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DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING

AMENDMENT TO THE LOWER RARITAN/MIDDLESEX COUNTY WATER
QUALITY MANAGEMENT PLAN

Public Notice

Take notice that on **AUG 01 1996**, pursuant to the provisions of the New Jersey Water Quality Planning Act, N.J.S.A. 58:11A-1 et seq., and the Statewide Water Quality Management Planning rules (N.J.A.C. 7:15-3.4), an amendment to the Lower Raritan/Middlesex County Water Quality Management Plan was adopted by the Department of Environmental Protection (Department). This amendment expands the sewer service area of the Middlesex County Utilities Authority (MCUA) Edward J. Patten Water Reclamation Facility to include the **Celentano Tract** located on Block 18, Lot 35 in Cranbury Township, Middlesex County. The Celentano Tract is a 10.5 acre site which will include 28 residential units comprised of 16 affordable housing units and 12 market rate units. The projected wastewater flow for this development is 7,200 gallons per day. The property will be served by a gravity sewer connecting to an existing pump station at the adjacent Cranbury Greene/Heritage Park subdivision. The MCUA treatment facility discharges to the Raritan Bay and North Channel of the Raritan River which are classified in the New Jersey Surface Water Quality Standards, N.J.A.C. 7:9B, as SE1 (saline waters of estuaries 1). No expansion of the MCUA treatment facility is proposed. The properties located along South Main Street to the west and south of the Celentano Tract are not proposed to be served by the MCUA treatment facility at this time and are therefore not included in the amendment.

This amendment proposal was noticed in the New Jersey Register on April 15, 1996. A comment on this amendment was received during the public comment period and is summarized below with the Department's response.

COMMENT: South Brunswick Township objected to the proposed amendment stating that the current contract with Cranbury Township for conveyance of wastewater through the South Brunswick collection system is unfair to South Brunswick. South Brunswick has objected to any increase in sewage flows from Cranbury Township which will magnify the contractual inequity.

RESPONSE: The Department does not exercise authority over contractual relationships. Instead, the Department reviewed whether or not there is sufficient capacity in the MCUA treatment plant and the downstream collection system

development. The South Brunswick Township Engineer's certification in the Treatment Works Approval Permit application for the Celentano Tract development is evidence that there is sufficient capacity in the downstream sewer lines. Also, the flow records for the MCUA treatment plant indicate sufficient capacity is available. The Department has therefore adopted the amendment.

This amendment represents only one part of the permit process and other issues will be addressed prior to final permit issuance. Additional issues which were not reviewed in conjunction with this amendment but which may need to be addressed may include, but are not limited to, the following: antidegradation; effluent limitations; water quality analysis; exact locations and designs of future treatment works (pump stations, interceptors, sewers, outfalls, wastewater treatment plants); and development in wetlands, flood prone areas, designated Wild and Scenic River areas, or other environmentally sensitive areas which are subject to regulation under Federal or State statutes or rules.

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for Robert Tudor
Administrator
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Planning
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8/1/96

Date

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