

Martha's Vineyard Commission

OLD STONE BUILDING • 33 NEW YORK AVENUE
PO BOX 1447 • OAK BLUFFS, MA 02557
PHONE: (508) 693-3453 • FAX: 508-693-7894
INFO@MVCOMMISSION.ORG • WWW.MVCOMMISSION.ORG

July 31, 2026

Re: Support for the Martha's Vineyard Island-Wide Emergency Management and Response Coordination Strategic Integration and Implementation Plan

Dear Members of the Aquinnah Select Board,

On behalf of the Martha's Vineyard Commission, I am writing to express our support for the Martha's Vineyard Island-Wide Emergency Management and Response Coordination Strategic Integration and Implementation Plan, developed in collaboration with the Olson Group.

MVC has been assisting all six island towns to update their resilience plans and to remain eligible for the Commonwealth's climate grant called Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness program. Between the fall of 2025 and the spring of 2026, the first phase of this work focused on engaging populations that are disproportionately vulnerable to climate impacts, including older adults, people with different abilities, individuals experiencing homelessness and/or substance abuse, residents with limited English proficiency, and Tribal members.

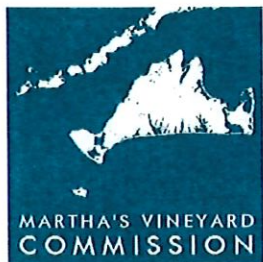
Drawing on input from these community members, the project team facilitated three-hour resilience workshops in each of the six towns. Through this process, every town independently identified emergency management as a top priority. Participants frequently referenced the two major blizzards this past winter, particularly the latter storm, which left many residents without power and significantly disrupted transportation, and access to essential resources for several days. These experiences underscored the urgent need for stronger island-wide coordination, communication, preparedness, and recovery before, during, and after emergencies.

Given this clear and consistent community input, we recommend that the Select Board formally endorse the Strategic Integration and Implementation Plan, with any revisions they deem appropriate. We also support the Olson Group's suggestion to explore governance models beyond a traditional public agency or committee, including nonprofit or other organizational structures that could effectively implement the Plan. Advancing this work will complement the second phase of the MVP 2.0 process, which focuses on strengthening community-based preparedness across the island.

Thank you for your consideration and for your continued commitment to strengthening Martha's Vineyard's resilience, emergency preparedness, and capacity to respond to future challenges.

Sincerely,


Adam Turner
Executive Director, Martha's Vineyard Commission



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Dear Members of the Chilmark Select Board,

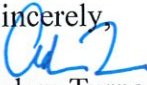
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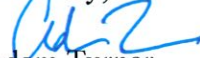
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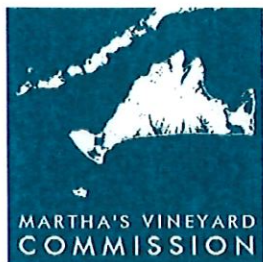
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Dear Members of the Oak Bluffs Select Board,

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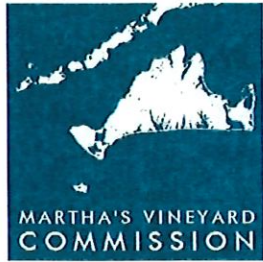
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Dear Members of the Tisbury Select Board,

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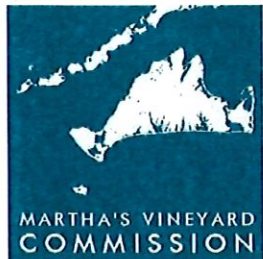
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Dear Members of the West Tisbury Select Board,

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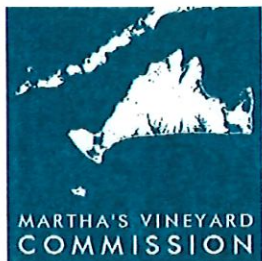
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Dear Members of the Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah) Council,

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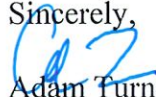
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