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PUBLIC NOTICE

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

OFFICE OF WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT COORDINATION

Proposed Amendment to the Lower Raritan/Middlesex County Water Quality Management Plan

Public Notice

Take notice that the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (Department) seeks public comment on a proposed amendment to the Lower Raritan/Middlesex County Water Quality Management (WQM) Plan. This amendment proposal (Program Interest No. 435463, Activity No. AMD160002), submitted by Tony D Environmental Permitting, on behalf of Queen St. Mary and Prince Tadros Church, would expand the sewer service area (SSA) by 8.2 acres and allows for the construction of a proposed 400-seat church, three-bedroom single family home, a community center with two offices, a bookstore, six classrooms, a conference room and kitchen to be served by a new onsite discharge to groundwater wastewater treatment and disposal system. The proposed project, identified as St. Mary's Coptic Church, is in South Brunswick Township, Middlesex County on a portion of Block 22/Lot11.22, on Davidson Mill Road just west of the New Jersey Turnpike. This proposed amendment has been reviewed in accordance with the Water Quality Management Planning rules at N.J.A.C. 7:15 and represents the Department's decision to proceed with the amendment application as provided in N.J.A.C. 7:15-3.5(g)5.

Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 7:15-4.4(d), sewer service may only be provided to areas that are not identified as Environmentally Sensitive Areas (ESAs), certain coastal planning areas, or areas subject to US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) 201 Facilities Plan grant conditions, except as otherwise provided at N.J.A.C. 7:15-4.4(i) through (l).

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Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 7:15-4.4(e), ESAs are any contiguous area, based on a composite Geographic Information System (GIS) analysis, of 25 acres or larger consisting of any of the following features alone or in combination: areas mapped as threatened and endangered wildlife species habitat as identified on the Department's Landscape Maps of Habitat for Endangered, Threatened or Other Priority Wildlife (Landscape Maps) as Rank 3, 4, or 5; areas mapped as Natural Heritage Priority Sites; Category One waters designated in the Department's Surface Water Quality Standard, N.J.A.C. 7:9B, based on the Department's maps of such waters and their corresponding 300-foot riparian zone based upon the Flood Hazard Area Control Act Rules, N.J.A.C 7: 13; and wetlands as mapped pursuant to N.J.S.A. 13:19A-1 and 13:9B-25.

Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 7:15-4.4(d), areas shall only be eligible for SSA if they are not identified as environmentally sensitive areas, such as threatened and endangered wildlife species habitat identified pursuant to N.J.A.C. 7:15-4.4(e)1. Areas identified by the Landscape Maps as being suitable habitat for threatened and endangered species Ranks 3 (State threatened), Rank 4 (State endangered), or Rank 5 (Federal endangered or threatened) are not to be included in proposed SSAs except as provided at N.J.A.C. 7:15-4.4(i) through (l). To evaluate areas mapped as threatened or endangered wildlife habitat pursuant to N.J.A.C. 7:15-4.4(e)1, the Department utilized its Landscape Maps, version 3.3, available at <http://www.nj.gov/dep/gis/listall.html>, and determined that a portion of the site is mapped as Rank 3 Silver Bordered Fritillary habitat.

N.J.A.C. 7:15-4.4(j)2 provides that an applicant may rebut the presumption that the Department's environmental data is accurate by providing a Habitat Suitability Determination (HSD) prepared pursuant to N.J.A.C. 7:15-4.6 that demonstrates that an area is not suitable habitat for endangered or threatened wildlife species. On November, 15 2016, the applicant submitted a HSD prepared by Dubois

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Environmental Consultants. Department review of the HSD determined that the Silver Bordered Fritillary habitat was suitable habitat for the Silver Bordered Fritillary due to the presence of suitable host plant species within the onsite vegetation.

Where a proposed site includes suitable habitat for an identified endangered or threatened wildlife species, N.J.A.C. 7:15-4.4(k) provides that areas designed as ESA based on the Landscape Maps may be included in SSA provided the Department determines, based upon a review of data provided by the applicant as part of a Habitat Impact Assessment (HIA), that the proposed activity avoids the endangered or threatened wildlife species habitat, will result in insignificant or discountable effects on the activities of the species (such as not being critical to the survival of a local population), or includes some adequate degree of conservation measures that will minimize to the maximum extent practicable all adverse modification of suitable habitat and will mitigate for any such adverse modification. N.J.A.C. 7:15-4.7 provides the information that must be submitted as part of an HIA for the Department to review. On November 18, 2016, the applicant submitted an HIA evaluating impacts of the proposed project on the habitat for the Silver Bordered Fritillary. The HIA proposed the following onsite conservation measures to mitigate for any adverse modification of the Silver Bordered Fritillary habitat:

1. Preservation of approximately 1.34 acres of undisturbed suitable grassland/meadow habitat;
2. Habitat mitigation of 2.1 acres of grassland/meadow habitat in association with the proposed development, including areas surrounding the proposed buildings and septic system disposal field;
3. Habitat mitigation of approximately 1.56 acres of grassland/meadow habitat in association with the proposed stormwater management basin;
4. Establishment of a conservation restriction on areas included in the habitat management areas;
and
5. Development of a habitat management plan to preserve the meadow community.

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In total, an area of approximately 5 acres of suitable habitat would be maintained onsite to compensate for the direct loss of approximately 1.5 acres of suitable Silver Bordered Fritillary habitat. This proposed amendment is subject to the implementation of the above-referenced conservation measures.

Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 7:15-4.4(d), areas shall only be eligible for SSA if they are not identified as environmentally sensitive areas, such as Natural Heritage Priority sites identified pursuant to N.J.A.C. 7:15-4.4(e)2. Areas mapped as Natural Heritage Priority Sites are not to be included in proposed SSAs, except as provided at N.J.A.C. 7:15-4.4(i) through (l). To evaluate areas mapped as Natural Heritage Priority Sites, the Department utilized its GIS data at <http://www.nj.gov/dep/gis/listall.html>. There are no Natural Heritage Priority sites located on the subject site.

Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 7:15-4.4(d), areas shall only be eligible for SSA if they are not identified as environmentally sensitive areas, such as Category One waters and their corresponding 300-foot riparian zones pursuant to N.J.A.C. 7:15-4.4(e)3. Areas identified as Category One waters and their corresponding 300-foot riparian zones are not to be included in SSAs, except as provided at N.J.A.C. 7:15-4.4(i) through (l). To evaluate the existence of Category One waters and their corresponding 300-foot riparian zones pursuant to N.J.A.C. 7:15-4.4(e)3, the Department utilized its GIS data at <http://www.nj.gov/dep/gis/listall.html>. There are no Category One waters or corresponding 300-foot riparian zones located on the subject site.

Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 7:15-4.4(d), areas shall only be eligible for SSA if they are not identified as environmentally sensitive areas, such as mapped wetlands pursuant to N.J.A.C. 7:15-4.4(e)4. Areas mapped as wetlands pursuant to N.J.S.A. 13:9A-1 and 13:9B-25 are not to be included in proposed SSAs, except as provided at N.J.A.C. 7:15-4.4(i) through (l). To evaluate the existence of mapped wetlands

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pursuant to N.J.A.C. 7:15-4.4(e)4, the Department utilized its GIS data at <http://www.nj.gov/dep/gis/listall.html> and identified mapped wetlands on the subject site. Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 7:15-4.4(j)3, the applicant provided Freshwater Wetlands Letter of Interpretation/Line Verification File No. 1221-12-0005.1FWW120001 (LOI), confirming that there are no wetlands on the proposed project site.

Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 7:15-4.4(d), areas shall only be eligible for SSA if they are not identified as coastal planning areas pursuant to N.J.A.C. 7:15-4.4(f). Areas mapped as Coastal Fringe Planning Areas, Coastal Rural Planning Areas, and Coastal Environmentally Sensitive Planning Areas are not to be included in SSA, except, as provided under N.J.A.C. 7:15-4.4(f)1 and 2 to abate an existing imminent public health and safety issue, to accommodate infill development or as necessary to create a linear boundary that coincides with recognizable geographic, political, or environmental features depicted in the Department's GIS coverage. To evaluate the existence of any coastal planning areas identified in N.J.A.C. 7:15-4.4(f), the Department evaluated the presence of coastal planning areas identified on the CAFRA Planning Map available at <http://www.nj.gov/dep/gis/install.html>. The subject site is not located within any Coastal Fringe Planning Areas, Coastal Rural Planning Areas, or Coastal Environmentally Sensitive Planning Areas.

Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 7:15-4.4(d), areas shall only be eligible for SSA if they are not identified as areas subject to 201 Facilities Plan grant conditions pursuant to N.J.A.C. 7:15-4.4(g). Areas with Federal 201 grant limitations that prohibit the extension of sewers into specified ESAs are excluded from SSA, unless documentation can be provided demonstrating that a mapping revision or waiver has been obtained from EPA, as provided under N.J.A.C. 7:15-4.4(g). To evaluate the existence of 201 Facilities Plan grant conditions that prohibit the expansion of SSA to ESAs, the Department reviewed the EPA list of New

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Jersey Counties with ESA Grant Conditions at <https://www3.epa.gov/region02/water/sewer.html>. There are no 201 Facilities Plan grant conditions for the proposed site.

Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 7:15-4.4(h)1 and (h)2, the Department shall consider in the delineation of areas eligible for sewer service, the land uses allowed in zoning ordinances and future land uses shown in municipal or county master plans. On January 22, 2015, the South Brunswick Township Board of Adjustment issued a resolution granting preliminary and final site plan approval for the proposed project, identified as Township File No. 12-026 . The Middlesex County Department of Planning has notified the Department that it will not confirm or deny consistency of a proposed amendment with the county master plan until it updates its plan, which has been in effect since 1969. The Middlesex County Board of Chosen Freeholders will state a position in support of, or in opposition to, the proposed amendment prior to adoption pursuant to N.J.A.C. 7:15-3.5(g)6.

Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 7:15-3.5(j)2, for projects that propose to add 100 or more acres to the SSA, or where the additional SSA would generate 20,000 gallons per day (gpd) or more of wastewater, the applicant must prepare a modification to the wastewater treatment capacity analysis to include the proposed project or activity, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 7:15-4.5(b). The project plans to add 8.2 acres to the SSA, and the projected wastewater flow for the proposed project to be received by the proposed onsite discharge to groundwater wastewater treatment and disposal system is 4,615 gpd, based on flow calculated pursuant to N.J.A.C. 7:9A-7.4. Therefore, no wastewater treatment capacity analysis is required for this proposed amendment.

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

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Middlesex County Department of Planning
75 Bayard Street – 5th Floor
New Brunswick, NJ 08901

AND

New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection
Office of Water Resources Management Coordination
P.O. Box 420, Mail Code 401-02A
401 East State Street
Trenton, NJ 08625-0420

The Department's file is available for inspection through the Open Public Records Act. Requests may be made online at <http://www.nj.gov/opra/>.

Interested persons may submit written comments on the proposed amendment to the WQM Program Docket, at the Department address cited above. Comments should reference Program Interest No. 435463, Activity No. AMD160002 and must be submitted within 30 days of the date of this public notice or within 15 days of the last public hearing, as described below. A copy should be sent to:

Ms. Mirah Becker
Middlesex County Department of Planning
75 Bayard Street – 5th Floor
New Brunswick, NJ 08901

AND

Tony DiLodovico
Tony D Environmental Permitting
One Briarwood Court
Jackson, NJ 08527

A **public hearing** will be held by Middlesex County on the proposed WQM Plan amendment. The public hearing will be on August 23, 2017 at 5:30 p.m. in the Freeholders' Public Meeting Room, 1st Floor,

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of the Middlesex County Administration Building located at 75 Bayard Street, New Brunswick, New Jersey.

Interested persons may request in writing that the Department hold a non-adversarial public hearing on the amendment or extend the public comment period in this notice. Such request should reference Program Interest No. 435463, Activity No. AMD160002 and must demonstrate sufficient public interest for the public hearing or extension of the comment period, as defined under N.J.AC. 7:1D-5.2(d). The request must be submitted within 30 days of the date of this notice to the WQM Program Docket at the Department address cited above. Should the Department decide to hold a public hearing, notice of said hearing and the revised comment period's closing date will be published in a future New Jersey Register. If a non-adversarial public hearing for the amendment is held, the public comment period provided by this notice shall close 15 days after the last public hearing. All comments submitted prior to the close of the comment period shall be considered by Middlesex County and the Department in reviewing the amendment request.

Sewer service is not guaranteed by this amendment. This proposed amendment represents only one part of the permit process and other issues may need to be addressed. These issues may include, but are not limited to, obtaining all permits for the proposed projects; meeting all regulatory requirements for needed permits, compliance with stormwater regulations; antidegradation; effluent limitations; water quality analysis; exact locations and designs of future treatment works; development in wetlands and flood prone areas, or other environmentally sensitive areas which are subject to regulation under Federal or State law or to any contractual arrangements between municipalities, authorities and/or private parties. Inclusion in the sewer service area 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

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municipal review agency with jurisdiction over this project/activity.

SIGNED

Colleen Kokas, Director
Office of WRM Coordination
Department of Environmental Protection

June 22, 2017

Date