



Martha's Vineyard Commission

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October 30, 2019

Dear Jim Malkin, Chilmark Board of Selectmen:

I am requesting a letter of support from each of the Towns regarding an Island-wide Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Program (MVP) Action Grant to be administered by the Martha's Vineyard Commission. The goal of an Island-wide adaptation plan is relevant, given that each of the Towns have either completed, or are in the process of completing, an MVP plan. Those plans were developed through extensive collaboration from an eight-hour session of public participation, and the development of extensive background materials. This grant proposal entails a thorough evaluation of each Town's MVP program, with common conditions, features and actions noted. It is our aim to put the Towns and Island on a firm footing to address climate change and to secure funding to implement these activities.

Climate impacts are already being experienced; even small storms are causing flooding and other impacts. It is projected that stronger storms and storm surges, along with coastal and inland flooding, erosion, extreme heat, drought and wildfires, ecosystem challenges, and drought will disrupt much of the Island's infrastructure, economy and ecology. We need to get ahead of this.

The grant proposal specifically includes review of all available planning and climate-related documents (Hazard Mitigation Plan, MVP project reports, and other tools) and discussions with Town staff, officials, and the public to identify programs and activities related to climate change adaptation and mitigation. This grant application addresses Martha's Vineyard as one Island, but also documents impacts on each individual Island town. As an Island, the Vineyard is highly susceptible to all climate impacts, whether coastal or inland.

We ask for your concurrence and support as we apply for this grant. If we are fortunate to receive this funding, we will develop a scope of work that will be reviewed by each Town prior to beginning work.

We must complete this grant by the November 12th, so a simple concurrence and show of support is appreciated. We have created a sample letter to the State for you to work from if you choose. Thank you for your consideration, and please contact me with additional questions or comments.

Sincerely,

Adam Turner
Executive Director
Martha's Vineyard Commission



{Date}

Kara Runsten
Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Manager, EOEEA
100 Cambridge Street, Boston, MA 02114

Re: MVP Action Grant for Martha's Vineyard

Dear Ms. Runsten:

We are happy to participate in the MVP Action Grant process, and support the Martha's Vineyard Commission proposal to develop an Island-wide adaptation action plan. The MVP plans developed under this program will form the basis for this work.

Martha's Vineyard is one island, and we need to develop a comprehensive plan to address impacts, and direct policies and programs as a whole.

Thank you for your consideration,

{Town signature}