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PUBLIC NOTICE

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

OFFICE OF WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT COORDINATION

Proposed Amendment to the Mercer 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 Mercer County Water Quality Management (WQM) Plan. This amendment proposal, (Program Interest No. 435452, Activity No. AMD170003) entitled “Mercer County Park West Windsor”, submitted by the Mercer County Department of Planning on behalf of the Mercer County Park Commission, would expand the Hamilton Township Water Pollution Control Facility sewer service area (SSA) by 4.08 acres to reincorporate five existing park facilities into the SSA and to add three park facilities (two that are existing and one that is proposed) into the SSA. The existing park facilities within the SSA delineated in the West Windsor Township Wastewater Management Plan (WMP) were inadvertently omitted from the SSA when the Department adopted the Mercer County WMP on October 9, 2013. The West Windsor Township WMP, and its SSA mapping, were incorporated into the Mercer County WMP when the Mercer County WMP was adopted. No new construction or flows are proposed beyond what that which was previously-approved for sewer service in the above referenced West Windsor Township Wastewater Management Plan. Information about the three park facilities that were not located in the previously-adopted SSA are included within the list of the eight park facilities below. These park facilities, located within Mercer County Park in West Windsor Township, Mercer County, addressed by this proposed amendment are:

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1. Baseball field restroom – Block 25 portion of Lot 28. Proposed 0.12-acre addition to serve site of existing restroom that is currently served by a septic system and was within the previously-adopted SSA. There are no plans to extend sewer service to the baseball field site, but inclusion of the restroom into the SSA would facilitate any future plans to do so.
2. Ice Rink Building – Block 25, portion of Lot 28. Proposed 1.77-acre addition to serve site of existing ice rink which is currently served by a septic system.
3. Fairgrounds Restroom – Block 25, portion of Lot 28. Proposed 0.11-acre addition to serve existing fairgrounds facilities which are currently served by sewer.
4. Ranger Station Restroom – Block 25, portion of Lot 40. Proposed 0.37-acre addition to serve existing ranger station restroom, which is presently served by sewer and was within the previously-adopted SSA.
5. Soccer Field Restroom – Block 23, portion of Lot 25. Proposed 0.08-acre addition to serve existing soccer field restroom which is currently served by sewer and was within the previously-adopted SSA.
6. West Picnic Area Restroom – Block 23, portion of Lot 24. Proposed 0.12-acre addition to serve existing picnic area restroom that is currently served by sewer and was within the previously-adopted SSA.
7. Marina and Boathouse – Block 25, portion of Lot 35. Proposed 1.44-acre addition to serve existing marina and boathouse that are currently served by sewer and was within the previously-adopted SSA.

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8. Future Fairgrounds Concession Stand Site – Block 25, portion of Lot 28. Proposed 0.07-acre addition to serve the restrooms of a future concession stand that has not yet been built.

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 further 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).

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 as Rank 3, 4, or 5 (Landscape Maps); 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 zones 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 ESAs, such as threatened and endangered wildlife 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 wildlife species Rank 3 (State threatened), Rank 4 (State endangered),

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and Rank 5 (Federal endangered or threatened) are not to be included in proposed SSAs except as provided under N.J.A.C. 7:15-4.4(i) through (l). To evaluate areas mapped pursuant to N.J.A.C. 7:15-4.4(e)1 as threatened or endangered wildlife species habitat, the Department utilized its Landscape Maps, version 3.3 at <http://www.nj.gov/dep/gis/listall.html>. There is no threatened or endangered wildlife species habitat mapped within the proposed SSA.

Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 7:15-4.4(d), areas shall only be eligible for SSA if they are not identified as ESAs, 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 under N.J.A.C. 7:15-4.4(i) through (l). To evaluate areas mapped as Natural Heritage Priority Sites pursuant to N.J.A.C. 7:15-4.4(e)2, 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 ESAs, 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 under 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 their corresponding 300-foot riparian zones 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 ESAs, such as mapped wetlands pursuant to N.J.A.C. 7:15-4.4(e)4. Areas mapped as

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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 under N.J.A.C. 7:15-4.4(i) through (l). To evaluate the existence of mapped wetlands 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>. The Department's review found that there are no wetlands nor wetlands transition areas located 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/listall.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 the 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

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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 Jersey Counties with ESA Grant Conditions at <https://www.epa.gov/npdes-permits/environmentally-sensitive-area-esa-grant-condition-waiver-program-region-2>. 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 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. Each of the above-referenced park facilities are located within West Windsor Township's Low Density Residential/Conservation zone in a currently-developed county park. On November 9, 2017, the Mercer County issued a memorandum stating that the proposed project is consistent with the Mercer County Master Plan.

Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 7:15-3.5(j)2, projects that propose to add 100 or more acres to the SSA or where the additional SSA would generate 20,000 gpd or more of wastewater, a 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 is required. The proposed project plans to add 4.08 acres to the SSA and the projected wastewater flow for the proposed project, including those park facilities which are presently served by the sewer system, anticipated to be received by the Hamilton Township Water Pollution Control Facility, is 20,845 gpd based on flow calculations in accordance with N.J.A.C. 7:14A-23.3. The Hamilton Township Water Pollution Control Facility (WPCF) is currently permitted to discharge up to 16 Million Gallons per Day (MGD) under New Jersey Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NJPDES) permit NJ0026301. Based on the highest consecutive 12-month rolling average flow from NJPDES Discharge Monitoring

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Reports over the most recent five-year period, for the 12-month period from March 2015 to February 2016, the existing wastewater flow discharged from the Hamilton Township WPCF was calculated to be 9.146 MGD. Therefore, the additional flow should not cause the facility to exceed its permitted capacity.

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

Mercer County Department of Planning
McDade Administration Building
640 South Broad Street
P O Box 8068
Trenton, NJ 08650-0068

AND

NJ 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 on-line at <http://www.nj.gov/opra/>.

Interested persons may submit written comments on the amendment to WQM Program Docket, at the Department address cited above. Comments should reference Program

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Interest No. 435452, Activity No. AMD170003, 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:

Secretary, Mercer County Planning Board

P O Box 8068

Trenton, NJ 08650-0068

AND

Mr. Andrew Lloyd

Mercer County Department of Planning

McDade Administration Building

640 South Broad Street

P O Box 8068

Trenton, NJ 08650-0068

A **public hearing**, as required by Mercer County's adopted amendment procedures will be held by the Mercer County Department of Planning for the proposed amendment on Wednesday, April 11, 2018, at 9:00 A.M. in the McDade Administration Building, Freeholder Meeting Room 211, 640 South Broad Street, Trenton, NJ.

All comments submitted should reference Program Interest No. 435452, Activity No. AMD170003 and must be submitted by Thursday, April 26, 2018. All comments submitted prior to the close of the comment period shall be considered by the Department, The Mercer County Planning Board, and the County Executive in reviewing the amendment request.

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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. 435452 Activity No. AMD170003 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 Mercer 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. 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 municipal review agency with jurisdiction over this project/activity.

SIGNED

Alan Miller, Manager
Office of WRM Coordination
Department of Environmental Protection

February 7, 2018

Date