

STATEMENT OF THE SUMMER RESIDENTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

TOWN OF CHATHAM

COMPREHENSIVE WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT PLAN

May 22, 2008

The Summer Residents Advisory Committee was established to provide the Chatham Board of Selectmen with a vehicle for dialogue with Chatham's non-resident taxpayers, who pay more than sixty percent of the real estate taxes collected by the Town, on critical issues facing the community.

Since its inception, at its meetings during the summer months and at the annual Summer Town Meeting it sponsors, no single issue has been more important to the Summer Residents Advisory Committee or consumed more of its time than the condition of the Town's embayments and ponds.

Chatham's salt water embayments and fresh water ponds are among its most important assets and they are in serious decline. We see it in the loss of eel grass and shell fish flats and in the increase in algae in our saltwater embayments and in the noxious weeds choking our fresh water ponds. Restoring them before they reach a non-recoverable condition requires a significant reduction of nitrogen and phosphorous. Septic discharges account for 80% to 90% of the input of these nutrients.

The expansion and upgrading of the existing wastewater treatment facility and expansion of the wastewater collection system to a sufficient capacity to sewer Chatham, proposed in the Comprehensive Wastewater Management Plan to address this critical issue, has the support of the Summer Residents Advisory Committee and the overwhelming majority of non-resident taxpayers it represents.

Dr. Duncanson, his staff and consultants, deserve our thanks for their fine effort in putting together this plan to restore Chatham's salt water embayments and fresh water ponds.

Jill MacDonald
Vice Chairman