PUBLIC NOTICE

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

WATERSHED AND LAND MANAGEMENT

DIVISION OF WATERSHED PROTECTION AND RESTORATION

Proposed Amendment to the Tri-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 Tri-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 the "Old York Country Club Warehouse" (Program Interest No. 435433, Activity No. AMD220009) would establish a 115.6-acre sewer service area (SSA) for a proposed 1,135,260 square foot (SF) building consisting of 1,115,260 SF of warehouse space and 20,000 SF of office space on Block 701, Lot 2.01 in Chesterfield Township, Burlington County. A 10.8 acre portion of the proposed SSA is already in the adopted SSA. The existing golf course country club is served by an onsite discharge to groundwater wastewater treatment facility regulated under NJPDES permit NJ0105392. The existing system will be closed and the permit revoked. The proposed project will generate a projected wastewater flow of 19,985 gallons per day based on flow calculated in accordance with 7:9A-7.4 and is to be served by a new onsite discharge to groundwater wastewater treatment and disposal system to be regulated under a new NJPDES permit.

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 must update 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. However, since the wastewater is to be treated by a proposed new onsite wastewater treatment facility specifically for this project, an 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 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 project site contains areas mapped as Rank 4 habitat for Bald Eagle but these areas are not within the proposed SSA.

- 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 7:15-4.4(e)3.
- The Department determined that there are wetlands located on the project site based on the "Wetlands 2012" GIS data layer, in accordance with N.J.A.C. 7:15-4.4(e)4; however, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 7:15-4.4(j)3, the applicant provided a Freshwater Wetlands Letter of Interpretation (LOI)/Line Verification File #0300-20-0002.1 FWW200001 confirming that there are no wetlands within the proposed sewer service area.
- 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 (USEPA) 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 and county master plans, and other local land use objectives. The Township of Chesterfield adopted the "Old York Redevelopment Plan"

on October 27, 2022, via Ordinance No. 2022-15 (amended by Ordinance No. 2022-17 on December 8, 2022). The proposed project was deemed consistent with the Redevelopment Plan in Resolution 2022-12-22 and received Bulk Variance and Preliminary Major Site Plan approval on October 17, 2023, via Resolution No 2023-10. The Burlington County Department of Resource Conservation issued a letter, dated April 9, 2021, stating that Burlington County has not adopted a master plan for development, but has adopted a Highway Master Plan. Any site plan for land development must be reviewed by the County Planning Board to determine if such development would impact County roads or County drainage facilities.

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

New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection

Division of Watershed Protection & 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 & Water Quality Management at (609) 633-7021.

In accordance with N.J.A.C. 7:1D-5.2, a virtual public hearing will be held by the Department on the proposed amendment at which time all interested persons may appear and shall be given an opportunity to be heard. The public hearing will take place on August 14, 2024, at 12:00 PM, as a virtual

Microsoft Teams web meeting only. The hearing will conclude at 2:00 PM or the conclusion of all public testimony, whichever is earlier. Details on how to access the hearing will be made available at https://www.nj.gov/dep/wqmp/wmpnotices.html one day before the public hearing. For those without access to web meetings, the hearing will also be accessible by phone for audio only. The phone number and access code for joining the web meeting via phone can be obtained by calling (609) 633-7021 or emailing wqmp.publiccomments@dep.nj.gov. Commenters that anticipate providing verbal testimony are encouraged to notify the Department in advance by calling (609) 633-7021 or emailing wqmp.publiccomments@dep.nj.gov to ensure a timely and streamlined public hearing process. The Department will record the meeting as part of the public record.

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. Comments should reference Program Interest No. 435433, Activity No. AMD220009 and must be submitted within 30 days of the date of this public notice, and 15 days after the conclusion of the public hearing. All comments submitted prior to the close of the comment period shall be considered by the Department before making a final decision on the proposed amendment.

Sewer service is not guaranteed should this amendment be adopted as 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.

5/17/2024 SIGNED

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