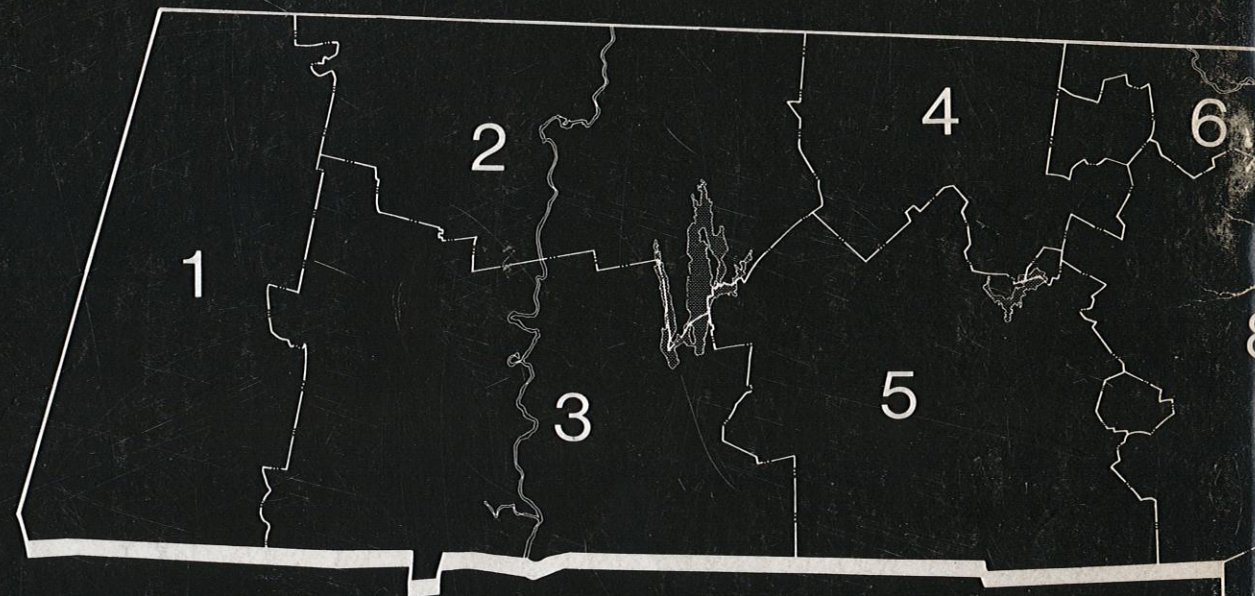




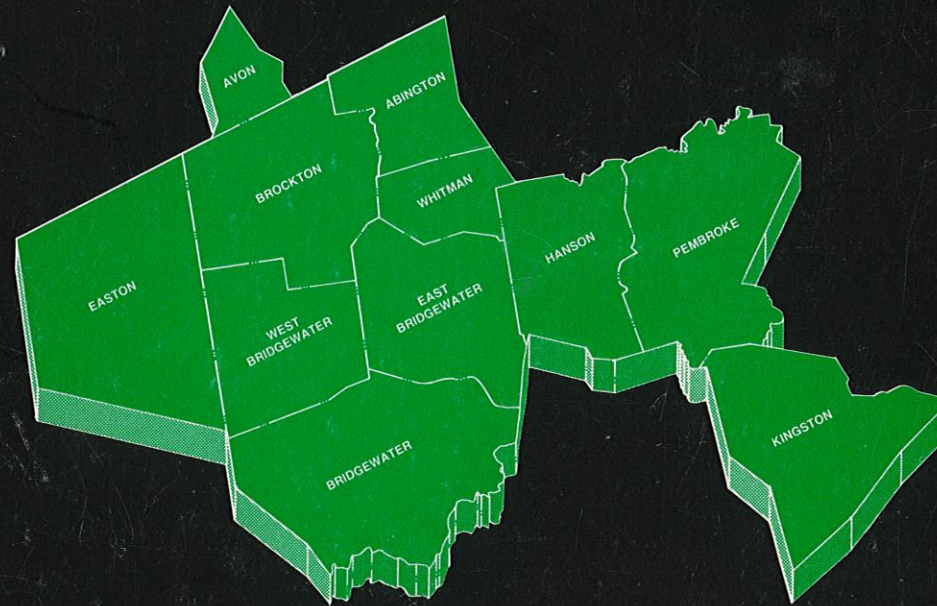
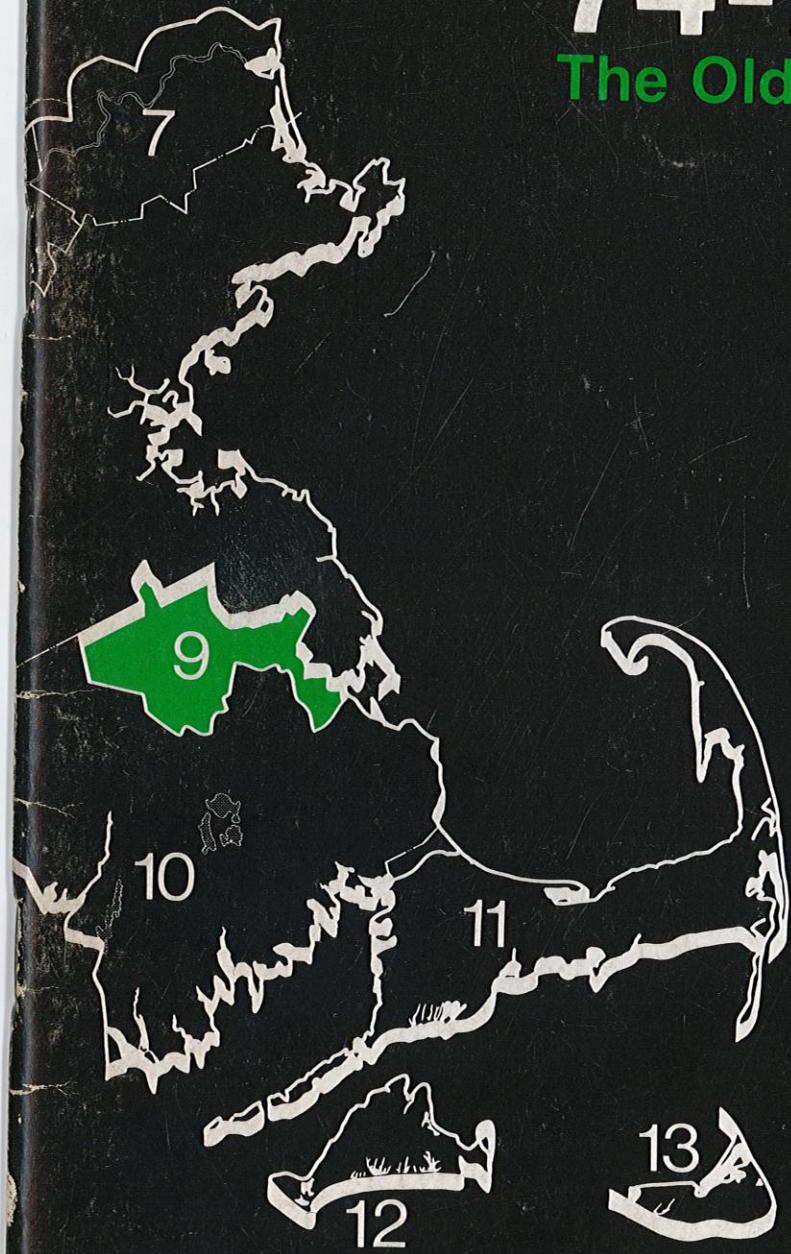
The Old Colony Planning Council
232 Main Street, Brockton, Ma.



1. Berkshire Regional Planning Commission
2. Franklin County Department of Planning
3. Lower Pioneer Valley Regional Planning Commission
4. Montachusets Regional Planning Commission
5. Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission
6. Northern Middlesex Area Commission
7. Merrimack Valley Regional Planning Commission
8. Metropolitan Area Planning Council
9. Old Colony Planning Council
10. Southeastern Regional Planning and Economic Development District
11. Cape Cod Planning and Economic Development District
12. Dukes County Planning and Economic Development Commission
13. Nantucket Regional Planning Commission

74-75 Annual Report

The Old Colony Planning Council



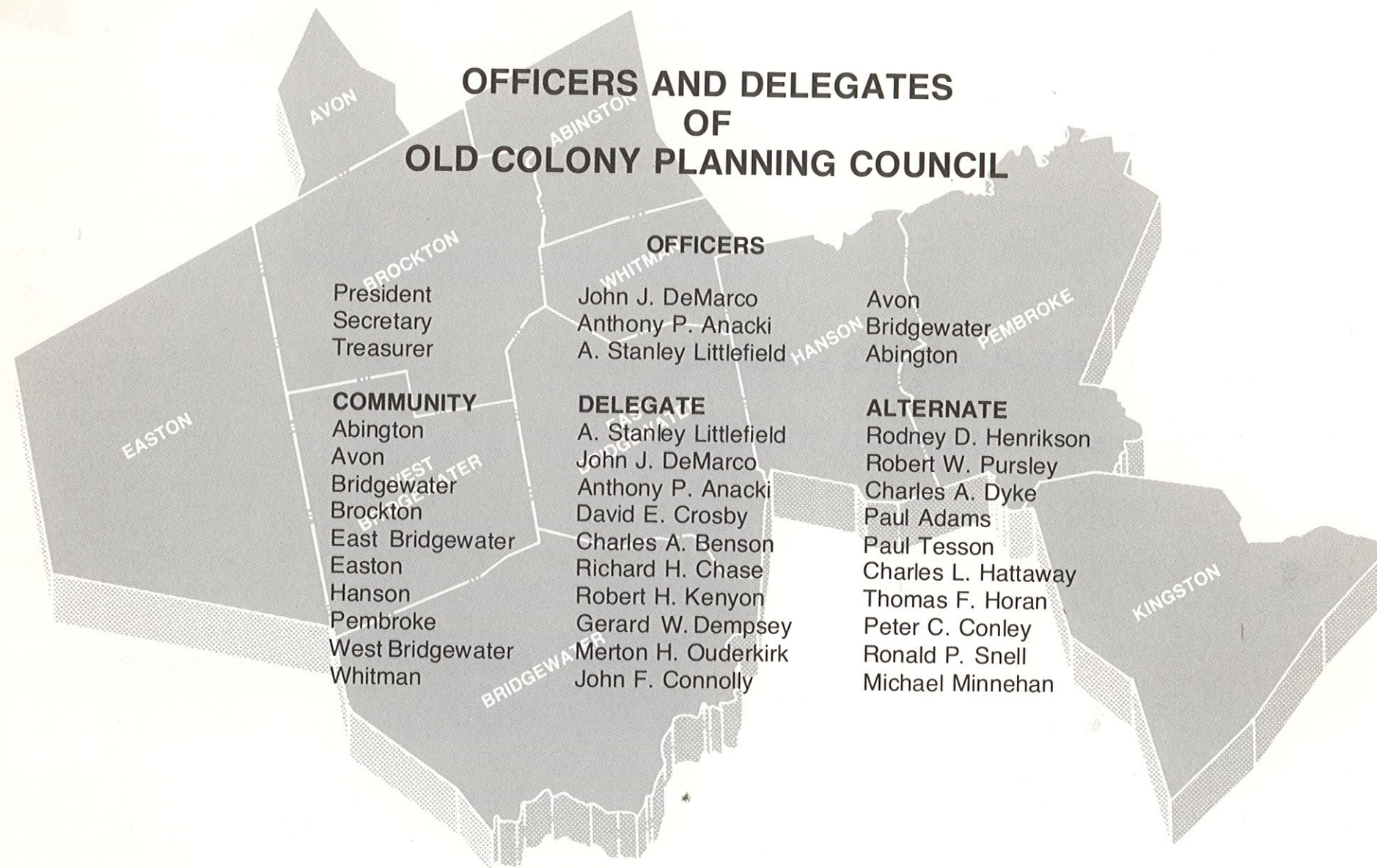


OLD COLONY PLANNING COUNCIL

232 main street, brockton, ma. 02401

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OFFICERS AND DELEGATES OF OLD COLONY PLANNING COUNCIL



OFFICERS

President
Secretary
Treasurer

John J. DeMarco
Anthony P. Anacki
A. Stanley Littlefield

Avon
Bridgewater
Abington

COMMUNITY

Abington
Avon
Bridgewater
Brockton
East Bridgewater
Easton
Hanson
Pembroke
West Bridgewater
Whitman

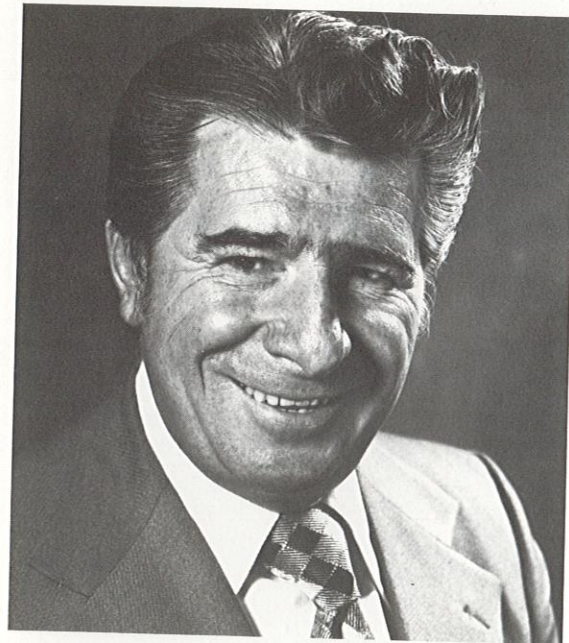
DELEGATE

A. Stanley Littlefield
John J. DeMarco
Anthony P. Anacki
David E. Crosby
Charles A. Benson
Richard H. Chase
Robert H. Kenyon
Gerard W. Dempsey
Merton H. Ouderkirk
John F. Connolly

ALTERNATE

Rodney D. Henrikson
Robert W. Pursley
Charles A. Dyke
Paul Adams
Paul Tesson
Charles L. Hattaway
Thomas F. Horan
Peter C. Conley
Ronald P. Snell
Michael Minnehan

A MESSAGE FROM THE COUNCIL PRESIDENT



It is again my privilege and pleasure to present the Annual Report of the Old Colony Planning Council to you. This marks the second year of my tenure as President of the Council and I am particularly proud of our accomplishments and our increasing level of effectiveness in dealing with areawide issues and concerns.

The coming year promises to be an even more rewarding one for our member communities. Through the Council's participation in the Environmental Protection Agency Water Quality Management Planning Program and through increased funding for transportation planning activities, these programs will enable the Council to be of increased service to OCPC member communities.

It is also satisfying to note that the Council has achieved recognition nationally through the receipt of a first place publication award from the National Association of Regional Councils for the last year's Annual Report. In addition, this year four members of the Council will be represented on NARC policy committees while I will be representing the regional agencies in New England on the NARC Board of Directors.

All that the Council has accomplished could not have been possible without the participation and involvement of the Old Colony Planning Council Delegates and Alternates. The members deserve special recognition and commendation for their participation and involvement. These representatives of the member municipalities have given freely of their personal time without compensation to deal with a variety of issues which are beyond the ability of one community to deal with effectively.

I also take this opportunity to give recognition to the splendid work and performance of the Old Colony Planning Council staff. The Council has one of the most competent professional staffs of any areawide planning agency in the New England area and it is ably directed by Daniel M. Crane.

We have demonstrated that there is much to be gained from cooperative approaches to problem solving and we look forward to working with our member communities during the coming year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "John J. DeMarco". The signature is written in a cursive style.

John J. DeMarco
President
Old Colony Planning Council
JJDM:acs

The Council: A Brief History



The Old Colony Planning Council was formed in 1967 by concerned Brockton area citizens who recognized that areawide concerns could be effectively dealt with by local governments working together. Chapter 332 of the Acts of 1967 established the Council and authorized the Agency to prepare plans to "improve the physical, social and economic conditions of the district." The policies and programs of the OCPC are determined by the Council members who are appointed by the member municipalities. Each community is represented by a delegate and alternate member who meet each month to conduct the affairs of the Council. From its membership the Council elects a President, Secretary and Treasurer for a one-year term. The activities of the OCPC are funded by local community assessment and from a variety of state and federal grant programs.

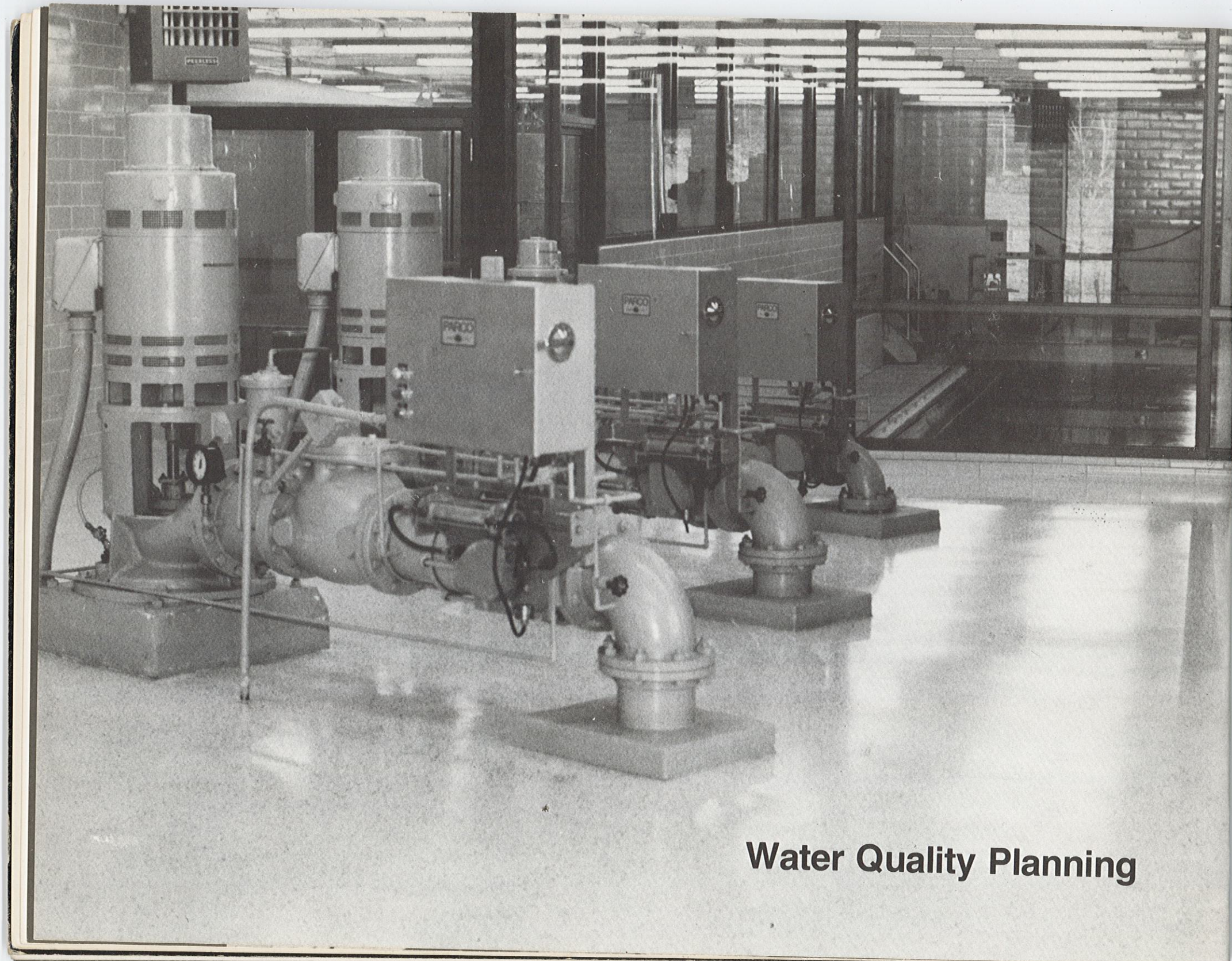
The Council during the past seven years has provided alternative solutions to local governments in dealing with a variety of areawide problems. Major efforts have included a three year study of water and sewer problems and alternatives culminating in the Regional Water and Sewer Plan; a Regional Open Space Plan designed to identify critical open space and environmental areas; and a three phase economic base study designed to help the Brockton area emerge from its economic decline.

In the past year the Council has concentrated on implementing specific plans and programs that would correct area deficiencies. A major activity during the past year was the establishment of the Old Colony Water Pollution Control District. A bill to create the District was submitted to the General Court and received favorable consideration by the General Court in 1973 and permitted the local communities to consider the proposal at their respective town meetings. As of this writing, three of the eight communities eligible for membership in the District have voted to join while several others have appointed study committees to evaluate their participation in the District. In addition, the Enabling Act was amended during the 1974 session of the General Court to provide for the Town of Bridgewater to be reimbursed for its existing municipal sewage treatment plant and to delete a provision that requires three contiguous communities eligible for membership to approve the establishment of the District. Passage of the amendment has insured the formation of the Old Colony Water Pollution Control District at an early date.

During the past eight years the Council has provided alternative solutions to its member communities when dealing with a variety of intermunicipal or areawide problems. Major efforts of the Council have included: areawide plans for water and sewage; a regional open space plan designed to identify critical open space and environmental areas; an areawide solid waste disposal plan to suggest alternatives available to OCPC communities in disposing of refuse; economic development planning activities which have included a regional industrial sites survey; and, several studies which have dealt with the area's particular problems of growth, development and the quality of the environment.

In the recent past, the Council has concentrated on implementing specific plans and programs that would correct area deficiencies. The Council was instrumental in establishing the Old Colony Water Pollution Control District and has worked closely with that organization in implementing the region's sewer plan. Last year the Council made a substantial effort to create a regional transportation authority in the greater Brockton area. Although the proposal was not readily accepted by the area towns, the City of Brockton was designated as the transportation authority under a special provision of the enabling act with support from the OCPC. Further progress was made in addressing the public transit needs of the area through the completion by the Council of a transit technical study which provides a blue print for the area's transit requirements and basis for federal capital grants assistance.

In the past year, the Council also accepted as a new member the town of Kingston which voted at their last annual meeting to become a member of OCPC. With the addition of Kingston, OCPC now has a planning district of over 192 square miles with a population of almost 200,000.



Water Quality Planning

As part of the Council's overall goal to improve water quality in the Brockton area, the Council spent considerable effort in the past program year seeking a major water quality planning grant from the Environmental Protection Agency. These efforts proved to be successful when on June 16, 1975 John McGlennon, Regional Administrator of EPA, awarded OCPC a \$650,000 grant to do a two-year areawide water quality study. The planning study will run from July 1975 to June 1977. All of the OCPC communities except Kingston are in the water quality study area.

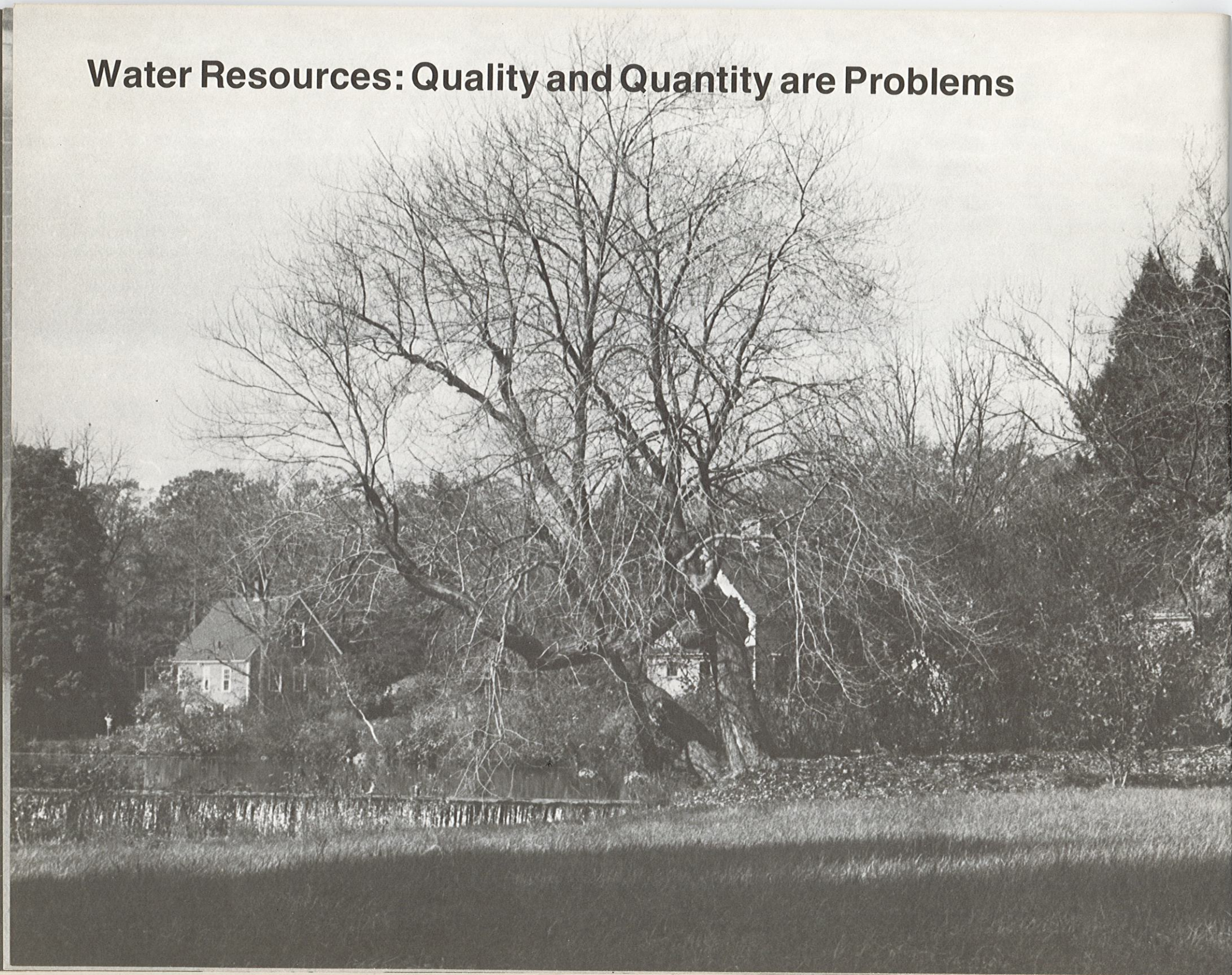
The Council received its funds under Section 208 of the 1972 Amendments to the Federal Water Pollution Control Act. The Brockton area qualified as a "208 area" because of its complex water quality problems and because of the area's dependence on groundwater for water supply. OCPC was designated as the "208 Agency" in February by Governor Dukakis. The \$650,000 grant is the largest grant ever received by the Council.

Unlike the Facilities Planning work to be done by the Old Colony Water Pollution Control District, the Council's 208 Study will deal with all sources of water pollution. Other sources of pollution for which planning responsibility is given under 208 are industrial discharges and so called "non-point" sources. These non-point sources include sedimentation and stormwater runoff of pesticides and fertilizers from agricultural areas, urban runoff, erosion from construction areas, and leachates from septic tanks.

An additional emphasis of the OCPC 208 planning process will be to develop the interrelationships between land use and water quality in the region. It is apparent that different types of land uses affect water quality in different ways. The 208 study will aid OCPC in identifying critical areas where alternatives will have to be developed to minimize any deleterious impact on water quality. OCPC will also be examining the impact of water quality proposals — such as sewerage — on land use. The 208 study will, in short, provide the Council with a major input for the Council's overall land use planning. Because of the impact of the 208 study, the Council will be developing an intensive public participation program for the water quality study. A primary mechanism will be an Areawide Advisory Committee.

In an attempt to broaden the Council's involvement in water quality issues in the region, the OCPC staff also worked closely in the past year with the Massachusetts Division of Water Pollution Control and the Environmental Protection Agency in their permit program. The Council influenced the redrafting of two permits — one for the North Abington sewage treatment plant and one for an industrial use in Avon. In the latter case, the new permit will help to minimize the pollution threat to Avon's groundwater supply in the Trout Brook area.

Water Resources: Quality and Quantity are Problems



The Council's activities during the past year in water supply primarily revolved around two areas:

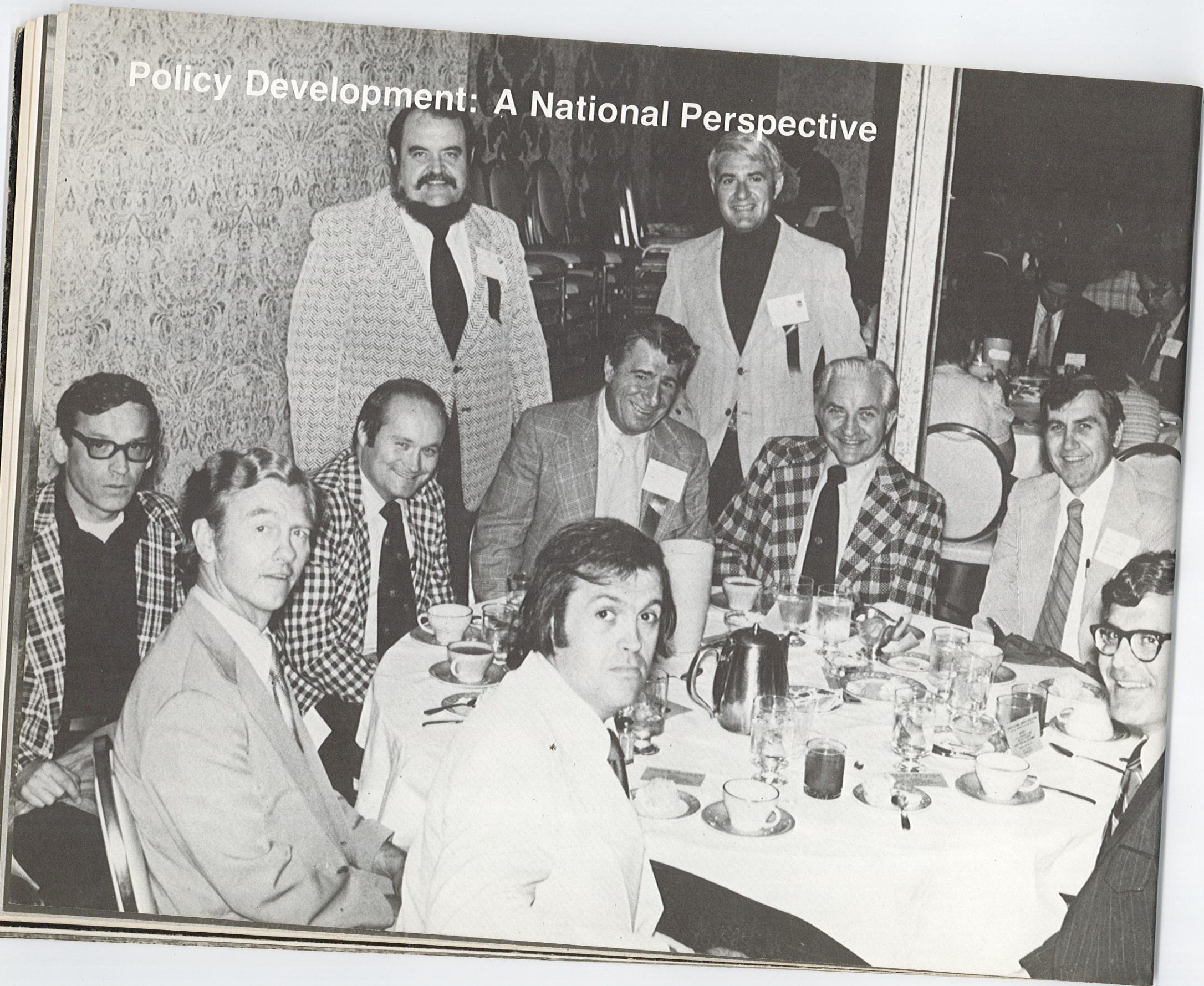
- **Continued updating of information concerning the region's existing supplies.**
- **Developing an awareness in the region concerning the protection of water supply resources.**

Under present projections, the Abington-Rockland system continues to be the only system in the region capable of meeting its Year 2000 maximum day water demands. These two communities augmented their water supply resources in the past year with the dedication of the new Hingham Street Reservoir in Rockland. The new reservoir was developed through HUD and local funding. The Council has estimated that other communities, such as Avon, will have to develop additional water supplies in the near future if continued development can occur. The Council will be further exploring the possibility of utilizing groundwater supplies in the Plymouth-Kingston-Plympton-Halifax area during the upcoming year.

The closing of a major groundwater supply in Bridgewater during the past year has reemphasized the continuing need in the region for the protection of existing and projected water supplies from pollution sources. Bridgewater was forced to close one of its major wells this year because of excessive nitrates. Agricultural runoff from a nearby farm is presently suspected as being the source of the pollution. The town is now intensively seeking an alternative water supply to supplement its water supply. Because six of OCPC's communities rely on groundwater sources, OCPC will be thoroughly analyzing existing and projected pollution sources that threaten groundwater supplies in the upcoming 208 area-wide water quality study.

The Council was active in the past year in promoting zoning mechanisms to protect groundwater aquifers used as municipal water supplies. The Council worked with the Avon Planning Board in implementing on Avon Watershed Protection District. The District, proposed during the previous year by the Planning Board and the Council, represents one of the first uses of zoning in Massachusetts to protect a groundwater aquifer. The Council also worked with the Bridgewater Planning Board in the past year to devise a similar district for its remaining well area. Implementation of this district is hoped for in the upcoming year.

Policy Development: A National Perspective



The Old Colony Planning Council broadened its perspective to include policy development on the national level through its active involvement a member of the National Association of Regional Council's (NARC). Four delegates of the Council served on NARC policy committees during the year. Mr. Anthony Anacki, Bridgewater, served on the Land Use Committee; Mr. Richard Chase, Easton, served on the Metropolitan Development Committee; Mr. Gerard Dempsey, Pembroke, served on the Human Resources Committee; and, Mr. Robert Kenyon, Hanson, served on the Intergovernmental Affairs Committee. The Council's Executive Director Daniel M. Crane acted as a staff director advisor to the Environmental and National Resources policy committee.

Elected to the NARC Board of Directors to represent the New England states area was Council President John J. DeMarco. In Mr. DeMarco's statement in nomination and election to the NARC Board of Directors, he indicated that regional planning agencies were unique in that they were capable of applying a more socially rational framework to planning decisions than local, state or the national government because they were not totally removed from local opinion. He also said that judging from the experience of the past few years, public concerns for the 70's and 80's will revolve around issues related to growth policy and human resource development.

Mr. DeMarco stated that, "... if we were to meet this challenge, regional planning must be more than an exercise done by well meaning people for local community leaders who are anxiously guarding their local domains from outside regulation. To gain more effective regional councils that can influence and direct community development efforts we must be prepared to change the way we have been doing things. The key to realizing a meaningful role for regional councils is finding a method to give them effective powers of implementation. Regional councils must begin to tie themselves directly into the political process. The membership of regional councils is going to have to change from appointed officials to elected officials who are directly responsible to the people for their actions. Ways must be found to determine and to institutionalize popular sentiment, not only on day to day issues but in terms of the larger goals of society."

As a member of the NARC Board of Directors, Mr. DeMarco will provide policy direction to the NARC staff in representing the interests of regional councils in the New England area on matters of mutual concern.

The Old Colony Planning Council is also involved in developing policy at the state level on regionalism. In cooperation with the Massachusetts League of Cities and Towns and the Office of State Planning, OCPC is working toward determining the performed type and structure for areawide planning and areawide delivery of services that will be in the best interests of the local governments of Massachusetts. The options that present themselves are: a continuation of the present situation; establishing umbrella multi-jurisdictional organizations; establishing Sub-State Administrative Districts; restructuring Regional Planning Agencies; and reorganizing counties.

Technical Assistance



An important element of the Old Colony Planning Council work program is the provision of technical planning and management assistance to local communities. This assistance not only helps local communities to deal with local problems but also strengthens the ability of the Council and communities to deal with areawide concerns.

The Council assisted localities in a variety of concerns during the past year. A major activity by the Council under the Technical Assistance program was the effort to qualify communities in the region under the National Flood Insurance Program. With the passage of new legislation of Congress this year, the Flood Disaster Act, the Council will continue during the upcoming program year to convince local communities to avail themselves of the flood insurance program.

During this past year, the Council also assisted the city of Brockton in obtaining a federal grant in the amount of \$310,000 from the Economic Development Administration. The EDA grant under the Public Works Improvement Program will be used to provide a new road and associated utilities in the West Chestnut Street Industrial Park. The new facilities will enable the city of Brockton to open up additional areas of the industrial park to development and provide for more efficient use of the site. The Council staff also assisted the town of Avon in their efforts to expand the Avon Industrial Park by actively intervening in a State Environmental Assessment process that seriously threatened to stall the expansion of the Park.

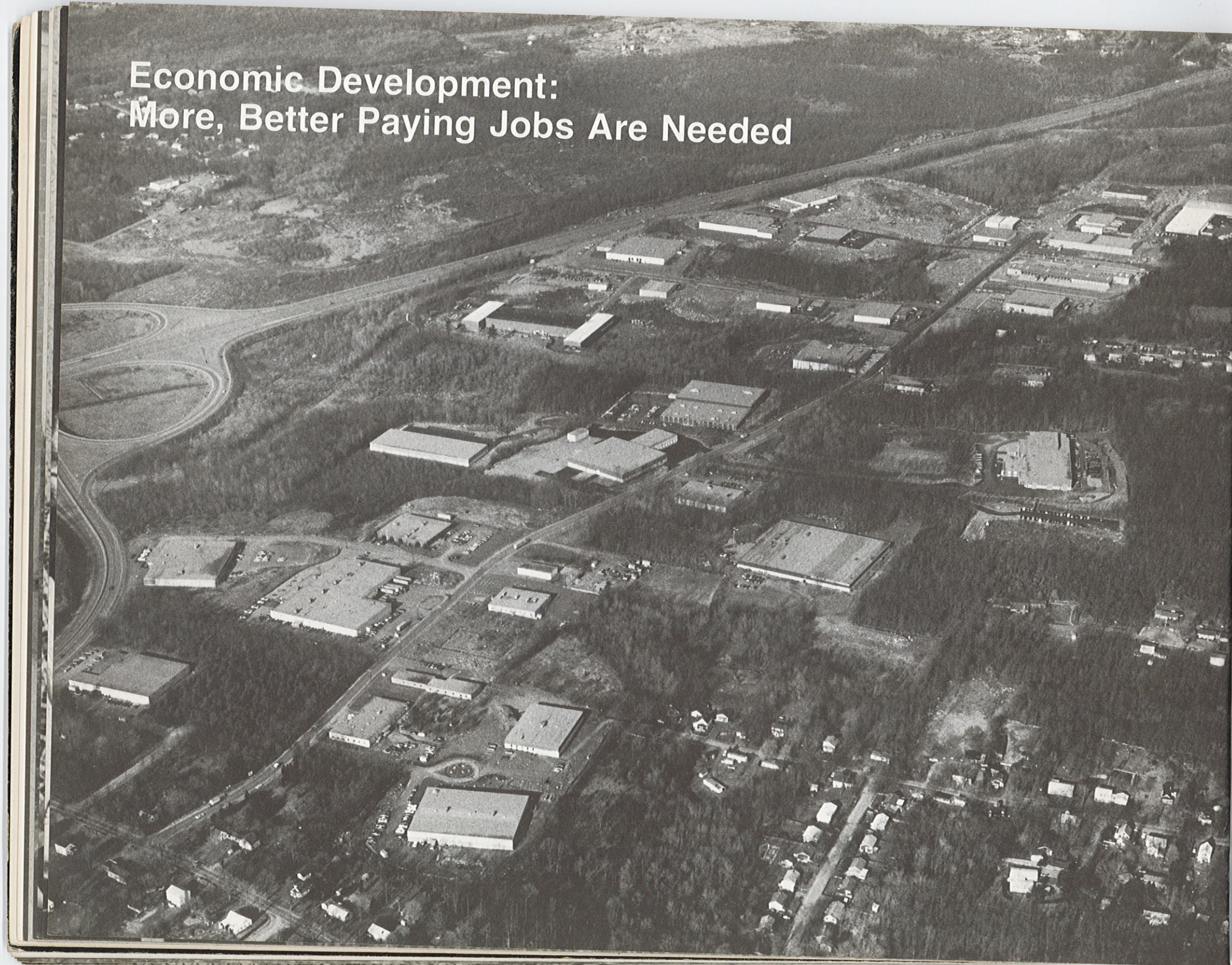
Technical assistance from the Council has also been extended to several of the region's communities in reviewing proposed zoning by-laws or subdivision regulation changes.

In December, the Council initiated a Zoning Referral System whereby member communities of the Council were invited to voluntarily submit to the Council for review and comment all zoning district amendments which have regional significance or are located within one thousand feet of a municipal boundary. The Zoning Referral System is seen as a means of minimizing the possible harmful effects of permitting incompatible land use patterns from developing at the boundaries of communities, of evaluating a community zoning proposal that may be in conflict with the development pattern in any adjacent community; or, in resolving issues between contiguous communities. To date, the system has not gained a sufficient degree of acceptance by the member communities to be effective, but the Council will continue to pursue this program in the future.

The Council also assisted Avon in the past year in the town's attempt to improve its municipal credit rating and helped the city of Brockton with a State Bicentennial grant application.

The range of activities undertaken in the Council's technical assistance program is gradually increasing. As staff resources continue to expand, the Council hopes to increase its efforts in assisting local communities. The Council hopes that more communities will actively seek out this assistance.

**Economic Development:
More, Better Paying Jobs Are Needed**



During the past year the Old Colony Planning Council continued its economic development planning activities through the preparation of a study which examined the impact of economic growth on the environmental quality of the OCPC region.

In addition, the Council through its Economic Advisory Committee also gained designation for the Brockton area communities by the Secretary of Commerce as a Title IV redevelopment area under the public works and economic development assistance act of 1965. The designation enables area communities to apply for the full range of federal economic development assistance available from the federal government for economically distressed areas including grant monies for public works projects and loan monies to industrial firms to increase employment opportunities.

One of the products of this Title IV designation was the grant received by the City of Brockton from EDA which funded in part the public works improvement project at the Brockton Industrial Park. Through the construction of roadways and associated utilities at this site, approximately 40 acres were opened up for industrial development.

In order that the region retain its designation as a Title IV redevelopment area as well as its eligibility for EDA funding, the OCPC Economic Advisory Committee submitted to Economic Development Administration the Overall Economic Development Program Progress Report for 1974 as required. This report describes the current state of the region's economy and summarizes the economic development activities of the Council and other organizations during the past year.

A major part of the report is the "1975 OEDP Project Priority List" which was developed by the OCPC Economic Advisory Committee. The list identifies projects which will have a significant economic development impact on local communities and the region as a whole.

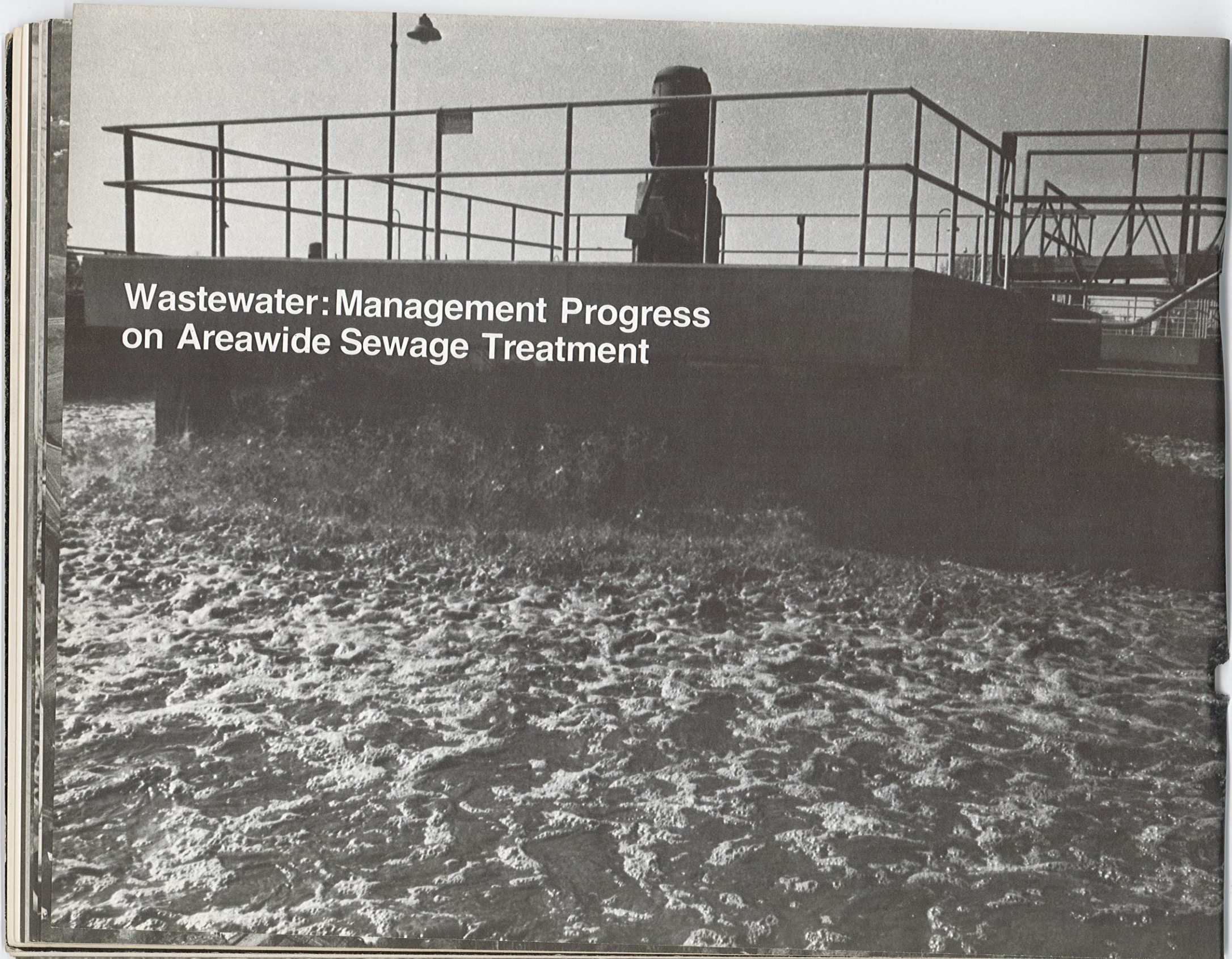
Five projects were rated by the committee as having the highest priority for EDA funding. They are:

- 1 Renewal of downtown Brockton
- 2 Feasibility and location study for East-West
- 3 North-South Highway in Brockton
- 4 Water mains to the Avon Industrial Park
- 5 Water mains to the Bridgewater Industrial Area

Other projects on the 1975 OEDP list include the following: Abington-up-grading sewer beds and replacement of water mains to industrially zoned land; Avon-renovation of new Town Hall; Bridgewater-sewer interceptor to this industrial area and access road to Bridgewater Industrial Park; Brockton-road from Main Street in West Bridgewater to Oak Hill Way in Brockton, expansion and upgrading of Brockton sewage treatment plan, upgrading of Routes 27 and 123, construction of a third water transmission main from Silver Lake to Brown's Crossing Construction of East and West side fire stations and a City DPW garage; Easton-development of 400 acres for industrial use along Route 106; Hanson-development of 600 acres for industrial use and construction of a fire station; Pembroke-acres for industrial use, construction of a police station and redevelopment of town square: West Bridgewater-construction of a road to Oak Hill Way in Brockton, town garage.

1975 OEDP listed projects with an areawide impact included: Regional Sewage Treatment Facilities; Regional Mass Transit; an East-West Connector; and the Extension of Route I-495.

With the submission of the OEDP Progress Report, the region retains its designation as a Title IV redevelopment area under the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 as amended and its eligibility for EDA funding. OCPC will continue to cooperate with local officials in creating additional employment opportunities.



**Wastewater: Management Progress
on Areawide Sewage Treatment**

As sewage issues continued to be paramount in the Old Colony region, the Council set forth a primary objective during the past year: the establishment of the Old Colony Water Pollution Control District. The Council was successful in this objective, and the region is now in a strong position to begin solving one of the region's major water quality problems. The District was one of the primary recommendations of the Regional Sewer Plan initially certified by HUD in 1972.

The key event in the past year that enabled the formation of the Old Colony Water Pollution Control District was the positive vote by the town of Bridgewater at a special town meeting in November, 1974 to join the District. The positive vote was the result of an intensive review of the issue by the Bridgewater Sewer Study Committee. The Council staff worked closely with Bridgewater officials in examining the regional sewer district issue. Soon after the Bridgewater vote, the Massachusetts Division of Water Pollution Control indicated that the District could commence its organization now that there were four communities who had voted to join the District.

Since January, 1975 the newly established District has been quite active in organizational meetings. Thus far, the District has elected officers, appointed a treasurer, selected a consultant engineering firm, developed by-laws, submitted an application for a Facilities Planning grant to the Division of Water Pollution Control and the Environmental Protection Agency, and assessed its member communities for Fiscal Year 1976 expenses. The Council staff has been an active participant with the District in its organizational meetings.

The District was notified in June by the Division of Water Pollution that it has been placed on the state priority list for funding. At the present time, the District is waiting for approval of a Step 1, Facilities planning grant from EPA. The District's consulting engineers, Camp Dresser and McKee, will perform the Facilities Planning study.

The Council has also been active in pursuing the other major aspects of the 1971 Regional Sewer Plan — the treatment of Avon's sewage and West Abinton's sewage at the existing Brockton treatment facility. The Council has continued to meet with officials from the three communities as well as with the Division of Water Pollution Control and the Environmental Protection Agency to further implementation steps.

Transportation: Multi-Modal Planning



Without a doubt, the most concentrated effort of transportation planning by the Council in this past program year has been the development of the Transit Development Program (TDP). This development program is the product of a Transit Technical Study, funded by a grant from the Urban Mass Transportation Administration with contributions of staff time from the city of Brockton. The Technical Study lasted almost a year, from July of 1974 to May of 1975. During this very active year numerous meetings were held, surveys taken, and proposals developed which would assist in outlining the most appropriate and responsive transit service for the OCPC region.

One of the high priority items on the Short-Range list was the establishment of a regional bike path and bike route system. In response to this priority the Council staff worked with the Brockton Planning Department to produce the Brockton Bikeway System Plan. This outlines a four phase proposal that would incircle the city of Brockton with a specified bike route that could be used for shopping and work trips as well as for recreational purposes. The plan will be used as the basis of an application to the Massachusetts Department of Public Works and the Department of National Resources for funding the bikeway system.

Another accomplishment during this year was the development, adoption and distribution of a Long-Range Transportation Plan. This plan is of significant importance since it represents the first Long-Range Plan exclusively for the Old Colony region. The plan addresses the coming twenty year period through discussion of economic trends, inter-regional priorities, intra-regional priorities and municipal level priorities. Having a scope which includes all applicable modes of transportation, the Long-Range Plan will have an enduring value toward the provision of major transportation improvements in the future.

Special reports were also produced which covered specific aspects of the movement of people and goods in the Old Colony region. One of these was the AIR POLLUTION CONTROL STRATEGIES IN TRANSPORTATION PLANNING which discusses the greater Brockton region's air quality and ways to maintain an acceptable standard of air quality while the demand for transportation in the region increases. Of particular interest to residents of this suburbanized region is the report, ENERGY ACTIONS. This work discusses methods to reduce fuel consumption and cites specific ways to modify automotive dependence.

Completed in the last part of this program year is a separate Transportation Annual Review Report. This report is essentially a public relations work describing the establishment and functions of the Council and Joint Transportation Committee. It is hoped that its report will be an aid to keeping the region's residents informed as to the progress being made in their area and will invite them to participate in future transportation planning through the Old Colony Planning Council's — Joint Transportation Committee.

To insure that the most comprehensive transit plan be developed, a Technical Subcommittee was established to oversee the technical adequacy of the study; a Steering Committee was assembled to review proposals from a public interest perspective; and meetings were held with elderly and limited income groups to identify the needs of these highly transit dependent residents. Data was collected from three surveys. The information collected contributed greatly to the formation of the final plan proposed in the TDP and assisted in providing an informational base for the subcommittees to make reviews and decisions. Surveys of existing regional transit riders were taken on-board vehicles of the Brockton transit service, the Interstate line between Brockton, Easton and Stoughton, and the Penn Central service between Boston and Stoughton. Ridership counts were taken on the MBTA buses, the Plymouth & Brockton buses, the Almeida buses, the Brush Hill buses and the Hudson airport limousine. In addition to these on-board surveys, nearly three hundred home-interview surveys were taken and a large number of mail-out surveys were sent out to residents of the region.

As the summary product of this Technical Study, the Transit Development Program specifies a high frequency, radial route transit service generating from the Brockton downtown area.

While the Technical Study was underway, several other transportation projects were also in progress. As an outcome of the Technical Study, Basic Analysis Zones or BAZ's were developed by the staff as a statistical increment, keying certain socio-economic data to small areas within the region. In November the Joint Transportation Committee (JTC) re-examined the previously established Short-Range Priority List. This list was established and expanded to include transportation priorities by town as well as overall regional priorities. All priorities were ranked as high, medium, or low priority as a means of alerting state agencies to the most pronounced transportation improvement needs in this region. Eight regional Short-Range Priorities were established which included a variety of projects such as maintaining and upgrading existing mass transit systems and establishing commuter parking lots.

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Floods and Flood Insurance

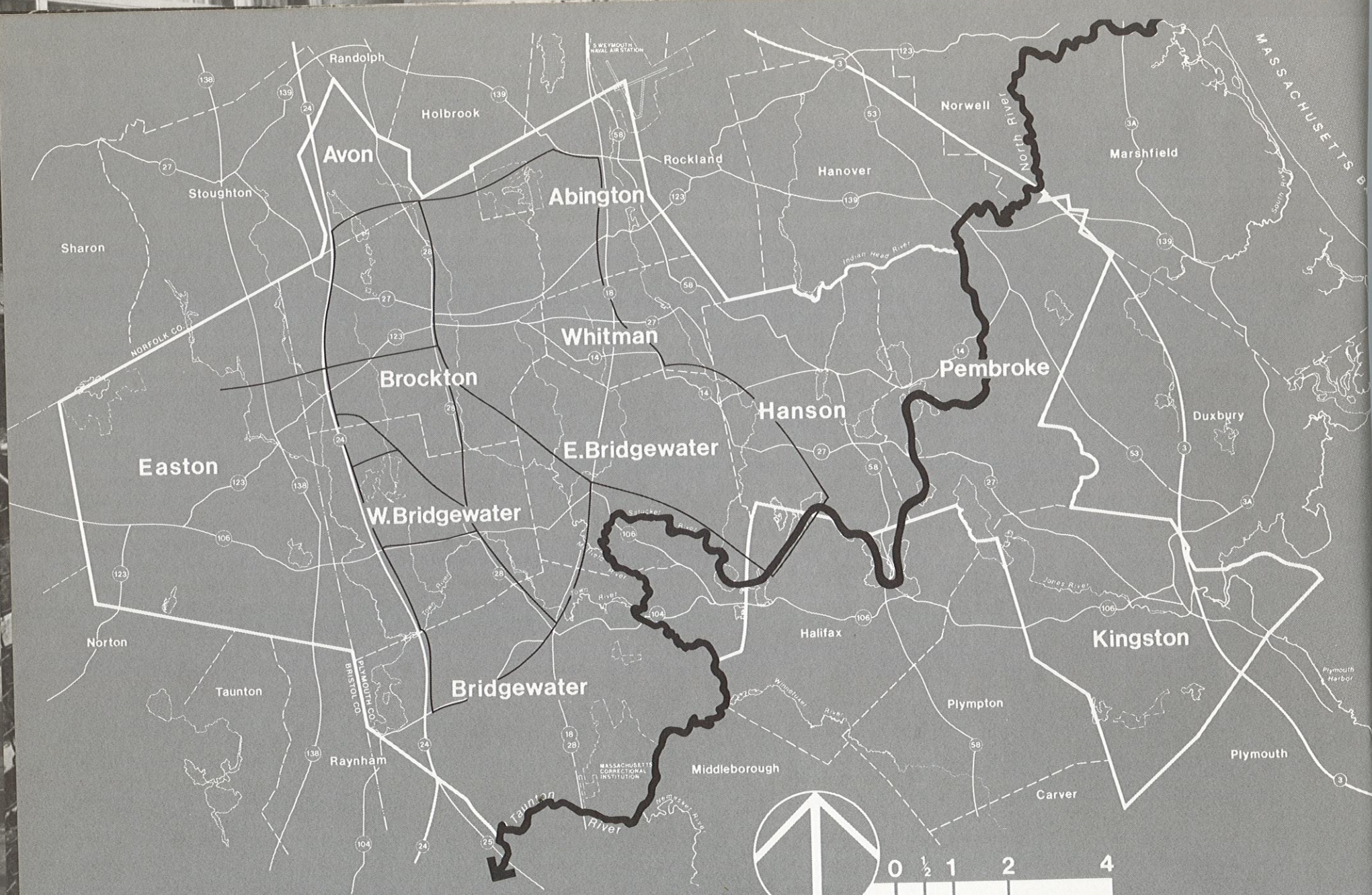




The Council staff worked intensively during the past year with several communities concerning the National Flood Insurance Program and its application procedure. The OCPC region has experienced several floods in the past, particularly in the late 1960's. Since that time, the region has experienced a considerable amount of urbanization that has increased the threat of further flooding.

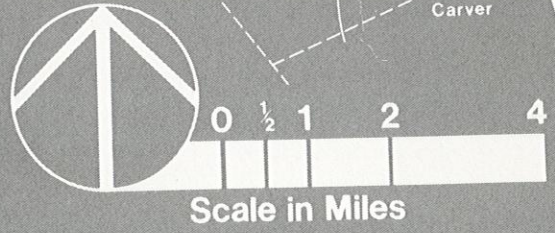
During the past year, three additional OCPC communities were accepted into HUD emergency portion of the National Flood Insurance Program: East Bridgewater, Hanson, and Whitman. In addition, Bridgewater and West Bridgewater have recently submitted applications and are awaiting approval from HUD.

The Council staff also worked with the town of Bridgewater during the past year in defining the flood plain area in that community. This information will be used during the upcoming year to formulate a flood plain zoning provision for Bridgewater.

All member communities of the Old Colony Planning Council that filed applications with the Federal Insurance Administration, identifying their area of special flood hazard, were accepted into the National Flood Insurance program. The communities are now legally qualified for Federal or federally-related financial assistance for construction or acquisition of buildings by individual property owners and communities in the special flood hazard areas. Federal assistance includes grants, SBA, FFA loans, VA and FHA mortgage loans, and conventional construction and mortgage loans from federally insured, regulated or supervised lending institutions. This qualification will save lives and property and be helpful to the communities by assuring the proper use of its flood plain areas, which will reduce the potential damage from future flooding and also ultimately enhance the overall value of the community.



Wampanoag Canoe Trail 
 Proposed Regional Bicycle Trail 



Old Colony Planning Council

Bicentennial Planning

Bicentennial Planning Projects of Lasting Value

The emphasis of the celebration of the nation's bicentennial in the area is on efforts that will be of lasting value to the region. In view of this objective, the Old Colony Planning Council will work to coordinate bicentennial activities having regional implications.

Two regional projects which will have lasting value, are the regional bikeway system and the Wampanoag canoe trail through Southeastern Massachusetts.

The regional bikeway system was proposed in the Council's Long Range Transportation Plan. These bike paths would connect key recreational and commercial centers in the region, and while the pathways would serve primarily a recreational function, they would hopefully supplement automobile use between residential employment and commercial centers.

The Wampanoag canoe trail was once a major transportation route of the Wampanoag Indians, connecting Massachusetts Bay and Narragansett Bay. This ancient waterway stretches from the North River, down Pembroke's Herring Brook, into Furnace Pond, then through a series of small ponds and streams to the Satucket River, to the Taunton River, and finally end at Dighton Rock State park in Rehobeth, on Narragansett Bay. The proposal to protect the routes as a wilderness area, and to provide canoe campsites along the trail has been discussed by the North and South Rivers Watershed Association and the Pilgrim Project.

HOUSING: A Tightening Market



This past year the housing effort of the Old Colony Planning Council has centered on facilitating low and moderate income housing construction. A major goal of the Old Colony Planning Council as stated in the Future Land Use Plan is "to provide a choice of acceptable housing, by type, location and cost to all residents of the region; particularly the poor, the disadvantaged and minority groups." To this end it is the policy of the Council to encourage the construction of low and moderate income housing in the suburban areas of the region and to encourage communities to set aside sufficient land for future residential construction. Related to this effort, the Council has supported the Massachusetts Department of Community Affairs in their efforts to encourage suburban communities to accept a larger share of family housing.

According to the Department of Community Affairs' Housing Needs Study, the Old Colony Region (including the town of Halifax) has a total housing need of 8773.

The projected amount of State and Federal Funding for housing in the next few years falls far short of this estimated need. Because of this it was necessary to establish a priority allocation method to distribute funds to the planning regions in the State and to the individual towns within these regions. To this end the Council established three subregional groups on the basis of housing need and past housing effort. The general rationale behind this grouping was the opinion that future low and moderate income housing should be shifted away from Brockton to some of the surrounding suburban communities.

In view of the tremendous gap between housing needs in the area and the projected State and Federal funding for housing, the Council's housing strategy emphasizes the need to look for innovative, community oriented, and possibly non-profit solutions to the housing problem. This might involve encouraging and assisting Community Development Corporations, Housing Trusts similar to the Brockton Housing Trust, and other self-help housing programs.

During the recession of the past year or so, new housing construction has almost reached a standstill. While this has given many of our local communities a chance to upgrade their environmental standards and land use regulation regarding new residential construction, the problem of an inadequate housing supply still remains.

The total number of proposed units, as indicated by building permits issued in the last 6 months of 1974 and 1st 5 months of 1975, are shown below:

<i>Abington</i>	13
<i>Avon</i>	4
<i>Bridgewater</i>	26
<i>Brockton</i>	125
<i>East Bridgewater</i>	41
<i>Easton</i>	97
<i>Halifax</i>	32
<i>Hanson</i>	17
<i>Pembroke</i>	82
<i>West Bridgewater</i>	7
<i>Whitman</i>	28

Regional Clearinghouse Review



NEW JOBS

FOR YOUR COMMUNITY

**IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE * ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION**

Under the provisions of the Federal Office of Management and Budget Circular A-95, the Old Colony Planning Council acts as the Regional Clearinghouse for coordinating federally assisted programs and projects in the OCPC region. The objective of the regional clearinghouse review is to facilitate coordination of state, regional and local planning and development activities that are assisted under various federal programs. The A-95 review procedure sets forth a system under which federal agencies and applicants for federal assistance must give state and local governments, through the regional and the state clearinghouse, an opportunity to assess the relationship of their proposals to state, areawide, and local plans and programs. The regional and state clearinghouse comments to federal funding agency are advisory only with a favorable review being no assurance of federal approval of an application, nor a negative review a veto.

During the past year, the number of applications reviewed by the Council increased substantially over the previous year due largely to the inclusion of additional Federal programs in the review process.

The Council also reviews all environmental assessments prepared for projects located within the OCPC region that are required by the provisions of Chapter 30, Section 62 of the General Laws, Acts of 1972, and rules promulgated by the Secretary of Environmental Affairs. In accordance with the provisions of the Act, prospective developers must prepare an Environmental Assessment to determine whether the proposed project could cause significant environmental damage and thus require an environmental impact report.

Careful scrutiny must be given to all proposed projects that may be harmful to the environment or have other significant environmental effects. Local Conservation Commissions play a key role in monitoring proposed projects for possible damage to the area's environment.



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