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The background image is a wide-angle photograph of a coastal scene. In the foreground, there is a rocky shoreline covered with green seaweed and small plants. The middle ground shows a calm blue body of water with a few small boats. In the background, there is a line of green trees and several houses, including one with a prominent American flag. The sky is bright blue with scattered white clouds.

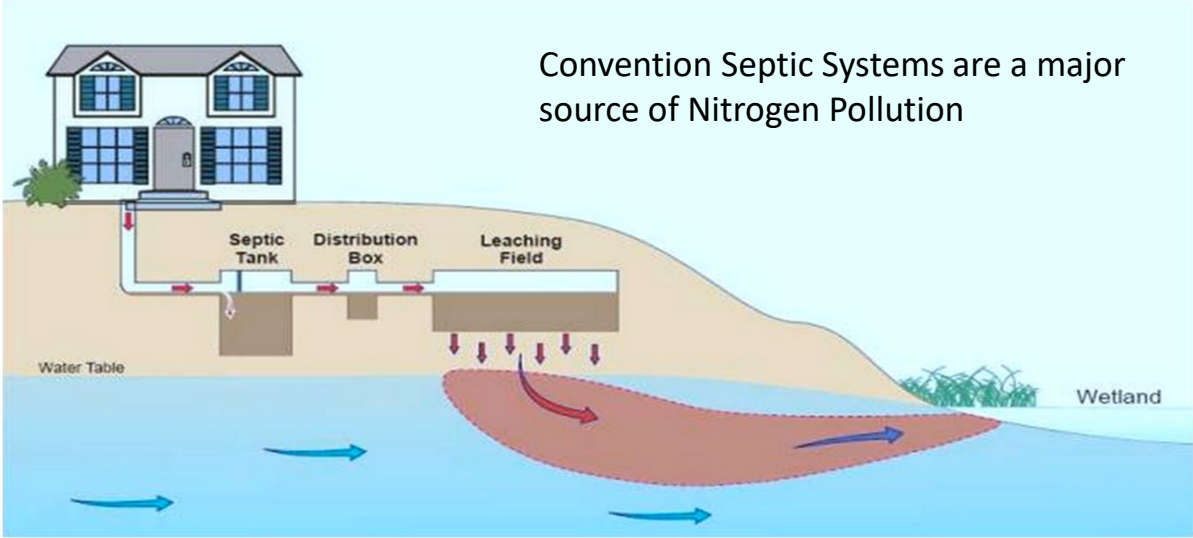
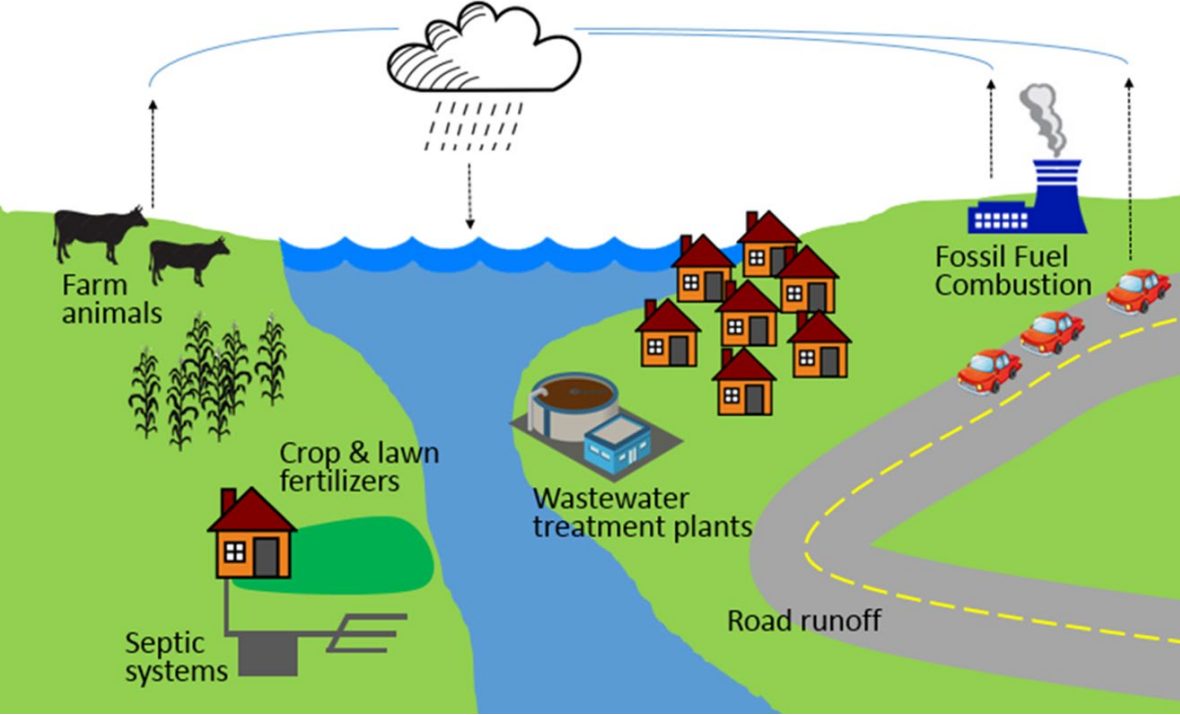
**Wastewater and Watershed  
Management**  
**West Falmouth Village Association**  
**March 2, 2023**  
**West Falmouth Library**

# Buzzards Bay Coalition

- Nonprofit, membership organization founded in 1987.
- Supported by over 11,000 members, ~1,500 members in the town of Falmouth.
- Dedicated to restoration, protection and sustainable use & enjoyment of the Bay and its watershed.
- Work to improve the Bay ecosystem for all through advocacy, research, conservation, and education.
- Monitoring waters in West Falmouth Harbor Since 1993.

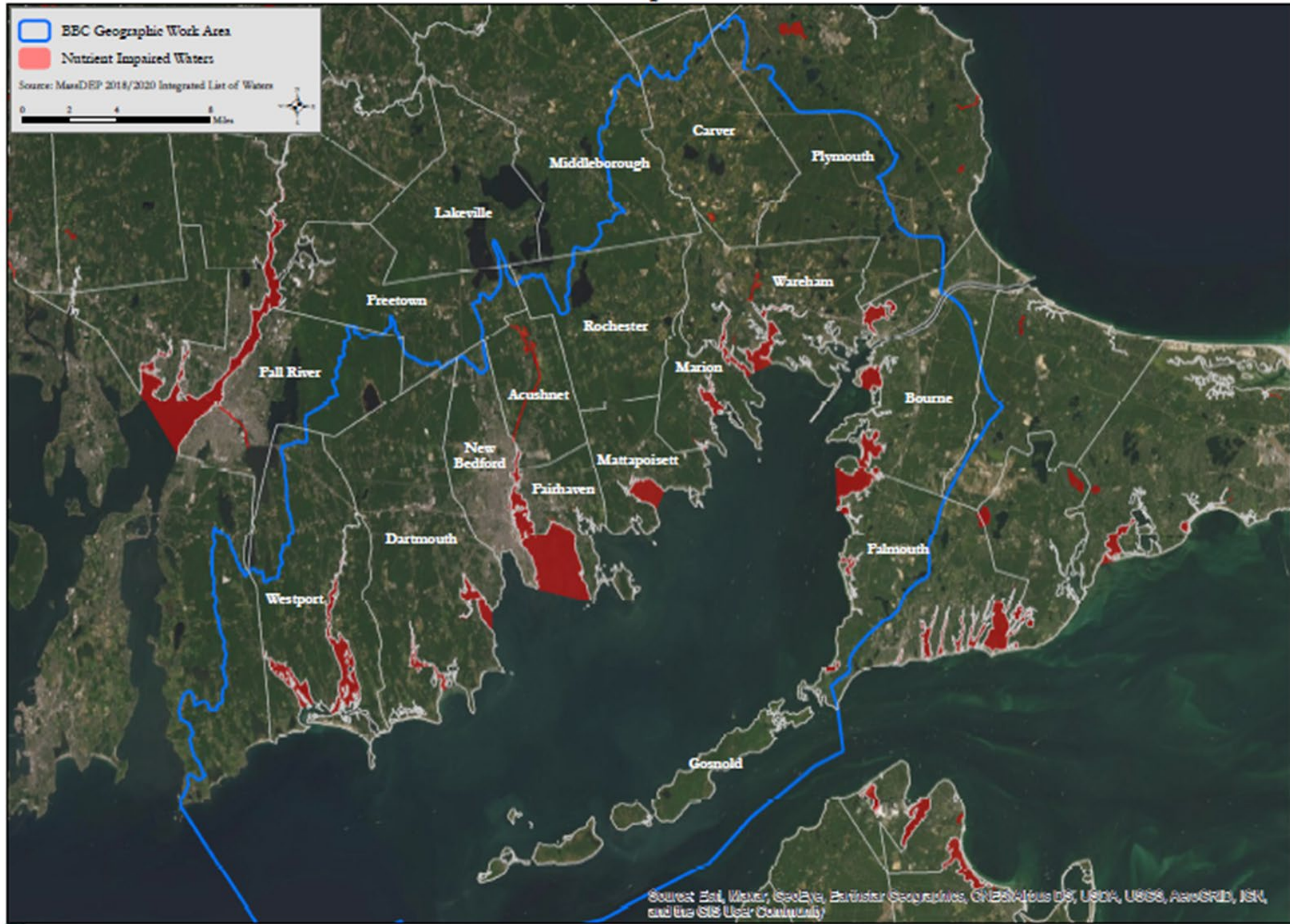


# Sources of Nitrogen Pollution



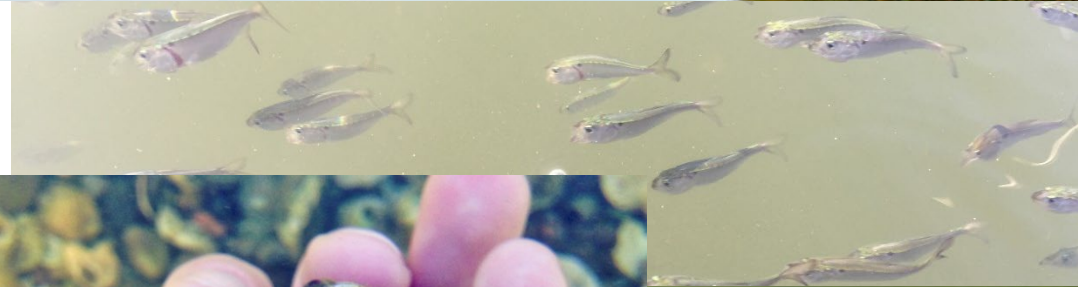
# Nitrogen Impacts in Buzzards Bay

Embayments shaded in red are listed as impaired for nitrogen on the federal Clean Water Act 303(d) list, aka “Dirty Waters List”.



# Importance of Our Shallow Coastal Waters

- Eelgrass and Saltmarshes are our most productive ecosystems.
- Serve as nursery grounds for fish and shellfish.
- We must reduce pollution to these resources to protect our coastal economies and for future generations.

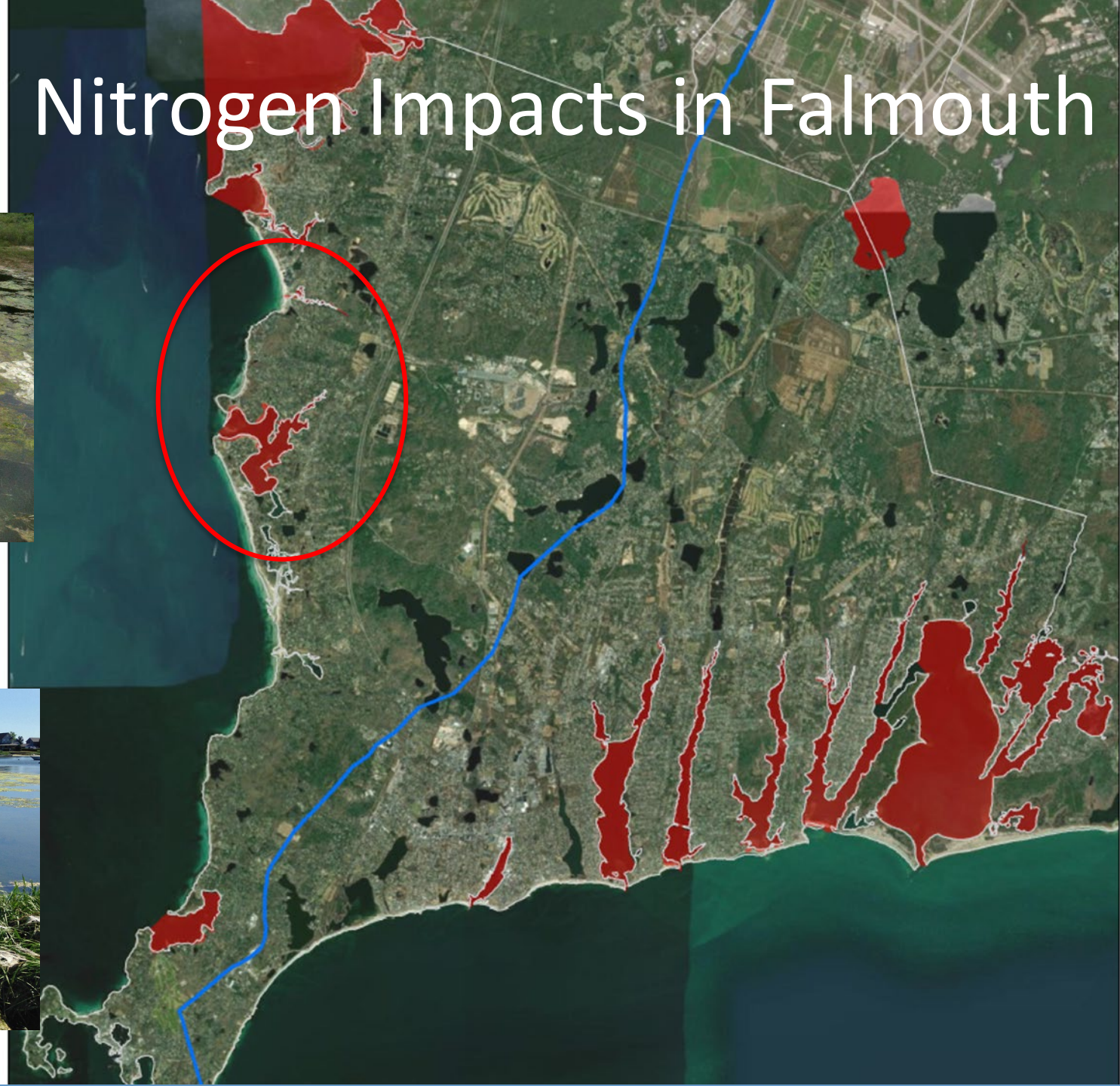


# Importance of Our Shallow Coastal Waters

- Herring Brook
- Important Saltmarsh Habitat threatened by Nitrogen Pollution and Sea Level Rise
- Old Silver Beach



# Nitrogen Impacts in Falmouth





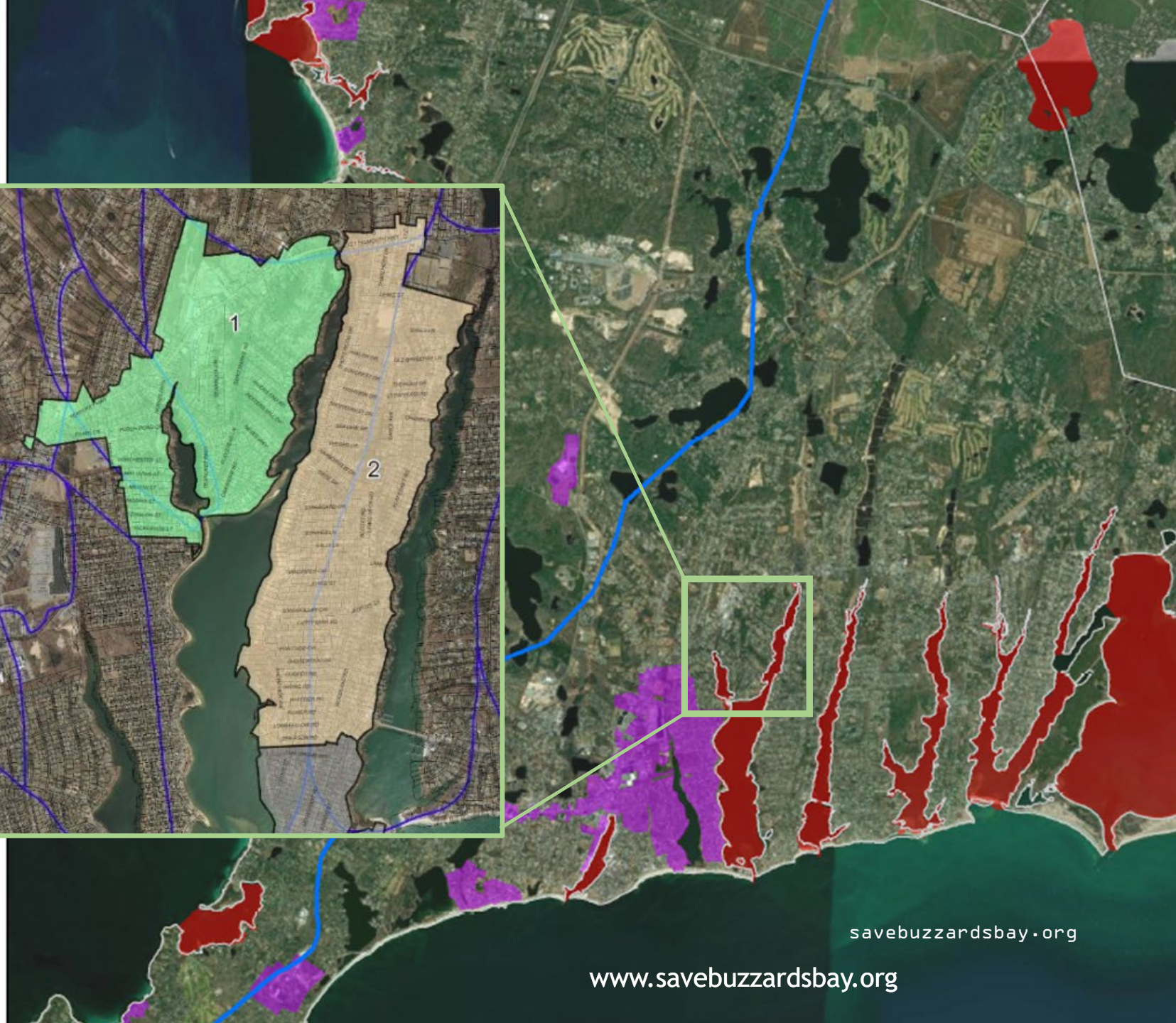
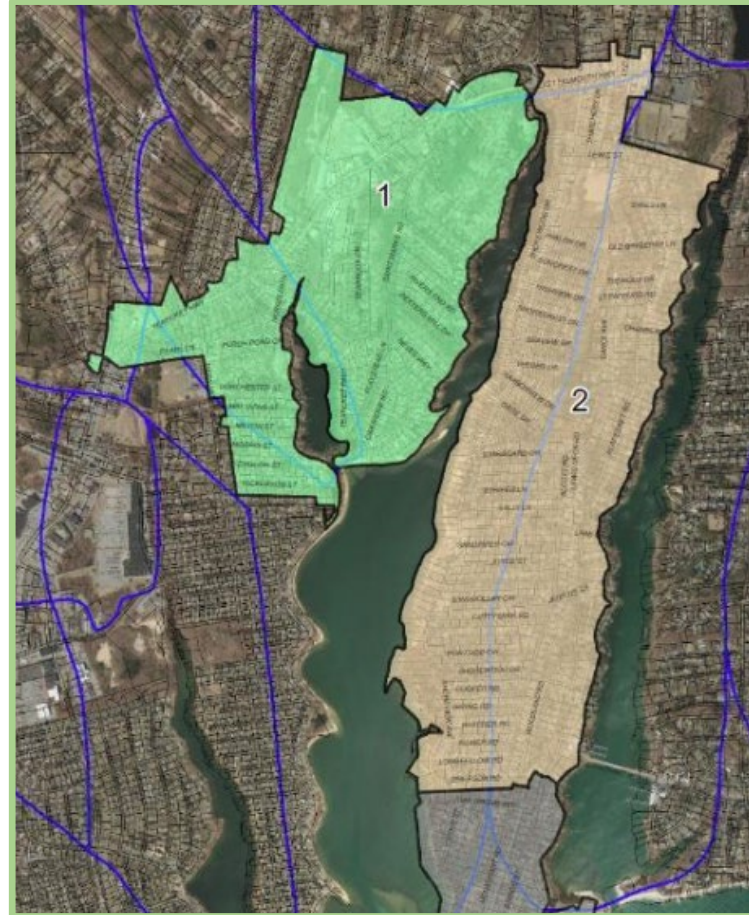
# Current Sewer Infrastructure in Falmouth



# Proposed Next Phase of Sewering

Phase 1 =  
500,000 gpd

Phase 2 =  
340,000 gpd



# Town of Falmouth's CWMP

## Phase 1

Sewer Area	Wastewater Flow (gpd)
Existing Sewer Service Area	710,000
Existing Sewer Area Redevelopment	140,000
Teaticket/Acapesket	360,000
Totals	1,210,000

## Phase 2

Sewer Area	Wastewater Flow (gpd)
Bourne Pond, Oyster Pond, Waquoit Bay	340,000

## Possible Phase 3

Sewer Area	Wastewater Flow (gpd)
Great Pond Contingency Alternative	190,000

Total Potential  
Sewer Need  
1,740,000 gpd

# Proposed Phase 1 NEW Wastewater Treatment Plant Discharges

Herring Br  
**260,000 gpd**

**+ 500,000gpd = 760,000 gpd**

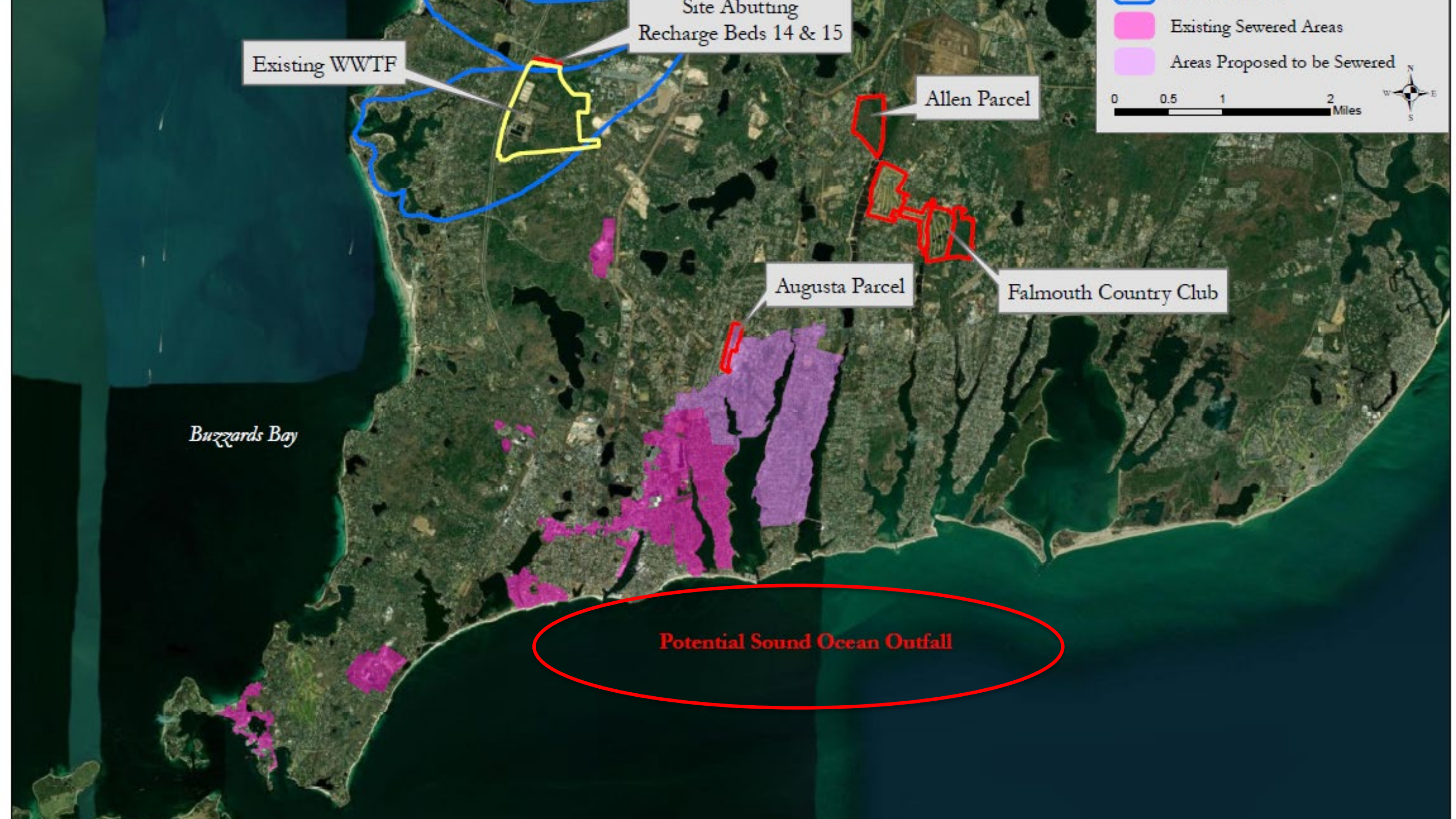
West Falmouth Harbor  
**450,000 gpd**

**The Coalition opposes expanded discharge to beds 14 and 15.**

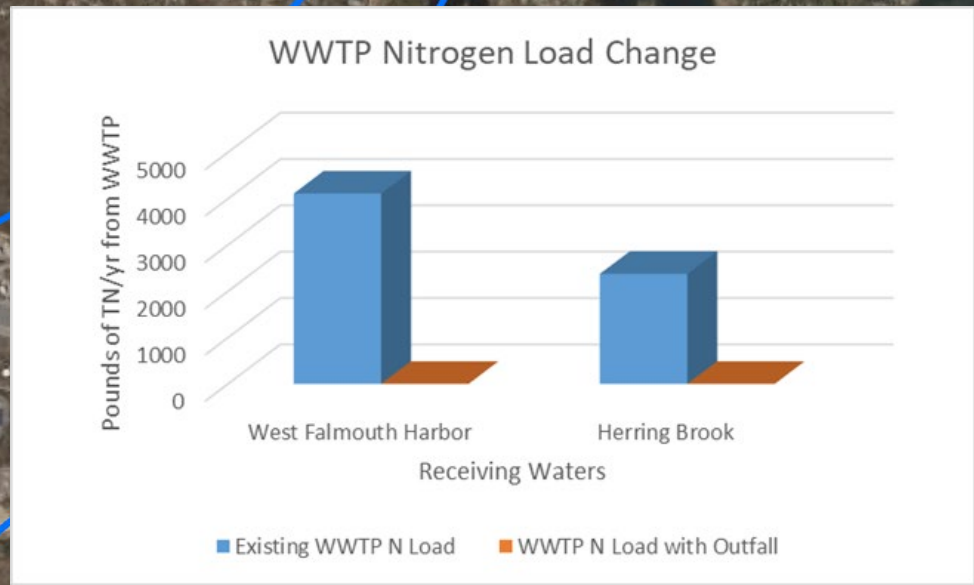
# Town is seeking funds at Spring Town Meeting to expand the discharge to Herring Brook and Buzzards Bay.

**ARTICLE 25:** To see if the Town will vote to appropriate a sum of money to fund the engineering, design and permitting of the collection and transmission system and expanded treated wastewater discharge area for Phase 1 of the Teaticket-Acapesket Service Area, including costs incidental and related thereto, and to determine how the same shall be raised and by whom expended. Or do or take any other action on the matter. On request of the Select Board.

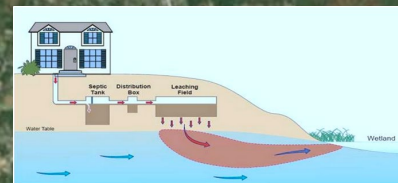
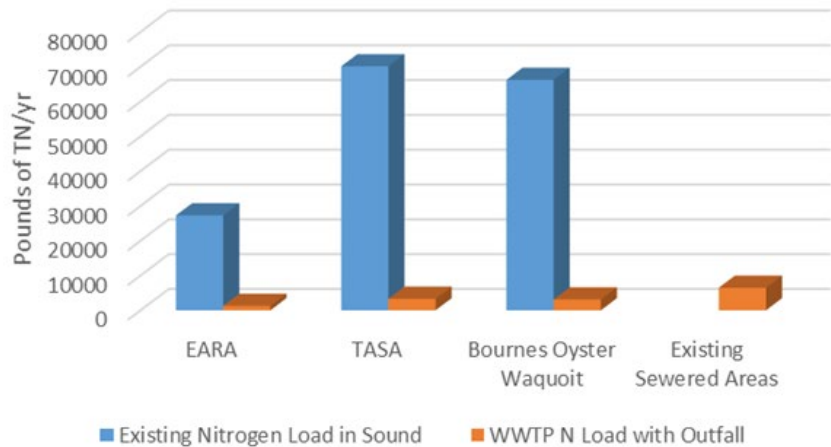
## Coalition Opposes Article 25



# Outfall Eliminates Nitrogen Discharges from WWTP



### Nitrogen Reductions in Sound with Outfall



**-95%**

# Virtues of an Ocean Discharge

- Reduces Nitrogen Pollution to Bays and Ponds **Town-wide**
- Protects Our Most Critical Habitats and Resources
  - Eelgrass Beds, Saltmarshes, Fish and Shellfish are all located in nearshore Bays and Ponds
  - These are the Town's most sensitive coastal areas.
- Does Not Impact Deep Well-Flushed Waters





# Virtues of an Ocean Discharge

- Opportunity for Financing is **NOW**
  - Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Provided \$1.1B to Sewer and Drinking Water Projects Over the Next 5 Years.
  - Cape Cod and Islands Water Protection Fund Provides Subsidies for Approved Projects in an Amount of up to 25% of the Cost of Qualifying Project.
  - Money is Available at Low Interest or **No Interest**
- It is the right **Long Term Discharge Option** and **Best Investment** for all the town's wastewater needs.
- Supported by Science

# FACTS About Ocean Discharges

- It is NOT the discharge of raw sewage.
- Ocean Discharges are Heavily Regulated and have strict pollution removal requirements. Ocean Discharges have stricter limits than groundwater discharges.
- Ocean Discharges Exist Today in Buzzards Bay and Cape Cod Bay
  - There are not dead fish floating around discharge locations.
  - The fish are disappearing in our estuaries polluted by nitrogen from wastewater.

# Buzzards Bay Coalition Next Steps

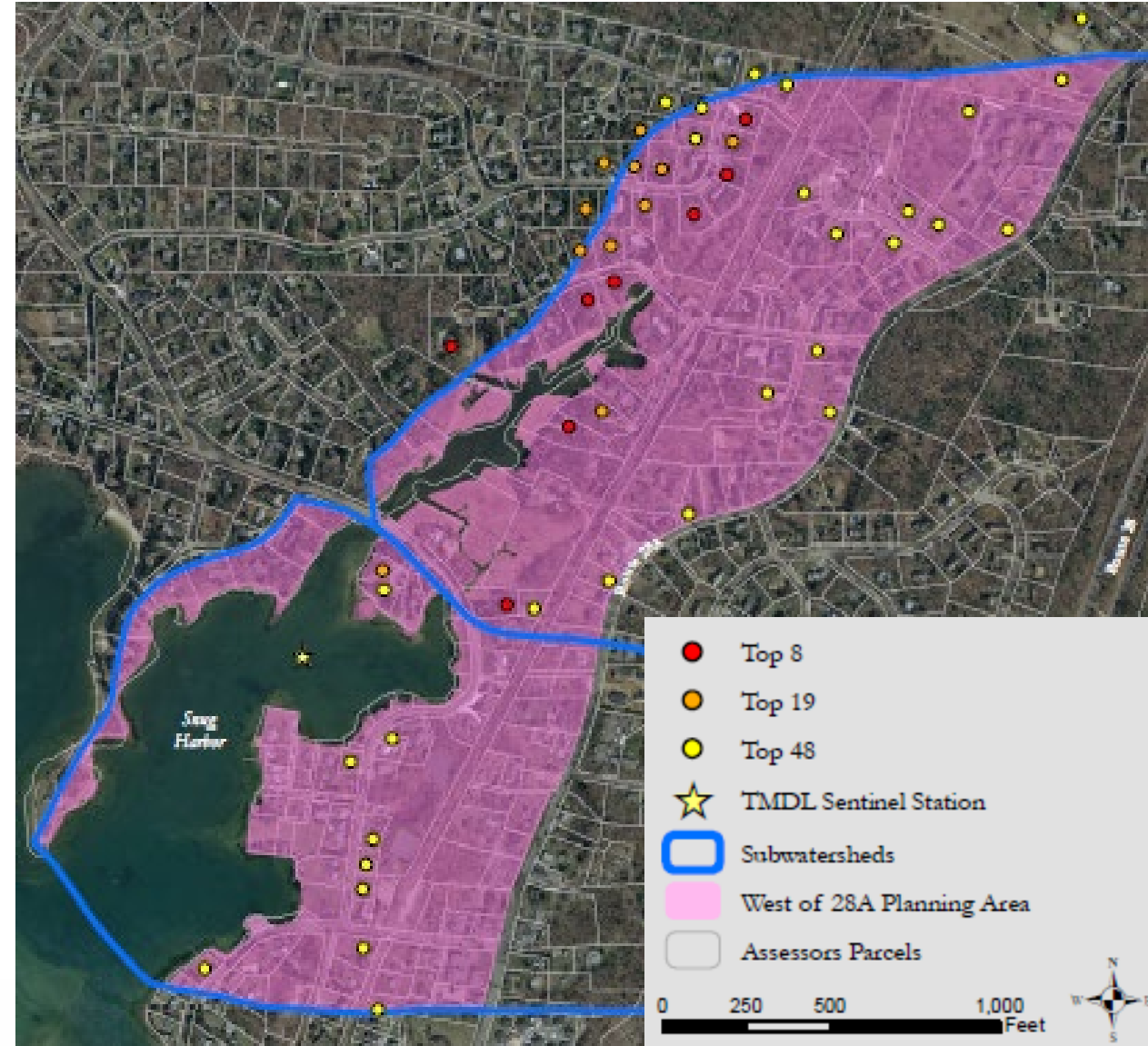
- Oppose Article 25
- Support Evaluation and Pursuit of Ocean Outfall to Sound
  - Provide Water Quality Data in Support of Permit
  - Advocate for Permitting at the State and Federal Levels
  - Support the town in the collection of needed studies

# What You Can Do

- Oppose Article 25 - Tell your Town Meeting Member to Oppose Article 25 at Spring Town Meeting.
- Tell your town officials to Prioritize the evaluation and pursuit of an OCEAN OUTFALL.
- Upgrade your Septic system.

# Phase III Nitrogen-Reducing Septic System Priorities

- 10 Year round homes (\$15,000 subsidy)
- 5 Shoreline homes (\$5,000 subsidy)
- Mashapaquit & Snug Harbor focus
- Older septic systems
- Nearly 50 homes prioritized
- Design, permitting, installation & monitoring



# Questions?

