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For Immediate Release:
**PLEASANT BAY ALLIANCES RELEASES DATA ON DEVELOPMENT
POTENTIAL WITHIN THE PLEASANT BAY WATERSHED**

Harwich, MA. The Pleasant Bay Alliance reported that there is potential for an additional 1,728 new residential dwellings to be built on new lots within the watershed of Pleasant Bay, an increase of 28% over existing development. Nine of the Bay's twenty-one subwatersheds could see an increase in new dwellings of 40% or more.

The Pleasant Bay watershed consists of 21,306 acres divided among the towns of Orleans (43%), Chatham (31.5%), Harwich (12%), and Brewster (13.5%). The watershed feeds surface and groundwater into Pleasant Bay and its tributaries. Groundwater discharge and overland run-off from land uses within the watershed are critical factors in determining Pleasant Bay's water quality. The watershed is divided into subwatersheds that are the land areas that feed surface and ground water into smaller water bodies (sub-embayments) within the Pleasant Bay system.

"Many consider the area around the Bay to be close to fully developed," said George Olmsted, Alliance Steering Committee Chairman. "These numbers indicate that there is significant potential for additional development, and the resulting nitrogen inputs into the Bay system," Mr. Olmsted said. Evidence of excessive nitrogen has already been found in Pleasant Bay waters including Muddy Creek, Arey's Pond, Meetinghouse Pond, Round Cove, Lonnie's Pond, Quanset Pond, Paw Wah Pond, Pochet, Crow's Pond, Frost Fish Creek, and portions of Big and Little Pleasant Bay. Excessive nitrogen in marine waters, while not necessarily harmful to human health, can lead to the loss of aquatic plants and marine animals normally associated with healthy eco-systems. On-site septic systems are widely viewed as a primary contributor of nitrogen in groundwater and marine waters.

The findings are the result of a build out analysis conducted by the Alliance with support from the Cape Cod Commission, using the most up-to-date assessors' records from each of the four towns in the watershed. Other key findings include:

- Of the additional 1,728 potential new lots, 679 (39%) are in Orleans, 526 (31%) are in Harwich, 315 (18%) are in Chatham, and 208 (12%) are in Brewster.

- The following subwatersheds could see an increase of 40% or more in developable lots: Arey’s Pond (Orleans, Brewster); Namequoit River (Orleans, Brewster), Quanset Pond (Orleans, Brewster); Little Pleasant Bay (Orleans); Pochet Neck (Orleans), The River (Orleans); Kescayogansett Pond (Orleans); Pah Wah Pond (Orleans); Bassing Harbor (Chatham).
- The following subwatersheds could see the largest numeric increases in developable lots: Arey’s Pond (121); Namequoit River (203); Pleasant Bay (460); Round Cove (84); Upper Pochet Neck (89); The River (68); Frost Fish Creek (81); and Muddy Creek (343).
- 785 or 45% of potential new lots are located within a Zone Two, which is an area identified as contributing to public drinking water supplies.

The detailed build-out analysis has been submitted to Selectmen and local boards and commissions that have oversight in planning, conservation, wastewater management or land acquisition in the Alliance towns and Brewster. “We see this analysis as a way to support the local comprehensive plans and wastewater management plans being developed within each town,” said George Meservey, Orleans Town Planner and member of the Alliance committee that developed the analysis. “ We also want to use the analysis to determine if there are any other steps that could be recommended to the towns to enhance protection of the Bay’s water quality and natural resources.”

The Towns of Orleans, Chatham, Harwich and Brewster developed a resource management plan (RMP) for the Bay and its watershed, and three of the towns formed the Pleasant Bay Resource Management Alliance to implement the RMP. The RMP includes a number of recommendations dealing with watershed planning and management. The Alliance found that a comprehensive assessment of future development potential within each subembayment of the Pleasant Bay watershed was needed to evaluate specific actions the towns could take to implement the watershed protection recommendations.

The Pleasant Bay Resource Management Alliance is a cooperative effort among the Towns of Orleans, Chatham and Harwich to preserve the natural resources and public enjoyment of Pleasant Bay.