#### MONTGOMERY COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PARK AND PLANNING

THE MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION

8787 Georgia Avenue Silver Spring, Maryland 20910-3760 301-495-4500, www.mncppc.org Item # 16

MCPB 6-8-06

(DEFERRED from 5-11-06 PB)

#### **MEMORANDUM**

Date:

May 31, 2006

TO:

Montgomery County Planning Board

VIA:

Gwen Wright, Acting Chief, Countywide Planning

Jorge Valladares P.E., Chief, Environmental Planning

FROM:

Stephen Federline, Supervisor, Environmental Planning

**REVIEW TYPE:** 

Revision to Approved Final Forest Conservation Plan

**APPLYING FOR:** 

Amendment to a Final Forest Conservation Plan (FFCP) – Proposal to add

Offsite Gravity Sewer Line

**PLAN NAME:** 

Towns of Dogwood

**PLAN NUMBER:** 

820050160

**REVIEW BASIS:** 

Forest Conservation Regulations, Section 113.A.(2), Regulation No. 1-

.01AM (COMCOR) 18-01AM

**ZONE:** 

RT-8

**LOCATION:** 

Located on the east side of Dogwood Lane north of Briggs Chaney Road

in Silver Spring.

APPLICANT:

Rupert O'Brien Homes

**ENGINEER:** 

Macris, Hendricks, and Glascock

**HEARING DATE:** June 8, 2006 (originally heard May 11, 2006)

#### REVIEW OF May 11, 2006 BOARD DISCUSSION

At the earlier Planning Board hearing on May 11, 2006, staff recommended approval with conditions of a proposed change to the final forest conservation plan to mitigate for 63,341 square feet (1.45 acre) of forest clearing for the purpose of installing a proposed 8" sanitary sewer outfall through an adjoining property owned by the SHA. The staff report for the May 11<sup>th</sup> hearing is provided as Attachment 1. Mitigation took two forms: 1) mitigation as required by the County Forest Conservation Law worksheet of 0.54 acres of reforestation, and 2) reforestation of all the area cleared of forest (0.65 acre) within an existing conservation easement on the SHA property. The total reforestation amounted to 1.19 acres of reforestation proposed.

At the public hearing, there was lengthy discussion among Planning Board members, staff, and the applicant. Some Board members thought the amount of compensation inadequate, particularly the compensation for forest cleared within the existing forest conservation easement. Questions were also raised as to whether the Planning Board could deny the proposed amendment to the forest conservation plan and the consequences of such a denial. The applicant agreed to a deferral to reconsider and re-examine the proposal.

#### UPDATE on Changes to the Sewer Alignment and Forest Conservation Plan

Since the Planning Board hearing, the applicant has examined and proposed a re-alignment for the gravity sewer line through the SHA property. In addition, staff has obtained additional information to help address issues raised at the May 11<sup>th</sup> hearing.

The applicant further examined engineering options to reduce the forest loss within the easement and stream valley buffer, and was able to move the sewer further upgrade to connect to an upstream manhole closer to the easement edge. The forest loss within the existing conservation easement was significantly reduced from  $\sim$ 700 linear feet and 0.65 acre forest loss in the original plan, to  $\sim$ 50 linear feet and 0.06 acre forest loss under the current plan. Encroachment into the environmental buffer outside the conservation easement was also reduced, with encroachment primarily within the first 360' of sewer easement eastward leaving the Towns of Dogwood property.

The applicant will meet forest conservation requirements of 0.70 acre, and compensation in the amount of 0.69 acres, through a combination of on site forest retention, on site reforestation, and off-site reforestation. The applicant has agreed to replant trees along the sewer easement in addition to forest retention and forestation calculations, and will make a good faith effort to obtain consent from SHA to expand Forest Conservation Easement to include this area. Further, the plantings will increase in size from 1-1 1/2 inch caliper, to 2-2 1/2 inch trees, and the maintenance period increased from the standard 2 years to 4 years. A graphic showing the changes in the sewer alignment from the original proposal is attached, with the conservation easement and environmental buffer highlighted. The comparison of impacts associated with the original (4/20/06) and revised (5/26/06) sewer alignment is indicated in the table below.

	Original FCP	Revised FCP	Change from Prior Plan
Forest Conservation Table	(4/20/06)	(5/30/06)	
Existing Forest (On & Offsite/SHA)			
within outfall easemen	t 4.71 ac	4.68 ac	
			~ same acreage of
Forest Removed " " "	3.31 ac	3.28 ac	forest cleared
Forest Removed w/in Existing FC			0.59 ac less forest
Easement	0.65 ac	0.06 ac	cleared in easement
Forest Removed w/in SHA Environmental			0.32 ac less forest
Buffer	0.60 ac	0.28 ac	cleared in env. Buffer
Total Forest Saved	1.40 ac	1.40 ac	
Planting Required per FC Law (Chapter 22A)	0.54 ac	0.70 ac	Regulatory
Add. Compensatory Planting Req. for Forest			Compensatory
Loss w/in Conservation Easement	0.65 ac (1:1)	0.12 ac (2:1)	
Add. Compensatory Planting Req. for Forest			Compensatory
Loss w/in SHA Environmental Buffer	0.00 ac	0.57 ac (2:1)	
			Total: 0.20 acres
Total Reforestation Planting Required	1.19 ac	1.39 ac	add'I forest planting
Planting Onsite (T of Dog) within FC			
Easement.	0.06 ac	0.06 ac	
* Planting Offsite (SHA) within Sewer			
Easement	1.02 ac	1.00 ac	
Offsite Mitigation Banking Provided	0.11 ac	1.39 ac	
Caliper Trees Provided	1 - 1 1/2"	2 - 2 1/2'"	
Length of Maintenance Period	2 years	4 years	

<sup>\*</sup>Good faith effort to be made to obtain consent from SHA to place area w/in area of forest clearing for sewer within forest conservation easement.

#### Conservation Easement and Environmental Buffers on SHA Property

The SHA property adjoins and is north of the approved right-of-way for the Intercounty Connector (ICC), covers 28.2 acres, and is completely forested. Its southern and eastern portions contain streams, wetlands, floodplain, and associated environmental buffers associated with the Little Paint Branch watershed. Until at least 2002, the land was part of a larger property that was proposed for subdivision development as part of the Cross Creek golf course community. The SHA property contains a conservation easement that was created by the developer for Cross Creek before it was sold to SHA. The conservation easement is recorded in the land records. However, its shape did not follow any logical environmental or forest boundary, nor does it appear that the SHA property (Phase III of the Cross Creek preliminary plan) was subject to the conditions of Cross Creek Preliminary Plan #1-98048 (which only approved Phases I and II, and required a conservation easement). Thus, the conservation easement does not appear to be a result of a regulatory requirement. No record plat has been recorded for the property.

Although the conservation easement agreement identifies M-NCPPC as the grantee, there is no indication that the agreement was reviewed or approved by this agency. This applicant is making an effort to identify the requirement for establishment of the easement. Normally such an easement should encompass the entirety of streams, wetlands, floodplains, and their

environmental buffers on a site, yet this conservation easement only partially covers these environmental features.

#### Alternative to Avoid Forest Clearing on SHA Property

An alternative to the gravity sewer through the SHA property does exist to serve Towns of Dogwood. WSSC review has found it to be technically feasible to serve Towns of Dogwood via a pressure sewer system, instead of constructing a gravity sewer line through forested land, including forested environmental buffer areas on SHA property. However, it is WSSC's policy not to allow pressure sewer systems for new subdivisions if a gravity sewer alternative is possible without unacceptable levels of environmental impact.

Staff is pursuing discussions with WSSC and Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to determine if WSSC will allow a pressure system so that for st clearing in environmental buffers on SHA property can be completely avoided. Environmental staff believes that the pressure sewer alternative has considerable merit since it would avoid disturbance of forested environmental buffers. Further, it would obviate the need for amendment to the forest conservation plan for Towns of Dogwood. While more than this property can and would likely be served by this gravity sewer, the other properties have not yet been approved for development, nor evaluated for other sewer options to further minimize impacts.

At this point, this builder has moved forward with due diligence for about a year to secure all approvals, and to hold the project up for an indeterminate period to resolve differing policies and objectives between agencies is not acceptable. Therefore, staff will report the outcomes of its discussions with DEP and WSSC to the Board at the June 8<sup>th</sup> hearing on this issue, but will not hold up the release of building permits if an appeal to WSSC's policy requiring gravity sewer for this property, and county law requiring protection of priority forest and sensitive areas cannot be reconciled by the time of building permit application.

Unless WSSC reverses its stated position requiring gravity sewer, some encroachment into the environmental buffer for sewer construction would be necessary in the area just east of the Towns of Dogwood property, and would be considered to be necessary and unavoidable.

#### Consequences of Board Denial

If the Planning Board denies this Amendment to the Approved Final Forest Conservation Plan, the applicant cannot move forward to secure a sediment control permit, or clear offsite forest. The development could only proceed in a manner consistent with the current approved Final FCP, which shows onsite pressure sewer.

#### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

Staff recommends approval of the amendment to the Towns of Dogwood Final Forest Conservation Plan 820050160, per the revised plan dated May 30, 2006, subject to the following conditions, all of which must be satisfied prior to M-NCPPC release of the building permits:

- 1. Final forest conservation plan to show reforestation necessary to satisfy requirements of the forest conservation law (Chapter 22A), plus additional reforestation to compensate at a rate of 2:1 for the clearing of forest in environmental buffer and Conservation Easement.
- 2. Applicant to provide written evidence of a bona fide offer to SHA, as owner of the property containing the offsite sewer easement, to accept reforestation along the sewer easement and permanent protection in the form of a Category I forest conservation easement.
- 3. For reforestation requirements that cannot be met onsite, the applicant shall identify and secure an offsite location to meet reforestation requirements, in accord with priorities established in Section 108E of the Forest Conservation Regulations.
- 4. In descending order of preference, examine locational priorities and provide appropriate commitment(s) to meeting reforestation requirements as follows<sup>1</sup>:
  - a) within the area cleared for sewer installation on the SHA property;
  - b) provide protection of forest on the SHA property, with the owner's consent to meet the Towns of Dogwood and all forest conservation law requirements for ultimate use of the SHA property;
  - c) forest enhancement/offsite reforestation in the same watershed, or in a Special Protection Area;
  - d) forest enhancements/offsite reforestation in another watershed; or use of a forest bank, if available.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Any area shown for reforestation on SHA property cannot be counted as credit toward required reforestation without agreement to a permanent protection mechanism such as a forest conservation easement.

- 5. Applicant shall submit for staff review and approval a reforestation planting plan for the offsite location, or protection of existing forest (at a ratio of 2 acres of forest for each acre of reforestation credit) with appropriate notes, easements and bonding, or use of an approved forest conservation mitigation bank, if available.
- 6. Applicant to enter into an agreement with M-NCPPC to maintain and manage the planted areas for a minimum of four years, or until the M-NCPPC Forest Conservation Inspector approves full release of the performance bond.

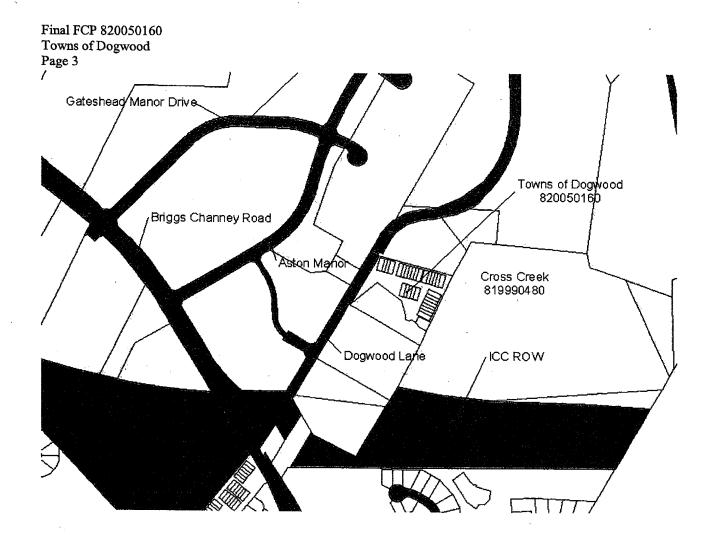
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- 2. Applicant shall submit a reforestation planting plan and offsite location for staff review and approval, or protection of existing forest, with appropriate notes, easements and bonding, or the applicant may submit a certificate of compliance to use an approved forest conservation mitigation bank.
- 3. Applicant shall enter into an agreement with M-NCPPC to maintain and manage the planted areas for a minimum of two years, or until the M-NCPPC Forest Conservation Inspector approves full release of the performance bond.
- 4. Applicant shall facilitate, and provide staff with confirmation of, the recordation of an amendment to that Category I Conservation Easement Agreement, dated June 2, 2002, which granted an easement to M-NCPPC over a portion of the adjoining property that will be impacted by the proposed offsite sewer alignment. Such amendment shall expressly permit the installation of the proposed sewer alignment and planting as depicted on and/or required by the subject forest conservation plan amendment.

#### SITE DESCRIPTION

The site is located on the east side of Dogwood Lane north of Briggs Chaney Road in Silver Spring. The Planning Board approved Site Plan 820050160 "Towns of Dogwood", with conditions, on May 20, 2005. A minor amendment to the site plan was approved by the Planning Director on March 9,2006, principally to reflect the applicant's decision to leave in place (rather than relocate) an existing CIP sized water line. This site plan covers 5.0 acres and includes 28 lots. The changes to the approved forest conservation plan are substantially offsite, for a sanitary sewer outfall across the adjoining property owned by SHA.

Vicinity Map



#### PROPOSED FOREST CONSERVATION PLAN CHANGES

This is an application to amend Final FCP 820050160 "Towns of Dogwood" to allow offsite construction of a gravity sanitary sewer line, and to require appropriate additional compensation for clearing within an existing category one forest conservation easement on the adjoining Cross Creek property. The applicant making the request is the Rupert O'Brien Group, LLC, who purchased the property after approval of the site plan. The applicant proposes to remove an additional 63,341square feet (or 1.45 acre) of forest, of which 0.65 acres are in an existing Forest Conservation Easement on the adjoining Cross Creek property (approved site plan/final forest conservation plan #8-99048). The applicant proposes to meet the forest conservation ordinance requirements for the forest loss by providing offsite reforestation planting in the amount of 1.19 acres. The amount of additional forest planting was determined in the following manner: 1) the amount needed to meet the standard forest conservation requirements in accord with the revised Forest Conservation worksheet (0.54 acres), and 2) an additional amount as mitigation (0.65 acres) to replace -the area cleared within the existing forest conservation easement on the Cross Creek property.

#### **BACKGROUND**

The Montgomery County Planning Board approved site plan 820050160 "Towns of Dogwood", on May 20, 2005. Environmental Planning staff approved the final Forest Conservation Plan

(FFCP) in May 2005. Conditions of that approval created category I forest conservation easements covering 1.47 of existing high priority forest within the environmental buffer.

In addition to the major changes associated with the sewer outfall, Montgomery County DPS made some additional changes to the final Storm Water Management plan for the property in November 2005. These changes required an additional 4,100 square feet of forest clearing within the Towns of Dogwood site for changes to the SWM outfalls and stream restoration work. The applicant then submitted a revised FFCP to be reviewed by staff. Upon review of the revised FFCP and after the Planning Board' site plan review, staff learned that WSSC rejected the proposal for a pressure sewer system, (shown on all plans which appeared before the Planning Board). This decision then requires a lengthy gravity sewer system extension of ~ 1600 linear feet off-site across the Cross Creek property. The State Highway Administration (SHA) currently owns the Cross Creek property.

The off-site sewer alignment will directly affect forested wetlands, environmental buffers, and contiguous high priority forest currently protected by an existing Category I Forest Conservation easement. The additional amount of forest disturbance is 1.36 acres of forest off-site, of which 0.65 acres is within an existing forest conservation easement.

#### PLANNING BOARD REVIEW AUTHORITY

The Forest Conservation Regulations requires Planning Board action of certain types of modifications to an approved FCP. Section 113.A.(2) of the Forest Conservation Regulation states:

Major amendments, which entail more than a total of 5000 square feet of additional forest clearing, must be approved by the Planning Board or Planning Director (depending on who approved the original plan). Notice of each major plan amendment must be given to adjacent property owners as part of the Planning Board or Planning Directory approval processes.

This amendment proposes the removal of a 63,341 square feet (1.45-acres) of forest both in and adjacent to a category I conservation easement, and therefore constitutes a major amendment requiring Planning Board approval.

#### **REVIEW ISSUES**

#### Applicant's Position

WSSC is requiring the applicant to use a gravity sewer system to service the property, and DPS is requiring changes to the Stormwater Management (SWM) plan. The proposed amendment to

Final FCP 820050160 "Towns of Dogwood" is to comply with requirements from the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC) and Montgomery County Department of Permitting Services (DPS).

#### Community Issues

All adjoining and confronting property were notified of the proposed amendment during the fourth week of January 2006. No comments have been received.

#### **WSSC** Position

In a letter dated January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2006 (attached) WSSC states "To be clear, only gravity service was authorized by WSSC to serve the property. WSSC is not supportive of a grinder pump pressure system to this particular development".

#### Staff Analysis/Position

Staff supports the request to amend the final forest conservation plan 82005016 "Towns of Dogwood" as shown on the plan dated April 20, 2006. After many efforts to minimize impacts. Staff concurs with the applicant's position that additional forest clearing, environmental buffer encroachment, and wetland encroachment is unavoidable and necessary to meet requirements from the WSSC and DPS.

The WSSC requirement for the use of a gravity sewer system, rather than the pressure sewer shown on the approved site plan signature set dated May 20, 2005, will increase the forest clearing for the project by 59,241 square feet (1.36 acres). This includes clearing of 1.26 acres of forested Environmental Buffers and 0.01 acres of forested wetlands.

While WSSC had referenced their policy regarding the priority for gravity sewer at the DRC meeting on Towns of Dogwood, it was not formally confirmed as the authorized alternative until after the Planning Board hearing. Environmental Planning Staff has informed WSSC's DRC representatives that firm decisions on matters of significant consequence (such as this case) must be made in writing prior to the final action by the Planning Board, so that subsequent revisions can be avoided, and the full implications of development are clearly know at the time of Planning Board consideration.

In this immediate case, a secondary factor not related to the instant application but pertinent to preventing subsequent environmental/forest impacts, was also considered by staff. The applicant's engineer has stated that the gravity sewer extension will also be necessary to serve the adjoining undeveloped piece of land to the southwest known as the Kushner Property, and is designed to service both properties. Staff understands from the applicant's engineers that pressure sewer cannot technically serve the adjoining property, although there is neither WSSC concurrence nor active development application to confirm this.

DPS requirements to adjust two SWM outfalls and a stream restoration component increase priority forest clearing on-site by 4,100 Square feet (0.094 acres). The loss of part of this forest is offset by the improvement, which will result in sustainable stabilization to an existing actively

eroding stream channel. However, the length of the proposed SWM outfall pipe is still under review by Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) and may be further reduced based upon their final permit review.

This final forest conservation plan amendment will increase the amount of total forest clearing from 1.83 acres to 3.18 acres, almost double the originally approved plan. Additionally, the amount of forest cleared in environmental buffers has increased from 0.54 acres to 1.92 acres, more three times the amount on the originally approved plan.

#### **STAFF FINDING**

Staff finds that the forest removal and the disturbance to off-site wetlands has been minimized and is necessary to comply with WSSC's requirement of a gravity service for the site and, to a lesser extent, DPS' changes to the SWM plan.

#### **ATTACHMENTS**

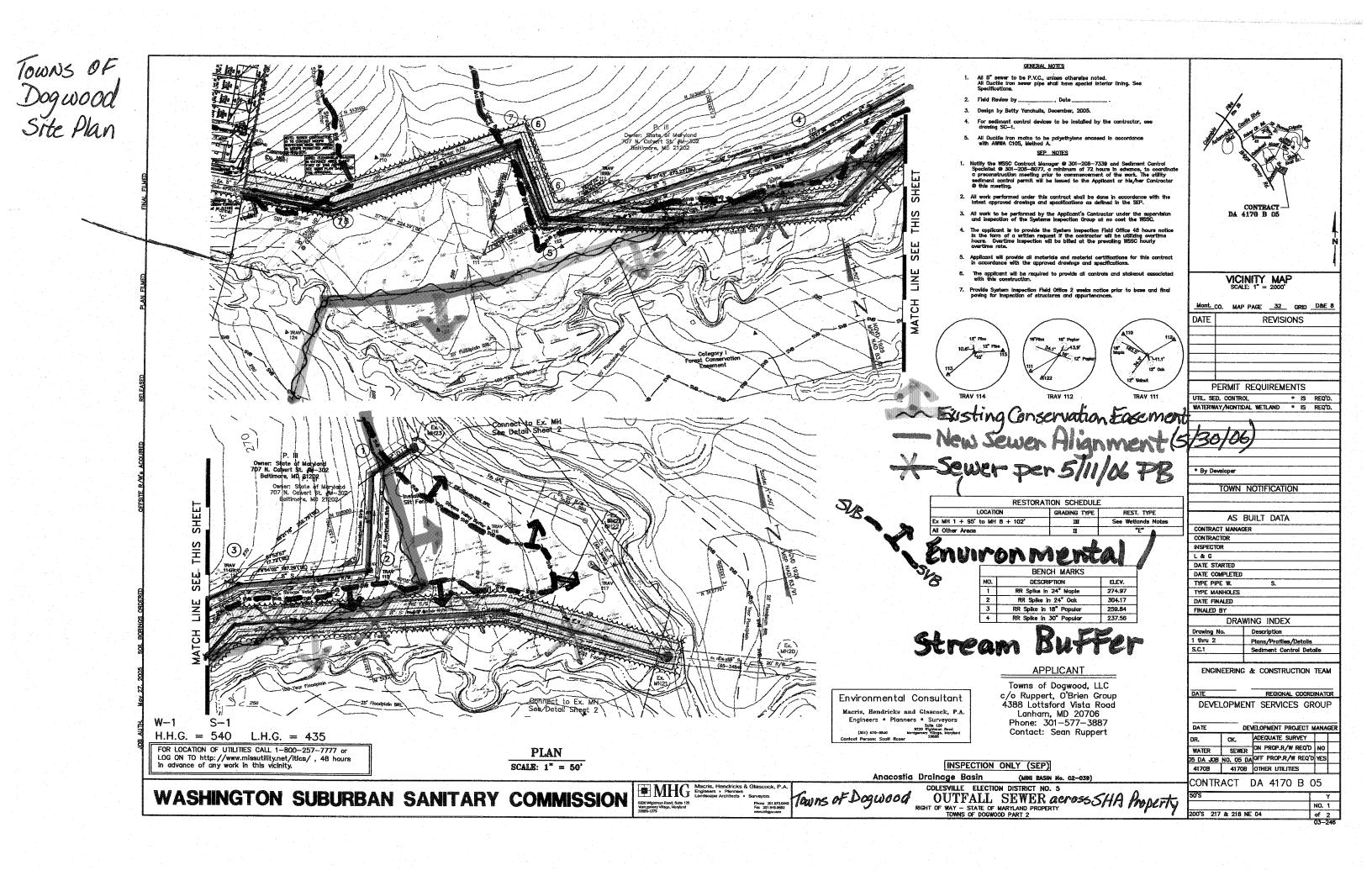
Attachment A - Towns of Dogwood Final Forest Conservation Plan

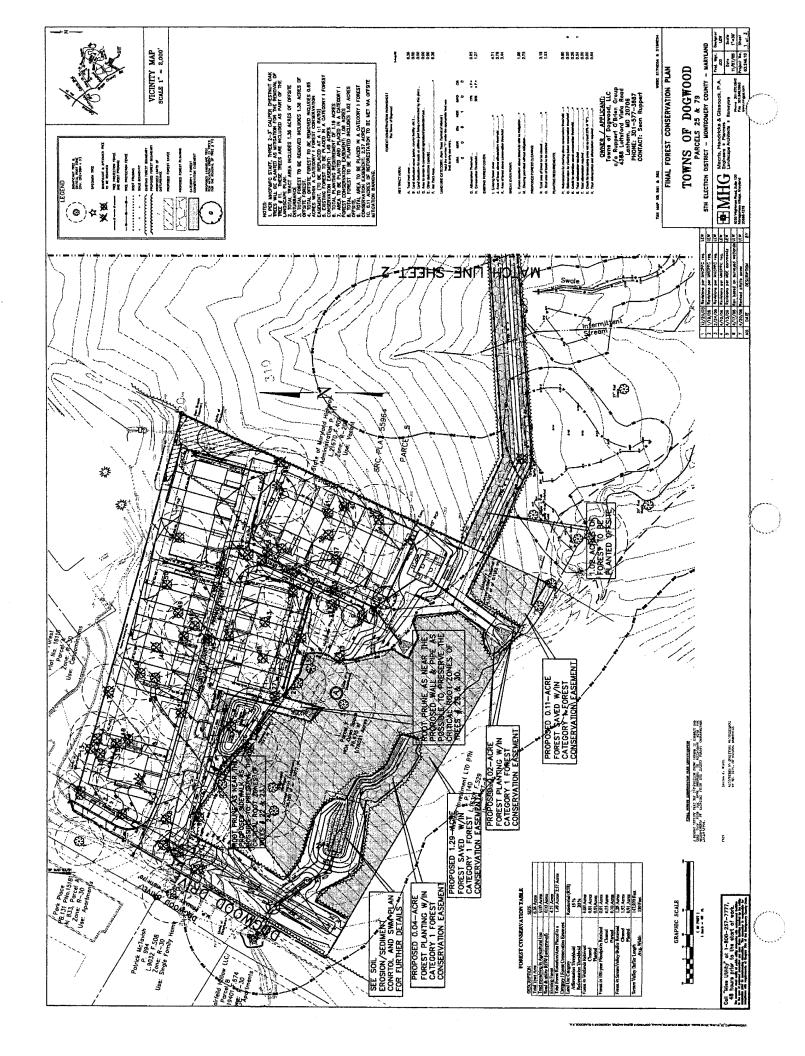
Attachment B – Attorney General Letter, access for sewer line on Cross Creek Club property
Owned by the State Highway Administration (SHA)

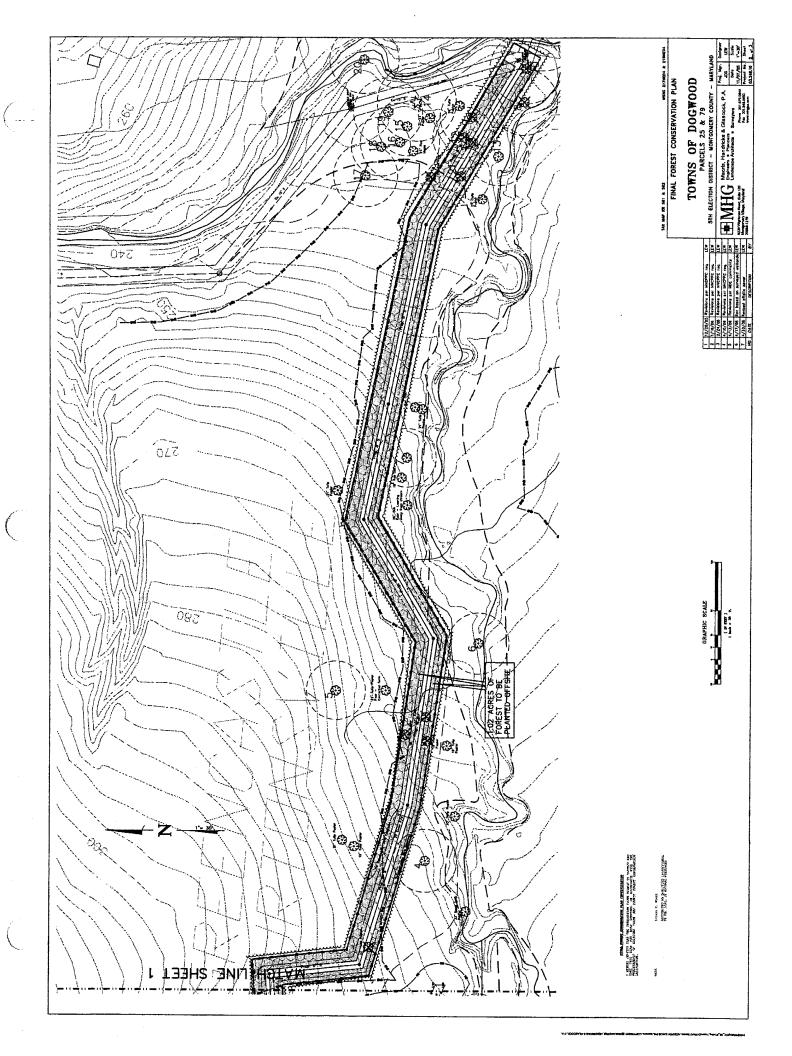
Attachment C - WSSC Letter, Stating the need for Gravity Sewer

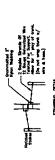
Attachment D – MHG Letter, justification and minimization of sewer alignment.

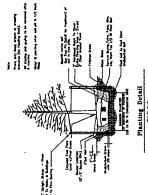
Attachment A:











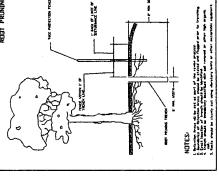
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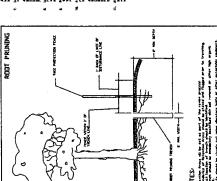


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### Attachment B:

J. JOSEPH CURRAN, JR. Attorney General

DONNA HILL STATON MAUREEN M. DOVE Deputy Attorneys General

DENISE FERGUSON

Assistant Attorney General

Counsel to the Department of Transportation

Mr. Sean Ruppert

Lanham, MD 20706

OFFICE OF



THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway Administration 707 North Calvert Street Baltimore, MD 21202 (410) 545-0040 Fax (410) 209-5007

March 6, 2006

Mr. Victor Kazanjian Kaz Brothers, LC 2139 Blue Knob Terrace Silver Spring, MD 20906 EDWARD S. HARRIS
Assistant Attorney General
Counsel to the State Highway Administration

JANET BUSH HANDY LINDA D. STROZYK Assistant Attorneys General Deputy Counsel

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MICHAEL P. KENNEY
SCOT D. MORRELL
BRYAN L. PERRY
LIBBY C. RAPPAPORT
KEVIN REYNOLDS
Assistant Attorneys General

Dear Mr. Ruppert & Mr. Kazanjian,

Ruppert O'Brien Group, LLC

Towns of Dogwood, LLC

4388 Lottsford Vista Road

As discussed on February 15, 2006, State Highway Administration agrees to allow Towns of Dogwoods, LLC to construct a sewer line on the SHA owned property adjacent to your town home communities. SHA will allow this work to be performed on the state owned land by way of permit. This sewer will provide service for both the Towns of Dogwood and the Kushner property. This sewer line will also be sized sufficiently to service that property owned by SHA adjacent to these two properties. In the event that this adjacent SHA property is to be hooked to the line that you shall construct, the property owner shall not be required to reimburse you for any of the costs involved in the construction of this sewer line.

The parties recognize that SHA's property is subject to a pre-existing easement and that you shall be responsible for all mitigation that may be required as a result of the construction of the sewer line.

At this time, your engineers are completing the work needed to identify the legal descriptions of the location of the sewer line construction and the area for a public access easement through the Kushner property sufficient for the construction of public road access to SHA's adjacent property.

Upon receipt of these legal descriptions, SHA will be able to complete the paper work needed for the permit to you and to WSSC for the construction of the sewer line.

Sincerely,

Janet Bush Handy

J. JOSEPH CURRAN, JR.
Attorney General

DONNA HILL STATON MAUREEN M. DOVE Deputy Attorneys General

DENISE FERGUSON

Assistant Attorney General

Counsel to the Department of Transportation

Sean Ruppert

OFFICE OF



THE ATTORNEY GENERAL Maryland Department of Transportation

State Highway Administration 707 North Calvert Street Baltimore, MD 21202 (410) 545-0040 Fax (410) 209-5007

May 22, 2006

Victor Kazanjian Kaz Brothers, LC 2139 Blue Knob Terrace Silver Spring, MD 20906 EDWARD S. HARRIS
Assistant Attorney General
Counsel to the State Highway Administration

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LAURIE R. HANIG
MICHAEL P. KENNEY
SCOT D. MORRELL
BRYAN L. PERRY
LIBBY C. RAPPAPORT
KEVIN REYNOLDS
Assistant Attorneys General

Dear Mr. Ruppert & Mr. Kazanjian,

Joseph Miklochik, ORE

Ruppert O'Brien Group, LLC

Towns of Dogwood, LLC

Lanham, MD 20706

4388 Lottsford Vista Road

As originally discussed on February 15, 2006, State Highway Administration agrees to allow Towns of Dogwoods, LLC to construct a sewer line on the state owned property adjacent to your townhome communities. SHA will allow this work to be performed on the state owned land by way of permit. This sewer will provide service for both the Towns of Dogwood and the Kushner property. This sewer line will be sized sufficiently to service that property owned by SHA adjacent to these two properties. In the event that this adjacent SHA property is to be hooked to the line that you shall construct, the property owner shall not be required to reimburse you for any of the costs involved in the construction of this sewer line.

The parties recognize that SHA's property is subject to a pre-existing easement and that you shall be responsible for all mitigation that may be required as a result of the construction of the sewer line.

SHA has reviewed the attached legal description of the sewer line that was provided by your engineers at Macris, Hendricks & Glascock, P.A. and that location is acceptable to SHA.

Sincerely

Janet Bush Handy

cc:

❽

## Attachment C:



# WASHINGTON SUBURBAN SANITARY COMMISSION

COMMISSIONERS
Marc P. Lieber, Chairman
Prem P. Agarwal, Vice Chairman
Sandra A. Allen
Stanley J. Botts
Dr. Juanita D. Miller
Joyce Starks

GENERAL MANAGER Andrew D. Brunhart

DEPUTY GENERAL MANAGER
Carla Reid Joyner

14501 Sweitzer Lane

Laurel, Maryland 20707-5902

January 19, 2006

Mr. Robert R. Harris Holland and Knight 3 Bethesda Metro Center, Suite 800 Bethesda, MD 20814

Re:

WSSC Project DA4170Z05

Towns of Dogwood - Sewer Extension

Dear Mr. Harris:

Thank you for your January 10, 2006 letter updating the progress of Ruppert O'Brien Homes in obtaining a right of way for the authorized gravity extension to serve the Towns of Dogwood. To be clear, only gravity service was authorized by WSSC to serve the property. WSSC is not supportive of a grinder pump pressure system to this particular development.

We have worked with the Maryland-National Capital Park & Planning Commission (M-NCP&PC) on a number of occasions regarding gravity sewer service through various sensitive areas. I believe the matter is resolved for the Towns of Dogwood and that gravity sewer service is acceptable to M-NCP&PC in this case. I understand that WSSC has committed to being flexible in meeting our usual requirements in regard to the required right of way from the State. We will continue to support your efforts for the authorized gravity sewer service with both M-NCP&PC and the State.

Sincerely,

Joseph Zorica

Chief

Engineering & Construction Team

cc:

Mr. Sean Ruppert

Mr. Jim Glascock

Mr. Mike Watkins

RECEIVED JAN 25 2006



Attachment "D"

#### Macris, Hendricks and Glascock, P.A.

Engineers - Planners - Surveyors - Landscape Architects

9220 Wightman Road, Suite 120 Montgomery Village, Maryland 20886-1279 Phone 301.670.0840 Fax 301.948.0693

www.mhgpa.com



March 6, 2006

Mr. Steve Federline Environmental Planning Section M-NCP&PC 8787 Georgia Avenue Silver Spring, MD 20909

Re: Towns of Dogwood - Outfall Sewer MHG Project No. 03-246

Dear Mr. Federline:

As you requested, this letter has been prepared to support the alignment of the proposed gravity outfall sewer that will serve the referenced development. The sewer has been designed along the north side of the stream that flows across the Maryland State Highway Administration property for a distance of approximately 1,600 feet. The design accommodates the needs of the Towns of Dogwood located on the north side of the stream, as well as the development of the Kushner property located on the north side which will be submitted for review in the near future by another design firm.

Outfall sewer mains are generally designed in the lowest areas near streams in order to provide sewer service to developable areas on both sides of the stream. The sewer is designed and placed close to the stream so that the depth of the sewer can be minimized while also providing the possibility of a gravity main crossing under the stream. Providing this gravity stream crossing eliminates the need for another gravity sewer main on the opposite side of the stream. This second outfall would clearly be additional clearing that would not be necessary. Designs that locate outfall sewer mains outside of the stream valley buffers as suggested by your staff, not only creates the construction of deeper sewer but opens the possibility of the need for another sewer outfall on the opposite side of the stream to provide service as the other side develops.

During the design of the sewer to serve our project, this office reviewed the development potential of the sewer shed. In this case we found that most of the area has been developed. Further, the area immediately to the south of the stream is the proposed alignment of the Inter-County Connector. Our office identified one project that has development potential and, therefore, the need for sewer service in the future. That property is the Kushner property located immediately to the south of the Towns of Dogwood. We have coordinated with their design

Mr. Steve Federline M-NCP&PC Re: Towns of Dogwood March 6, 2006 Page 2 of 2

engineer and located Manhole #8 at the location and elevation that they determined would be needed to serve their project. This is the only area along the outfall where the proposed sewer is located within a non-tidal wetland area. As you can see from the attached plan, the sewer has generally been located a significant distance from the stream with depths kept relatively shallow. It has also been designed to provide two other locations (Manholes #1 and #4) for stream crossings should the need arise.

If you need further explanation regarding the design we would be willing to meet with you to further discuss this matter.

Sincerely,

James C. Glascock, P.E.

cc: Sean Ruppert