

NOTE: THIS IS A COURTESY COPY OF THIS PLAN AMENDMENT PROPOSAL. THE OFFICIAL VERSION WILL BE PUBLISHED IN THE JUNE 19, 2023, NEW JERSEY REGISTER. SHOULD THERE BE ANY DISCREPANCIES BETWEEN THIS TEXT AND THE OFFICIAL VERSION OF THE AMENDMENT, THE OFFICIAL VERSION WILL GOVERN.

## **PUBLIC NOTICE**

### **ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

### **WATERSHED AND LAND MANAGEMENT**

### **DIVISION OF WATERSHED PROTECTION AND RESTORATION**

### **Proposed Amendment to the Ocean County Water Quality Management Plan**

**Take notice** that the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (Department) is seeking public comment on a proposed amendment to the Ocean County Water Quality Management (WQM) Plan in accordance with the New Jersey Water Quality Planning Act, N.J.S.A. 58:11-1 et seq., and the Water Quality Management Planning rules, N.J.A.C. 7:15. The proposed amendment, identified as “St. Mary’s Commercial Center” (Program Interest No. 435448, Activity No. AMD200007) would expand the sewer service area (SSA) of the Ocean County Utilities Authority Central Wastewater Pollution Control Facility (OCUA Central WPCF) by 8.1 acres to serve a proposed commercial development located on Block 145 Lot 6.03 (formerly a portion of Lot 9) within Toms River Township, Ocean County. The proposed project consists of a 14,800 square foot (sq. ft.) drugstore, a 75-seat fast food restaurant, a 3,800 sq. ft. bank, and a 12,000 sq. ft. retail store/office. The proposed project would generate a projected wastewater flow of 4,185 gallons per day (gpd), as calculated in accordance with N.J.A.C. 7:14A-23.3, to be received

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by the OCUA Central WPCF (New Jersey Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NJPDES) permit #NJ0029408).

This notice represents the Department's determination that the proposed amendment is compliant with the applicable regulatory criteria at N.J.A.C. 7:15, as described below.

In accordance with N.J.A.C. 7:15-3.3(b), site specific amendments are limited to proposed alterations to the eligible SSA needed to address a specific project or activity. N.J.A.C. 7:15-3.5(j)2 requires that site specific amendments proposing to add 100 or more acres or generating 20,000 gpd or more of wastewater flow shall include a proposed modification to the wastewater treatment capacity analysis prepared in accordance with N.J.A.C. 7:15-4.5(b) to include the proposed project or activity. The proposed project involves less than 100 acres and will generate less than 20,000 gpd of wastewater flow; therefore, update of the wastewater treatment capacity analysis is not required.

Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 7:15-4.4(d), the following are not eligible for delineation as SSA, except as otherwise provided at N.J.A.C. 7:15-4.4(i), (j), (k), and (l): environmentally sensitive areas (ESAs) identified pursuant to N.J.A.C. 7:15-4.4(e), as any contiguous area of 25 acres or larger consisting of any of the following, alone, or in combination: endangered or threatened wildlife species habitat, Natural Heritage Priority Sites, riparian zones of Category One (C1) waters and their tributaries, or wetlands; coastal planning areas identified at N.J.A.C. 7:15-4.4(f); and ESAs subject to 201 Facilities Plan grant conditions pursuant to N.J.A.C. 7:15-4.4(g). The

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Department conducted an evaluation of the project site using a GIS shapefile provided by the applicant compared to the Department's GIS data layers available at <https://gisdata-njdep.opendata.arcgis.com> and/or other information as noted below, to determine the presence of any such areas in accordance with N.J.A.C. 7:15-4.4(e), (f), and (g) and made the following findings:

- The Department determined that the proposed SSA does not contain any areas mapped as endangered or threatened wildlife species habitat Rank 3, 4, or 5 on the Department's Landscape Maps of Habitat for Endangered, Threatened or other Priority Wildlife based on the "Landscape Project Data" Version 3.3 GIS data layers, in accordance with N.J.A.C. 7:15-4.4(e)1.
- The Department determined that the proposed SSA does not contain any areas mapped as Natural Heritage Priority Sites based on the "Natural Heritage Priority Sites" GIS data layer, in accordance with N.J.A.C. 7:15-4.4(e)2.
- The Department determined that the proposed SSA does not contain any C1 waters or 300-foot riparian zones along any C1 waters or upstream tributaries within the same HUC-14 watershed of any C1 waters based on the "Surface Water Quality Standards" GIS data layer, in accordance with N.J.A.C. 7:13-4.1(c)1 and N.J.A.C. 7:15-4.4(e)3.
- The Department determined that there are no wetlands located on the proposed project site based on the "Wetlands 2012" GIS data layer in accordance with N.J.A.C. 7:15-4.4(e)4.

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- The Department determined that the proposed SSA does not contain any areas mapped as Fringe Planning Areas, Rural Planning Areas, or Environmentally Sensitive Planning Areas within the Coastal Area Facility Review Act (CAFRA) zone based on the “CAFRA (polygon)” GIS layer and the “State Plan Data” GIS layer, in accordance with N.J.A.C. 7:15-4.4(f).
- The Department determined that there are no 201 Facilities Plan grant conditions applicable to the project based on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency list of New Jersey Grantees with ESA Grant Conditions at <https://www.epa.gov/npdes-permits/environmentally-sensitive-area-esa-grant-condition-waiver-program-region-2> in accordance with N.J.A.C. 7:15-4.4(g).

Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 7:15-4.4(h)1 and 2, the Department considered the land uses allowed in adopted zoning ordinances, future land uses shown in adopted municipal or county master plans, and other local land use objectives. On November 30, 2022, the Toms River Township Planner issued a letter stating that inclusion of the project site in the SSA is consistent with the planning and goals of Toms River Township and was addressed in the 2019 Master Plan Reexamination Report recommending a Highway Business use zoning for the site. The Ocean County Planning Board issued a letter dated December 2, 2022, stating that the proposed project is consistent with the Ocean County Comprehensive Master Plan.

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This notice is to inform the public that a plan amendment has been proposed for the Ocean County WQM Plan. All information related to this plan and the proposed amendment is located at:

Ocean County Department of Planning  
129 Hooper Avenue  
Toms River, New Jersey 08754

AND

New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection  
Division of Watershed Protection and Restoration  
Bureau of NJPDES Stormwater Permitting and Water Quality Management  
Water Quality Management Planning Program  
PO Box 420, Mail Code 501-02A  
501 East State Street  
Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0420

The Department's file is available for inspection between 9:00 A.M. and 4:00 P.M., Monday through Friday, upon request. An appointment to inspect the file must be arranged by calling the Bureau of NJPDES Stormwater Permitting and Water Quality Management at (609) 633-7021.

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Interested persons may submit written comments on the proposed amendment to the Department at the address cited above or at the email: [wqmp.publiccomments@dep.nj.gov](mailto:wqmp.publiccomments@dep.nj.gov) and to the County at the following address:

Mr. Anthony Agliata

Ocean County Department of Planning

P.O Box 2191

Toms River, New Jersey 08754-2191

Comments should reference Program Interest No. 435448, Activity No. AMD200007 and must be submitted within 30 days of the date of this public notice.

Interested persons may request in writing that the Department hold a nonadversarial public hearing on the amendment or extend the public comment period specified in this notice. Such requests should reference Program Interest No. 435448, Activity No. AMD200007 and must demonstrate sufficient public interest for the public hearing or extension of the comment period, as defined at N.J.A.C. 7:1D-5.2(d). The request must be submitted within 30 days of the date of this notice to the Department address cited above. Should the Department decide to hold a public hearing, additional notice will be published in a future issue of the New Jersey Register and the comment period will be extended to 15 days after the public hearing. All comments submitted prior to the close of the comment period shall be considered by the County and the Department before making a final decision on the proposed amendment.

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Sewer service is not guaranteed should this amendment be adopted since it represents only one part of the permit process and other issues may need to be addressed. Inclusion in the SSA as a result of the approval of this amendment does not eliminate the need to obtain all necessary permits, approvals or certifications required by any Federal, State, county or municipal review agency with jurisdiction over this project/activity.

5/5/2023

Date



Gabriel Mahon, Bureau Chief  
Bureau of NJPDES Stormwater Permitting and Water Quality Management  
Division of Watershed Protection and Restoration  
NJ Department of Environmental Protection