CHARLES RIVER conservancy

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Daniel Padien
Attn: Waterways Streamline Comments
MassDEP-BWR
100 Cambridge Street, Suite 900
Boston, MA 02114

Re: Waterways Streamline Comments

September 17, 2026

Dear Waterways Chief Padien:

On behalf of the Charles River Conservancy, I submit the following comments in support of the proposed changes to the Waterways Act regulations, aka Chapter 91, 310 CMR 9.00. These proposed streamlining regulations are particularly important for beneficial restoration projects. Allowing concurrent review of a project under Chapter 91 and the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act (MEPA) and flexibility in timing of applications under the Wetlands Protection Act are sensible regulatory reforms that will save both applicants and regulatory agencies time and money. I also encourage DEP to continue further regulatory streamlining for restoration projects and more frequent use of existing regulations to issue letters affirming no need for a Chapter 91 license or permit for projects removing old, obsolete fill, structures, or water control devices where the work will not create new impacts on public access or navigation.

Thank you for considering these comments.

Sincerely,

Laura Jasinski
Executive Director, Charles River Conservancy
ljasinski@thecharles.org