



David E. Pierce
Director

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

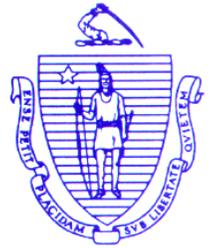
Division of Marine Fisheries

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Secretary

George N. Peterson, Jr.
Commissioner

Mary-Lee King
Deputy Commissioner

January 10, 2017

Secretary Matthew A. Beaton
Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA)
Attn: MEPA Office
Anne Canaday, EEA No.15411
100 Cambridge Street, Suite 900
Boston MA 02114

Re: 205 Revere Beach Parkway

Dear Secretary Beaton:

The Division of Marine Fisheries (*Marine Fisheries*) has reviewed the Environmental Notification Form submitted by TransDel Corp/Gate Residential for a mixed use development in Revere. The current proposal includes redevelopment of a vacant parcel to include the construction of a retaining wall along Sales Creek and fill behind it to raise the elevation of the site to meet the new FEMA base flood elevation.

The project is located on historically filled tidelands along Sales Creek, within the Rumney Marshes ACEC (Area of Critical Environmental Concern). Sales Creek runs into Belle Isle Inlet just south of Bennington Street. Belle Isle Inlet contains soft shell clam (*Mya arenaria*) and blue mussel (*Mytilus edulis*) resource and is within the GBH5.12 shellfish growing area, which is currently prohibited for shellfish harvest. Belle Isle Creek is potential habitat for winter flounder (*Pseudopleuronectes americanus*) spawning and juvenile development. The creek is utilized for forage and shelter by juvenile striped bass (*Morone saxatilis*) and tomcod (*Microgadus tomcod*) and is a migratory pathway for rainbow smelt (*Osmerus mordax*) and American eel (*Anguilla rostrata*).

The project would result in the reduction of impervious surface and improvement to the stormwater management systems, compared to existing conditions. *Marine Fisheries* recommends that the proponent make every effort to treat storm water using the best available stormwater management techniques, specifically designed to treat the pollutants and sediments at the site. Biofiltration swales, green roofs, rain gardens, pervious pavers, should be considered as possible ways to improve infiltration and flood control as well as filtration and pollution attenuation.

The construction of the retaining wall will impact the river bank and the floodplain. The bank is proposed to be stabilized with erosion control BMPs during construction and with plantings, riprap and further erosion control BMPs upon completion. There is insufficient explanation of how filling within the floodplain will impact flooding of adjacent areas. We recommend that the applicant explore ways to further improve the ecological function of Sales Creek, and ensure that the retaining wall will not exacerbate future erosion and degradation of Sales Creek River Front Area and floodplain. The construction of a gradual grading change into the site and a wider floodplain and riparian area should be considered as an alternative to the proposed retaining wall.

This could be used for a walking path and scenic park, for example, to allow incorporation of the creek into the site and enable access by wildlife and people.

Thank you for addressing our comments. Please contact Tay Evans of my staff at 978-282-0308 x. 168 if you have any questions about our review.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "David E. Pierce".

David E. Pierce, Ph.D.
Director

cc.

R. Lehan (DFG)

B. Gahagan (DMF)

K. Ford, T. Evans (DMF)

R. Freed, N. Baker (DEP)

Revere Conservation revere_concom@revere.org

DP/te/sd