To Whom it May Concern,

M.G.L. Chapter 252, Section 2A(b)(2) requires EEA to establish a process to allow a municipality to request to opt out of mosquito control spraying, either aerial or ground-based, conducted by the State Reclamation and Mosquito Control Board (“SRMCB”) under M.G.L. c. 252, Section 2A(a). For the SRMCB to recognize a municipal opt out, the municipality must first have an alternative management plan (“plan”) approved by the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (“EEA”).

In accordance with M.G.L. c. 252, Section 2A(b)(2), EEA has reviewed your municipality’s plan. EEA assessed the impact of your municipality’s alternative plan on regional mosquito control should your request to opt-out be approved, with consideration for historical arbovirus risk and with consideration for strength of plan submission. The impact of your plan as compared to mosquito control conducted by the SRMCB is rated as moderate regional risk. As a result, in accordance with M.G.L. c. 252, Section 2A(b)(2), EEA has made a determination not to approve your plan for 2021 and the SRMCB will be notified that your plan was not approved. The SRMCB has not yet determined whether it will initiate spray activities in your municipality to mitigate public health concerns associated with arbovirus. EEA will stay in touch as the season progresses.

There remain substantial opportunities for improvement in all alternative management plan submissions this year. This includes the existence of and quality of alternative mosquito control management services to be provided, implementation of source reduction methods, data collection and analysis, assessment of efficacy, and regional coordination. Most importantly, this also includes the extensiveness of education and outreach to local residents.

Guidance for next year’s opt-out application program will be forthcoming. We expect that the application will have an expanded scope and requirements, and applications will be subject to significantly more stringent review.
Public health outcomes are driven in part by local mosquito control actions. To facilitate planning improvements throughout the remainder of this season, please see attached for a document containing mosquito control resources for cities and towns. We expect that your municipality will review these materials and implement best practices to the maximum extent practicable throughout the rest of the season.

Sincerely,

Kathleen A. Theoharides
Secretary

Attachment: Mosquito Control Resources

CC: State Reclamation and Mosquito Control Board