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## MEMORANDUM

To: Town of Natick Conservation Commission

From: Adrienne Dunk, WPIT

Date: April 1, 2025

File No.: 01.0019114.86

Re: Charles River Dam Decommissioning and River Restoration Project – Chapter 91 Update

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### 1. BACKGROUND

GZA GeoEnvironmental Inc. (GZA) prepared this memorandum to update the Town of Natick Conservation Commission (Commission) on the status of the Chapter 91 Waterways filings pertaining to the Charles River Dam Decommissioning and River Restoration Project (Project). At the March 20, 2025 Commission hearing, GZA notified the Commission that the Project would require a Chapter 91 Demolition Approval for the removal of the dam spillway and fish ladder and a Chapter 91 Permit for the passive sediment release. GZA described to the Commission this permitting process and the available public comment options.

### 2. ACTIONS SINCE MARCH HEARING

On March 25, 2025, GZA filed the Chapter 91 Permit and Demolition Approval application, File Number 25-WW01-0045-APP. On March 27, 2025, the assigned Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (Department) Chapter 91 analyst contacted GZA to notify us that they would not be regulating the passive release of sediment, and the Department only requires the Demolition Approval for this Project and not a Chapter 91 Permit. As a result, the Permit application was withdrawn on March 28, 2025. GZA filed a Demolition Notice on March 28, 2025, which is currently under review by the Department as File Number 25-WWAR-0021-APP.

The demolition of the spillway portion of the dam structure is an exempt activity provided that the Demolition Notice is submitted to the Department and the Department provides a written Demolition Approval. The Department, at their discretion, may include a public notice and comment period. To date, no such request from the Department has been received by the Town or GZA.

### 3. CONCLUSION

GZA and the Town of Natick continue to pursue the necessary permits and authorizations to remove the Charles River Dam at South Natick. As currently indicated by the Chapter 91 program, the Demolition Approval is the only required authorization from their office that is necessary. The appropriate filing has been completed and is currently under review by the Department. Should additional changes in the review procedure occur, GZA will notify if the Commission.