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For Immediate Release:

Old Colony Planning Council Receives \$470,000 Economic Development Award for Regional Water Study

BROCKTON, MA - Old Colony Planning Council (OCPC) received an Economic Development Administration Award in the amount of \$470,000 to match a total project cost for a Regional Water Plan of \$940,000. Efforts originated with the Central Plymouth County Water District Commission, and their commitment of \$225,000 towards a regional water study, supplemented by the \$200,000 earmark allocation from the Economic Development Bill, led by Senator Michael Brady and supported by both branches and the leadership of both, and \$45,000 from the South Shore Economic Development Corporation (South Shore Chamber).

This EDA investment supports OCPC with developing a Regional Water Plan that will assist the district's 17 communities with removing the economic development impediment of limited and unsustainable water supplies in Southeastern Massachusetts.

The project will help improve equity across the region by ensuring affordability and ecological health. Once completed, the project will strengthen the region's competitive economic resilience and develop a sustainable water resource supply plan for long term future regional development. OCPC will lead an inclusive planning process to develop the regional water plan.

"I am very pleased that our efforts to award the Old Colony Planning Council (OCPC) \$470,000 in federal funding to execute a regional water study was ultimately successful," said **Representative Lynch**. "This federal grant will help determine the water needs and expected demands of Brockton and south shore communities. Access to safe and sustainable public water is not a guarantee, and these types of studies are critical to ensuring everyone has access to clean drinking water and implements good water management practices. I am grateful to work with committed partners at all levels who have supported the OCPC and helped direct federal and state funding to this project to help strengthen the region's water supply plan."

"Communities on the South Shore deserve access to safe and accessible drinking water for generations to come," said **Senator Markey**. "I am proud to join South Shore leaders today in celebrating \$470,000 in federal funding to ensure planners and local officials can take a full account of regional water needs and promote clean waters and healthy neighborhoods."

Senator Warren stated, "I am thrilled that the Old Colony Planning Council has been awarded \$470,000 to help improve water infrastructure for communities across the South Shore. This funding is essential to ensuring a sustainable and affordable water resource supply for our communities and protecting ecological resilience."

"Affordable, sustainable water supplies are vital to residents and businesses," said **Senator Michael Brady**. "As we continue to recover from the impacts of COVID-19, we must ensure water is available not only for economic growth and public health but also for the natural environment on which on all rely."

"For too long our approach to water has been fragmented," said **Jack O'Leary, Chair of the Central Plymouth County Water District Commission**. "I am excited to see municipalities and other partners coming together to address water supply collaboratively as a region."

"We are pleased to support this study that will build on work we've been doing to address critical water resources limitations in our region," said **Peter Forman, CEO of the South Shore Chamber of Commerce**. "We know water and wastewater capacity may be preventing economic opportunity in our area. This study will help remove that impediment."

Becky Coletta, President of Old Colony Planning Council said, "I am proud of the Council and OCPC staff in working with the Central Plymouth County Water District Commission, all watershed advocates, and the 17 communities in our district to address this issue. Implementation of recommendations from this study will strengthen the region's economic competitiveness, improve its ecological resilience, and ensure sustainable public water supply"

The study will investigate current water use and needs in the region as well as expected demand over the next 25 years. Supply gaps will be identified, especially in the context of a changing climate and growing region. Solutions to address the sustainability of public water supply systems will be identified, including infrastructural improvements as well as implementation of good water management practices. In particular, the study will focus on solutions that help ensure affordable public water supply and ecological resilience.

OCPC is leading an inclusive planning process for this study. A steering committee of representatives from municipalities, watershed associations, chambers of commerce, the business community, the public at large, and others will help guide the two-year process. To receive updates on this study, sign up at www.bit.ly/planningforwater.

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About Old Colony Planning Council (www.oldcolonyplanning.org)

Old Colony Planning Council (OCPC) assists cities and towns in planning for present and future needs, utilizing their local knowledge, technical expertise, and regional collaboration.

Established in 1967, OCPC is the comprehensive planning agency for the region that today includes the 17 communities:

- Abington
- Avon
- Bridgewater
- Brockton
- Duxbury
- East Bridgewater
- Easton
- Halifax
- Hanover
- Hanson
- Kingston
- Pembroke
- Plymouth
- Plympton
- Stoughton
- West Bridgewater
- Whitman

The agency was established in part to address local challenges that cross city and town boundaries, like air and water pollution, transportation deficiencies, and economic distress.