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July 17, 1998

CERTIFICATE OF THE SECRETARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS
ON THE
SUPPLEMENTAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT

PROJECT NAME : Towermarc Business Park/Golf Course
PROJECT MUNICIPALITY : Boxborough and Harvard
PROJECT WATERSHED : Merrimack
EOEA NUMBER : 6761
PROJECT PROPONENT : Towermarc Corporation
DATE NOTICED IN MONITOR : June 10, 1998

As Secretary of Environmental Affairs, I hereby determine that the Supplemental Environmental Impact Report submitted on this project adequately and properly complies with the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act (G. L. c. 30, ss. 61-62H) and with its implementing regulations (301 CMR 11.00).

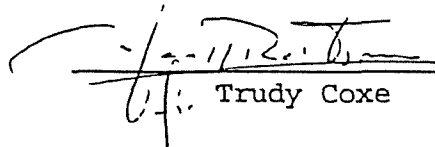
While the SEIR generally is adequate, I am disappointed that the issues surrounding protection of the rare turtle breeding habitats have not yet been resolved fully. Based on the information in the SEIR, it appears that a take under the Massachusetts Endangered Species Act (MESA) is likely. I expect that issues related to rare species will be resolved during the application and review process leading to a Conservation Permit under the Massachusetts Endangered Species Act. Furthermore, I am requiring the proponent to file Draft Section 61 Findings with MEPA at an appropriate point in the permitting process, to be made available for public comment. The Draft Section 61 Findings should address the issues raised in the comments received on the SEIR relating to rare species and their habitats, water supply, and historic and archaeological resources, and commit to specific measures to avoid, minimize or mitigate adverse environmental impacts.

The SEIR included a summary of the intensive (locational) archaeological study conducted for the site. The proponent should provide the Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC) with the complete archaeological report on the site examinations, and work with it to finalize mitigation measures for the protection of archaeological and historical resources.

Other issues required by the original Certificate have been adequately addressed in the SEIR. I am hopeful that the proponent and the NHESP can come to agreement on a revised design that will allow the project to proceed while, at the same time, protecting endangered species and their habitat.

July 17, 1998

Date


Trudy Cox

Comments received :

Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program
Department of Environmental Protection
Massachusetts Highway Department
Massachusetts Historical Commission
Citizens to Protect Residential Harvard
Massachusetts Audubon Society
Smyers, Scott
Krusen, George
Anderson and Krieger

TC/rf