

March 28, 2025

Attention: Thomas Mayo
Town Administrator
Town of Hingham
210 Central Street
Hingham, MA 02043

SLR Project No.: 141.21840.00004

**RE: Summary of Findings - Narrative for FLP ESF 050312
Proposed Hingham Center for Active Living (HCAL)
Hingham, Massachusetts**

Dear Mr. Mayo,

The purpose of this letter is to provide a summary of findings and narrative of the evaluation of the potential impacts of the proposed HCAL on the Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC). Please find the following information pertaining to the Mandatory Criteria needed for the Federal Lands to Parks - Environmental Screening Form (ESF), Section B2 below:

Have significant impacts on such natural resources and unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resources; park, recreation, or refuge lands, wilderness areas; wild or scenic rivers; national natural landmarks, sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands (E.O. 11990); floodplains (E.O. 11988); national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas?

SLR has evaluated the existing and proposed conditions of the project area and provides the following summary of these analyses.

The potential project will not negatively affect historical or cultural resources, park, recreation, or refuge lands, wilderness areas, wild or scenic rivers, national historic landmarks, drinking water aquifers, prime farmlands, wetlands or floodplains, national monuments, migratory birds or other ecologically significant or critical areas.

The lack of adverse impacts to these protected interests is attributable to the existing conditions of the potential project area, as well as the proposed site work. Specifically, the project area is not mapped by the Massachusetts Natural Heritage Endangered Species Program (MA NHESP) for rare species occurrences or critical habitat. There are no wild and scenic rivers within the project area. No work will occur within floodplains or wetlands, nor will work occur within jurisdictional areas adjacent to wetlands, such as the buffer zone to bordering vegetated wetlands (BVW). The proposed project will serve to complement the existing recreational opportunities on the property. The proposed project will be situated in an area where there is an pre-existing Naval Ammunition Depot structure, which will be razed to accommodate the work. The building to be razed is not an historic resource, nor a national monument, as verified through correspondence from the Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC). The potential work area measures approximately 5.2-acres, including about 0.5-acres of existing structure. The small work area does not demonstrate the potential to adversely affect migrating birds. Further, though the proposed work is located on the perimeter of a state-designated ACEC, the

work area will occupy less than 0.5% of the 950-acre ACEC and therefore does not demonstrate the potential to adversely affect this area. The Weymouth Back River ACEC, established in 1982, was designated to protect the coastal resources of the Back River. The proposed work area is not located in an area of tidal influence, and the closest tidal mean high-water line is located more than 0.27-miles from the proposed limit of disturbance. Please note that a small portion of Quonset silt loam soil, a prime farmland soil, is in the project area. However, farming is not a current or recent past use on the site, including the period from 1903-1961 when the land was operated as the Naval Ammunition Depot, and the limited project scope within a previously disturbed area does not result in a significant loss of arable land. Further, the prime farmland soil is not wide-spread on the site and may be considered an inclusion to adjacent poorly drained and human transported material (HTM) or fill material.

For the reasons above, the proposed work will not adversely affect the ecological condition of the project area.

Thank you for your consideration of this information. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact either of the undersigned.

Regards,

SLR International Corporation



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cc: Susan C. Murphy, Esq. – Dain, Tory, Le Ray, Wiest & Garner, P.C.

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