CHARLES RIVER conservancy

43 Thorndike Street, S3-3
Cambridge Massachusetts
0 2 1 4 1

617 608 1410 t

crc@thecharles.org
www.thecharles.org

Executive Director Stephen Estes-Smargiassi
Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA)
2 Griffin Way
Chelsea, MA 02150

Re: MWR201 (Cottage Farm CSO Facility) Storage Tank at Magazine Beach

October 16, 2026

Dear Executive Director Estes-Smargiassi and team,

The Charles River Conservancy (CRC) strongly opposes MWRA's current proposal to permanently fence off 2.3 acres of public parkland at Magazine Beach for a 10.1-million-gallon underground sewer storage tank.

Founded in 2000, CRC works to make the Lower Charles River and its parks more vibrant, healthy, and welcoming. We steward 10 miles of riverfront in Boston, Cambridge, and Watertown, serving 300,000 nearby residents and more than one million visitors. Magazine Beach is one of the primary parks in our geography where we routinely host volunteer cleanup events, promote connectivity and safety along the much-utilized greenways, and engage with neighbors and visitors on evolving community needs.

The CRC supports ambitious investment in stormwater management and cleaner rivers, but not at the expense of public parkland. Magazine Beach is an invaluable green space in Cambridge, one of Massachusetts' densest cities. Permanently removing large swaths of protected parkland from public use is a non-starter.

We ask the MWRA to withdraw this proposal and conduct a transparent evaluation of alternatives that preserve public access, including other locations and designs with substantially less impact on parkland. Viable alternatives exist, and there are plenty of examples where sewer management infrastructure has been successfully integrated with public amenities rather than permanent exclusion.

CRC believes everyone deserves a core memory on the Charles. Fencing families and communities out of a substantial area of Magazine Beach would undermine that vision and the public's long investment in this park.

Sincerely,

Laura Jasinski

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