

## PROJECT NARRATIVE

208 Downer Avenue

Map 11, Block 0, Lot 12

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The subject property is located on Hingham Bay and is operated as a commercial use boat yard/storage area. The proposed project consists of vista pruning for the benefit of #5 Merrill Street which abuts the locus. 5 Merrill Street has the benefit of a pruning easement on the locus as described in the attached document labelled as Exhibit A.

A portion of the site falls within land subject to Coastal Storm Flowage (LSCSF) and contains vegetated Coastal Banks. Both the coastal bank and LSCSF are shown on the on the attached Pruning Exhibit Plan. The coastal bank is delineated in accordance with DEP's Definition and Delineation Criteria for Coastal Banks (DWW Policy 92-1) and the LSCSF is based on the latest FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM).

Included in the Notice of Intent application is a Vista Prune Assessment (VPA) that provides details on the proposed pruning. The Pruning Exhibit plan shows the location of the trees referenced in the VPA. The plan shows that all the trees specified to be pruned are located on the coastal bank except tree #6. Trees 6,14,15 and 16 are locate within LSCSF.

The VPA suggests removal of a black cherry to protect the existing barn structure, however, this work will not be performed as part of this project. The report also references a few trees to be pruned or removed, only pruning will be performed as part of this project. There will be no complete removal of trees as part of this project. The sumac and honeysuckle at the top of the bank will be cut down and maintained at 12 to 24 inches. Pruning will be required periodically to help provide more sunlight on the bank and stimulate the undergrowth as mentioned in the report.

### Performance Standards 310 CMR 10.30(3) through (5):

The coastal bank is significant to storm damage prevention and flood control. The bank does not supply sediment to coastal beaches, dunes or barrier beaches. It is well vegetated with mature growth and there are no signs of erosion or instability.

(3) The proposed work does not consist of any engineering structures or protection of buildings. The project does provide the ability for a more robust undergrowth that will reduce erosion.

(4) The proposed work on the coastal bank will not have an adverse impact due to wave action or movement of sediment. The project does not require any ground disturbance.

(5) The project does not include any building, and the bank is non-eroding. The Order of Conditions (OOC) will presumably contain conditions to insure the stability of the bank.

### Performance Standards HWR Sections 18.1(d)(2):

The coastal bank serves solely as a Vertical Buffer Coastal Bank. The project will not cause any adverse effect on the bank and the function as a vertical buffer. Bank height and stability will not be altered. There will be an improvement to bank vegetation by allowing more sunlight on the bank to promote undergrowth. Additional undergrowth will also benefit wildlife habitat.

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### Performance Standards HWR Sections 20.1(d):

As previously described, only four trees to be pruned fall within LSCSF. The proposed project will not have an adverse effect on the wetland values of the LSCSF. The project will not interfere with wildlife habitat functions, in fact the functions will be enhanced with the likely increase in undergrowth because of the pruning.

Removal of suspended solids and other contaminants will not be a concern for this project. There will be no changes to the surface of the bank and undergrowth will be improved which will enhance removal if needed.

Sea rise impacts will not be affected by the proposed project.

There will be no proposed impervious surfaces or shoreline structures as part of this project.

In summary, it is our professional opinion that there will not be any negative impacts because of the proposed work and that there is an opportunity to improve conditions for the resource area.