

Via Electronic Mail

February 3, 2026



Mr. Michael Cobb, Water Permits Branch  
United States Environmental Protection Agency  
New England Headquarters  
Stormwater and Construction Permits Section (OEP06-1)  
5 Post Office Square, Suite 100  
Boston, MA 02109-3912

Re: EPA Request for Additional Information  
Phase 1 Phosphorus Control Plan, Alternative Schedule Request  
City of Newton, MA  
MS4 General Permit #MAR041080

Dear Mr. Cobb:

On behalf of the City of Newton, MA, Woodard & Curran is pleased to submit this letter in response to comments provided by EPA regarding the Phase 1 Phosphorus Control Plan (PCP) Alternative Schedule Request (ASR) submittal.

In a letter to the City of Newton, dated November 26, 2025, EPA indicated that the ASR was incomplete due to missing or unclear information necessary for EPA to complete its review. The City of Newton (City) and Woodard & Curran (W&C) have reviewed the comments provided by EPA and are requesting a meeting with EPA to review your comments and confirm alignment of our understanding of the additional information that EPA is requesting. In the meantime, the following clarifications and additional information are provided.

As discussed in the ASR, the City of Newton's phosphorus reduction requirement is unique: the second largest in Massachusetts overall; Newton's Phase 1 reduction requirement is larger than the Phase 2 requirements of 33 of the other 34 small MS4s; and Newton's Phase 1 reduction requirement is greater than 27 of the other small MS4s Phase 3 requirements.

Based on the extensive on-site due diligence efforts performed to date to support SCM implementation, the City of Newton has determined that site suitability, anticipated phosphorus reduction methods and in-turn final load reductions calculated based on as-built conditions are likely to vary significantly as project cycles evolve from planning through design and construction. A description and cost estimate for Phase 1 planned structural controls are provided in Newton's Phase 1 PCP; however, due diligence efforts completed since the development of the Phase 1 PCP have shown that exact projects and associated load reductions will vary. The planned structural controls which ultimately satisfy Newton's Phase 1 reduction requirements, and their resulting load reduction once implemented, often will be different than those anticipated at the planning stage due to actual site conditions. As such, the City of Newton's proposed ASR is based on an annual financial commitment to phosphorus reduction planning and execution, utilizing an average structural SCM implementation cost from the City's Phase 1 Plan. The City's significant financial commitment of \$5M annually toward implementation of phosphorus reduction is the basis of the ASR.

As noted in ASR Section 4 and Newton's Phase 1 PCP, structural control implementation costs were estimated at \$111.98M; cost development is detailed in Newton's 2023 Phase 1 PCP (Section 7). The City's \$5M annual commitment is intended to support specific phosphorus implementation components and is separate from other funding and execution that also support phosphorus reduction (such as non-structural controls). Therefore, the proposed ASR cost varies from that of the Phase 1 Plan, as detailed in



ASR Section 5 and Appendix B. The FCA presents multiple scenarios: baseline compliance consistent with the Phase 1 Plan, full compliance (Phases 1-3) and the proposed Phase 1 ASR, utilizing respective costs.

The Financial Capability Assessment indicates a "Low Impact." FCA Alternative 1 presents a scenario considering only stormwater and sewer costs, as well as a scenario considering water, sewer and stormwater costs. When considering drinking water costs in the FCA, the Residential Indicator does change from Low to Mid-Range. However, the Financial Capability Matrix, which accounts for the City's Strong financial capability indicator score, remains Low Impact. Moreover, no change occurs to the Expanded Financial Capability Assessment Matrix, and the City remains "Low Impact" when considering drinking water costs. Specific, detailed drinking water information noted in the 2024 Clean Water Act (CWA) Financial Capability Assessment Guidance is not provided since there is no change or impact to the results when accounting for drinking water costs.

The City of Newton is fully committed to improving their stormwater quality and implementing the City's phosphorus control plan. We trust that this letter provides clarification to your comments on the ASR. In order to provide EPA with any additional information that may be needed to complete your review of the ASR, the City of Newton and Woodard & Curran respectfully request a meeting with EPA to discuss the information provided and to clarify any additional documentation that may be needed to complete the ASR submittal.

The City of Newton and Woodard & Curran look forward to meeting with EPA to discuss the City's Phase 1 ASR. Please contact me at (781) 619-3289 regarding EPA's availability to meet to discuss this Alternative Schedule Request.

Sincerely,

WOODARD & CURRAN

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Stephanie Kaiser".

Stephanie Kaiser  
Senior Project Manager

CC: Shawna Sullivan, Josh Morse, Jonathan Yeo, Bernie MacDonald, Thomas Fitzgerald, City of Newton  
Zach Henderson, Carol Harris, Carly Quinn, Ethan Wilson, Woodard & Curran, Inc.  
Danielle Gaito, Michelle Vuto, EPA  
Doug Coppi, MassDEP

PN: 0233351.02