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LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MURRAY BREAKS GROUND AT BESSE PARK PROJECT

*Project will provide water access and help ensure protection from
future coastal storm damage*

WAREHAM - Friday, July 23, 2010 - Continuing the Patrick-Murray Administration's efforts to improve infrastructure and support regional economic development, Lieutenant Governor Timothy Murray today joined local officials for a groundbreaking ceremony for several upgrades to Besse Park in Wareham.

Park improvements, supported by funding from the Administration's Seaport Advisory Council, chaired by Lieutenant Governor Murray, will provide public access to the water and protection from coastal storm damage by replacing a deteriorated H-pile and concrete bulkhead with a new steel sheet pile bulkhead and concrete cap.

"This is what it's all about - putting shovels in the ground and people to work immediately," said Governor Deval Patrick. "This project is an excellent example of the collaboration and investment that leads to both construction and jobs, as well as support for the long term investment in our communities that is critical to the Commonwealth's long-term economic success."

"This kind construction project will lead to job creation and improved infrastructure," said Lieutenant Governor Timothy Murray, chair of the Seaport Advisory Council. "We are excited about today's groundbreaking at Besse Park and look forward to seeing this

project support economic development, sustainability and growth in this coastal community."

At its meeting in September 2008, the Seaport Advisory Council approved \$575,000 to fund the bulkhead replacement project at Besse Park, a small town owned property within the Wareham Village. The Council and the Town of Wareham assessed the need to improve and enhance access to the water, recognizing significant undermining of the present concrete walk. In addition to water access and protection from coastal storm damage, repairs to the bulkhead will also provide direct access to the Wareham Village area, increasing economic development opportunities for the town.

The infrastructure improvements will offer direct access to the westerly fishing pier, as well as parking for those visiting Besse Park. The existing system of floats and ramps, in conjunction with the bulkhead replacement, will continue to provide facilities for current water dependent uses. Construction will be completed by Grove Construction of Hopedale, Massachusetts.

"I am very pleased that the Patrick/Murray Administration and the Seaport Advisory Council have provided the funding necessary to make these significant infrastructure improvements. As a direct result of this project, jobs will be created, the Wareham Village area will increase their economic opportunities and will be further protected from coastal storm damage," said Senator Marc R. Pacheco.

Funding for Seaport Advisory Council projects is supported by the state's Energy and Environmental Bond Bill. The bill, approved in 2008, was created to fund land, parks, and clean energy projects across the Commonwealth. This legislation includes funding for land protection and acquisition and funding to enhance state parks and rebuild related infrastructure. The legislation also includes authorization for new programs to address environmental challenges.

The Seaport Advisory Council, chaired by Lieutenant Governor Murray, consists of 15 members, including cabinet secretaries, agency heads, mayors from seaport communities, and regional and waterway user representatives. During the Patrick-Murray Administration, the Seaport Advisory Council has allocated over \$30 million for projects that will enhance and develop the commercial aspects of the ports and harbors in the Commonwealth's coastal communities.

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