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Subject: request for letter of support 604b RME grant
Date: Sunday, September 13, 2026 10:49:05 PM
Attachments: [Support Letter.SelectBoard.docx](#)

Good morning,

The Martha's Vineyard Commission is preparing a grant application to Massachusetts DEP for a 604b planning grant to develop a Responsible Management Entity (RME) for the island and requests your support in a letter to accompany our application. Here is a short background to provide context for this request.

The Towns of Martha's Vineyard are in various stages of completing Comprehensive Wastewater Management Plans (CWMP's), 208 or similar management plans. As Martha's Vineyard towns consider Title 5 septic system regulatory changes to increase the use of Best Available Nitrogen Reducing Technology (BANRT) systems as part of these plans, the value of a regional, cooperative, and collaborative entity that supports all island homeowner efforts to install, maintain and monitor these systems has become apparent. At present, there is no institutional framework to ensure consistent installation, operation, maintenance, testing, or financing for BANRT systems for Nitrogen Sensitive Areas on Martha's Vineyard.

Until now, Island Health Agents have depended on Barnstable County's system to host our septic test data enabling us to comply with the State's reporting requirements. However, the growing needs both on Cape Cod and here on island compels us to plan for more comprehensive data collection and assistance to home-owners than the Barnstable system can support. The State is offering grant incentives for us to develop our own dedicated Responsible Management Entity.

The scope of our work over the two or three year period of the grant would include: 1. developing a centralized data management system to track and monitor the systems (the MVC has the capacity to do this); 2. planning and developing a water testing laboratory and staff to manage sampling, testing and reporting of mandatory testing of nitrogen reducing technologies; 3. developing a business plan, budget and financing strategies for the RME; 4. developing processes for streamlining technology selection, siting and installation; and 5. developing operational policies and procedures.

The resulting grant application from the MVC will be due on October 4, 2026. We hope you will consider writing a letter of support (see sample attached) so that we can demonstrate island-wide support for this effort. We would be happy to respond to further questions either in person or on a call. Please return signed letters of support to me.

Sincerely,
Sheri Caseau, MVC Water Quality Planner

Sheri L. Caseau

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