARCH PROJECTS

WHEREAS, the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe (“Tribe”) is a federally-recognized Indian Tribe with a duly-enacted Constitution; *and*,

WHEREAS, the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Council (“Tribal Council”), the governing body of the Tribe, deems it essential, and is empowered, under Article VI, §2.A. of the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Constitution to promote and protect the health and general welfare of the members of the Tribe; *and*,

WHEREAS, since time immemorial, the Tribe has relied on natural resources within our coastal waters to provide its tribal members sustenance, these resources areas are deemed historically and culturally significant to the Tribe; *and*

WHEREAS, the Tribe has learned of the National Park Service (NPS), Northeast Coastal and Barrier Network (NCBN) Interior Region 1 (IR-1) seagrass research projects, aimed at protecting the seagrass meadows which are identified as priority resources habitats; *and*

WHEREAS, because of the importance of these priority resources areas to our tribal members, the Tribe desires to support the NPS - NCBN submittal of the FY2024-2026 NPS Service-wide Comprehensive Call (SCC) proposals titled *“Identifying factors preventing the recovery of eelgrass from large-scale declines in Cape Cod Bay to inform management actions”* and *“Integrating across scales of seagrass monitoring to understand changes in resource conditions and mitigate degradation of seagrass meadows”* in three IR-1 National Parks: Cape Cod National Seashore, Fire Island National Seashore and Assateague Island National Seashore”; *and*

WHEREAS, both proposals recognize seagrass meadows as a priority natural resource and also recognizes that extensive seagrass meadows exist within the boundaries of three parks in the NPS Northeast Coastal and Barrier Network (NCBN): Cape Cod National Seashore (CACO), Fire Island National Seashore (FIIS), and Assateague Island National Seashore (ASIS) and that seagrass meadows are identified as priority resources at the park, regional and national level; *and*

WHEREAS, NPS - CACO and FIIS have developed a stewardship strategy outlining goals to achieving and maintaining desired seagrass conditions which include understanding threats to seagrass, improving environmental conditions, and expanding the extent of meadows via restoration;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Tribal Council desires to submit a formal letter of two NPS Seagrass Projects for the FY2024-2026 NPS Service-wide Comprehensive Call (SCC) proposals titled “Identifying factors preventing the recovery of eelgrass from large-scale declines in Cape Cod Bay to inform management actions” and “Integrating across scales of seagrass monitoring to understand changes in resource conditions and mitigate degradation of seagrass meadows” and the collective efforts to preserve, promote and protect the priority resource seagrass meadows in perpetuity.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Chairman of the Tribal Council, or in his absence other Tribal Council Officer, is hereby authorized to take all necessary action to ensure the submission of the letter of support, in substantively the same form as attached as Exhibit A, and to take such other actions as are reasonable and necessary in furtherance of the execution or performance of this Resolution.

Effective immediately and until revoked or modified by the Tribal Council, pursuant to the authority vested in the Tribal Council pursuant to Article VI, Section 2.A of the Constitution of the Mashpee Wampanoag. All resolutions or parts of resolutions inconsistent with this resolution are repealed.

CERTIFICATION

We, the undersigned Chairperson and Secretary of the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Council do hereby certify that the Tribal Council is composed of 13 members of whom 11, constituting a quorum, were present at a meeting thereof, duly and regularly called, noticed, convened, and held on the 1st day of December, 2021, and that the foregoing Resolution was duly adopted by the affirmative vote of 9 members, with 1 opposing, and with 0 not voting.

Dated this 1st day of December, 2021.



Brian M. Weeden, CHAIRMAN
Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Council

ATTEST:



Cassie D. Jackson, SECRETARY
Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Council

EXHIBIT A
LETTER OF SUPPORT