

Serena McIlwain, Secretary Suzanne E. Dorsey, Deputy Secretary

October 28, 2024

The Honorable Andrew Friedson County Council President Montgomery County Council Stella Werner Council Office Building 100 Maryland Avenue Rockville, MD 20850

Dear Council President Friedson:

The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) has completed its review of **Montgomery County's AD 2024-1 and AD-2024-2 (Amendment) to the 2022-2031 Comprehensive Water Supply and Sewerage Systems Plan (Plan)**. The Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection administratively approved the Amendment on August 23, 2024. The Amendment included four (4) category changes for several properties:

- WSCCR 24-PAX-01A: Brian Yong: 16406 Batson Road, Spencerville, MD 20868, Parcel P597, Colesville Dist (acct. no. 00262086). Requesting a water category change from W-6* (No Planned Service) (*outside the planned public water service envelope) to W-1 (Existing Service), for a new single-family home.
- WSCCR 23-POT-04A: Kirsten & Brett Quigley: 9736 The Corral Drive, Potomac, MD 20854, Lot 8, Block E, Potomac Manors Sect. 2 (acct. No. 00881986). Requesting a sewer category change from S-6* (No Planned Service) (*outside the planned public sewer envelope) to S-1 (Existing Service), for an expansion of the existing single-family home.
- WSCCR 24-POT-01A: PUFNZ Revocable Living Trust: 8300 Kingsgate Road, Potomac, MD 20854, Lot 1, Schultz Tract (acct. no. 00861705). Requesting a sewer category change from S-6* (No Planned Service) (*within the planned public sewer envelope) to S-3 (Service within two years), for an existing single-family home.
- 4. WSCCR 24-TRV-02A: Joshua & Lynda Levine: 5 Cleveland Court, Rockville, MD 20850, Lot 3, Block 11, North Glen Hills (acct. no.00077390). Requesting a sewer category change from S-6* (No Planned Service) (*outside the planned public sewer envelope) to S-3 (Service within two years), for an existing single-family home for the relief of a failed septic system.

Maryland Department of Planning (MDP) Findings

The final approval action on the subject amendments includes four category changes to the 2018-2027 water/sewer category map update of the Water and Sewerage Systems Plan (WSP), all of which are consistent with the respective governing master plans, although **MDP** asks **MDE** to note in its response letter to the county that amendments **WSCCR** 24-TRV-02A and WSCCR 23-POT-04A are consistent only if the actions do not result in an amendment to the Potomac Subregion Master Plan's planned sewer service envelope:

- WSCCR 24-PAX-01A: Brian Yong
- WSCCR 24-POT-01A: PUFNZ Revocable Living Trust

The following two category changes are **consistent** with the 2002 Potomac Subregion Master Plan **contingent upon no change to the Potomac Subregion Master Plan's planned sewer service envelope**. Page 23 of the master plan notes that "Any approvals granted along the currently established edge should not be cited as justification for expanding the sewer service envelope beyond the limits recommended in this Plan."

- WSCCR 24-TRV-02A: Joseph & Lynda Levine
- WSCCR 23-POT-04A: Kirsten & Brett Quigley. Note: It is noted here that future water and sewer connections necessary to support accessory dwelling units in established communities are supported in Thrive 2050. (p. 89, 100, 132, and 136).

If there are comments or questions regarding MDP's review, MDE encourages the County to contact MDP. See enclosed MDP's comments and contact information.

MDE Review and Action

- 1. Water and Wastewater Capacity
 - a. <u>WSCCR 24-PAX-01A: Brian Yong</u> The Potomac Water Filtration Plant is currently at approximately 112 million gallons per day (MGD) of its 288 MGD capacity (39% capacity) and can accommodate the additional demand of 250 gallons per day (GPD) generated by the single-family home.
 - b. <u>WSCCR 23-POT-04A: Kirsten & Brett Quigley</u> The Blue Plains Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) with a design capacity of 169.6 MGD had an average flow (2020-2022) of 138.3 MGD (82% capacity) and can accommodate the additional demand generated by the one single-family home of 250 GPD.
 - c. <u>WSCCR 24-POT-01A: PUFNZ Revocable Living Trust</u> The Blue Plains WWTP with a design capacity of 169.6 MGD had an average flow (2020-2022) of 138.3 MGD (82% capacity) and can accommodate the additional demand generated by the one single-family home of 250 GPD.

d. WSCCR 23-URC-01: Ken Fraley

The Blue Plains WWTP with a design capacity of 169.6 MGD had an average flow (2020-2022) of 138.3 MGD (82% capacity) and can accommodate the additional demand generated by the one single-family home of 250 GPD.

2. High Quality Waters

The Department notes that the property in 24-PAX-01A: Brian Yong is located within the watershed of Patuxent River 1, identified as a Tier II stream pursuant to COMAR 26.08.02.04-2. Tier II streams are high-quality waters that require, under regulation, "that the Department shall review proposed updates or amendments to County Plans for any new or major modifications to discharges to a Tier II watershed.". Any new or expanded discharge to these Tier II watersheds would require an Anti-degradation Review. All possible considerations should be implemented to protect high-quality waters from water quality degradation. This primarily consists of rigorous watershed planning, with consideration of the extra provisions necessary to protect high-quality waters. An interactive map can be found on MDE's website:

https://mdewin64.mde.state.md.us/WSA/TierIIWQ/index.html

The Department recommends that the County consider the following measures in an effort to maintain these high-quality waters when approving new growth in the watersheds of these stream segments:

- Implement restrictive zoning or ordinances to protect environmental features;
- Re-direct planned growth out of the watersheds of these stream segments;
- Retrofit existing stormwater infrastructure;
- Incorporate environmental site design and other low-impact development practices into new development;
- Maintain and expand existing forest cover; and
- Provide riparian buffers of 100-230 feet (depending upon soil types and slopes).

The County should be aware that future plans or modifications may incur an additional Anti-degradation Review at later stages, on a project-by-project basis. The County is advised to contact Matthew Stover, Water Quality Standards, and Analysis Division, Watershed Protection, Restoration, and Planning Program (WPRPP), Water and Science Administration (WSA), MDE, at (410) 537-3611 for additional information regarding the regulatory requirements for Tier II waters.

3. <u>Wetlands and Waterways Protection Program (WWPP) Comments</u> WSCCR 24-PAX-01A: Brian Yong

There are mapped/wetlands hydric soils or streams and 100-year floodplains in the

vicinity of the property. The applicant is encouraged to consult WWPP to verify the presence of wetlands, their buffers, stream, and its 100-year floodplain in relation to any activities which are planned for the property. Activities in these water resources may be subject to regulatory requirements from the MDE's WWPP.

An evaluation of the site and its vicinity using the Watershed Resources Registry shows the presence of sensitive resources. These may include: sensitive species project review areas, Targeted Ecological Areas, Biodiversity Conservation Network, Nontidal Wetlands of Special State Concern, Tier II watershed, Stronghold Watershed, and/or Forest Interior Species. Contact MDE or the Maryland Department of Natural Resources for recommendations or requirements to avoid or minimize adverse impacts to these resources.

The WWPP encourages a site design which avoids, or if avoidance is not practicable, minimization of impacts from activities in regulated stream or wetland resources.

The plan/project includes activities in Tier II watershed(s). Tier II streams are high-quality waters that require, under regulation, additional consideration to protect their water quality. Water quality and their associated aquatic resources in Tier II streams require healthy contributing watersheds and riparian areas, including adjacent floodplains and wetlands. Tier II waters may also be associated with other sensitive species and nontidal wetlands of special State concern.

All possible considerations should be implemented to protect high-quality waters and their associated wetlands and floodplains from activities which may result in water quality degradation. This primarily consists of rigorous watershed planning, with consideration of the extra provisions necessary to protect high-quality waters; site design, and construction practices; and compensatory offsets for adverse impacts.

Please see enclosed WWPP comments and contact information.

4. Draft Amendment Notice

MDE noted that a Draft Amendment for this AD 2024-1 and AD-2024-2 Amendments was not received as required by Code of Maryland Regulations 26.03.01.03.

5. <u>Water Resources Element (WRE) Guidance Update</u> The WRE guidance update can be found at the following link:

https://planning.maryland.gov/Pages/OurWork/envr-planning/water-resources-mg/20 22/2022-guidance-update.aspx

The guidance includes best practices for protecting receiving waters and for integrating climate change and equity considerations into local water resource planning. By updating the WRE, a required element of local comprehensive plans, jurisdictions will identify recommendations and strategies necessary for ensuring

community resilience and sustainability, which can inform and be informed by, project and policy needs for county water and sewer plan updates.

In accordance with §9-507(a) of the Environment Article, Annotated Code of Maryland, the Department hereby **approves Montgomery County's AD 2024-1 and AD-2024-2** (**Amendment**) to the 2022-2023 Comprehensive Water Supply and Sewerage Systems Plan. See the enclosed table and maps below.

This completes MDE's review, as required by §9-507 of the Environment Article, Annotated Code of Maryland. If you need further assistance on these matters, please contact Matthew Rowe, Deputy Director, at (410) 537-3578, toll-free at (800) 633-6101, or by e-mail at <u>matthew.rowe@maryland.gov</u>.

Sincerely,

D. Lee Currey, Director Water and Science Administration

Enclosures

cc: Alan Soukup, Senior Planner, Montgomery County DEP James Dubow, Director, Research, Review and Policy Division, MDP Matthew C. Rowe, CC-P, Deputy Director, WSA, MDE Matthew Stover, Water Quality Standards, and Analysis Division, WPRPP, WSA, MDE

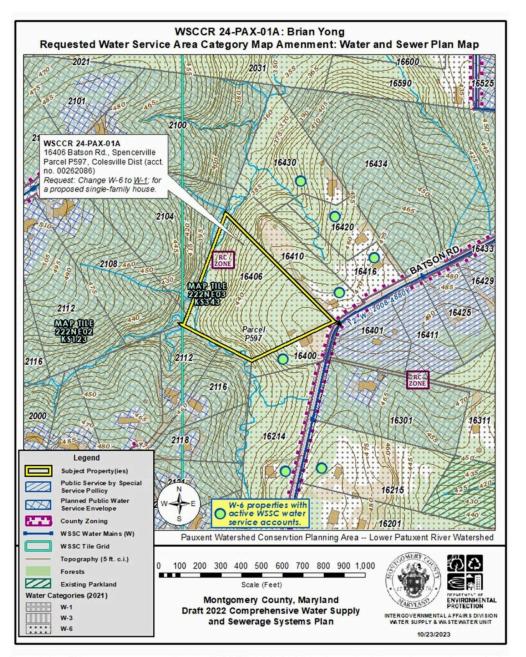
Summary of Montgomery County AD 2024-1 and AD-2024-2 Amendment to the 2022-2031 Montgomery County Water Supply and Sewerage Systems Plan

Amendment	Location	Request	Administrative Action	MDE Action
WSCCR 24-PAX-01A: Brian Yong	16406 Batson Rd. Spencerville, MD 20868 Parcel P597, Colesville Dist (acct. no. 00262086)	W-6 to W-1	Approve W-1, for one water connection only. Administrative policy V.D.2.a.: Consistent with Existing Plans. The property can connect to an existing water main in Batson Road via an easement across the intervening property.	Approve W-1
WSCCR 23-POT-04A: Kirsten & Brett Quigley	9736 The Corral Dr., Potomac, MD 20854. Lot 8, Block E, Potomac Manors Sect. 2 (acct. No. 00881986)	S-6 to S-1	Approve S-1, for one sewer service connection only. Administrative policy V.D.2.a.: Community Service for Properties Abutting Community Mains. DEP Note: On July 7, 2023, DEP granted an advance approval for public sewer service for this request based on compliance	Approve S-1

			with the Water and Sewer Plan's abutting mains policy.	
WSCCR 24-POT-01A: PUFNZ Revocable Living Trust	8300 Kingsgate Road, Potomac, MD 20854. Lot 1, Schultz Tract (acct. no. 00861705)	S-6 to S-3	Approve S-3, Administrative policy V.D.2.a.: Consistent with Existing Plans.	Approve S-3
WSCCR 24-TRV-02A: Joshua & Lynda Levine	5 Cleveland Court, Rockville, MD 20850. Lot 3, Block 11, North Glen Hills (acct. no.00077390)	S-6 to S-3	Approve S-3, Administrative policy II.G.2.: Community Service to Relieve Onsite System Concerns. DEP notes: On Dec. 21, 2023, DEP issued an expedited sewer request to WSSC Water based on the septic system failure issued by DPS. Public sewer service for this property will require the installation and use of an onsite grinder pump.	Approve S-3

Administrative Delegation [Action] (AD) 2024-1 & -2 – Statement of Action August 23, 2024

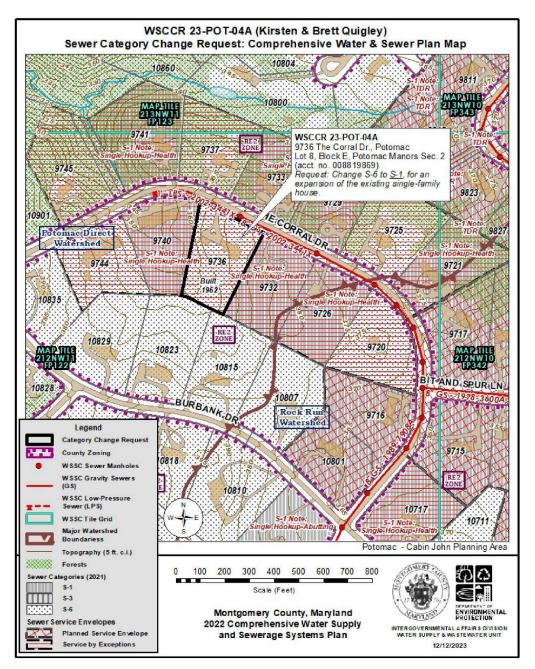
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Description: Water category map showing WSCCR 24-PAX-01A, planned public service envelope, existing water mains, and other base map information. The property is approved for water category W-1 (see page 3).

Administrative Delegation [Action] (AD) 2024-1 & -2 – Statement of Action August 23, 2024

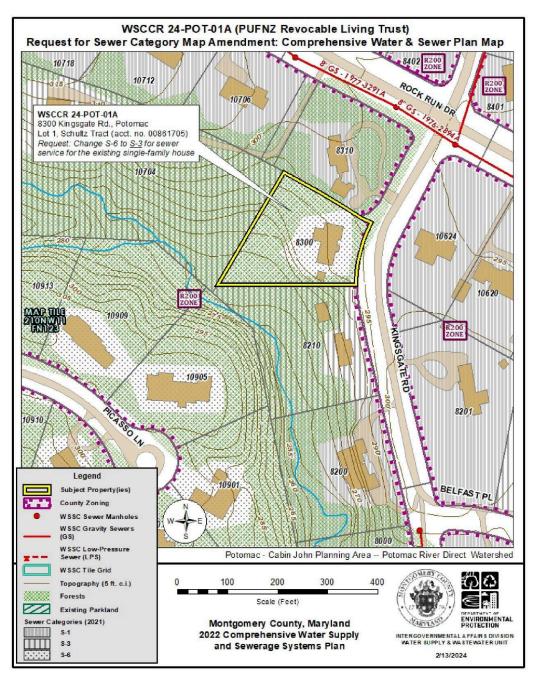
Page 8 of 10



Description: A map showing the location of WSCCR 23-POT-04A (9736 The Corral Dr., Potomac), an abutting sewer main, planned public service envelope, and other mapping details. The property is approved for sewer category S-1 (see page 3).

Administrative Delegation [Action] (AD) 2024-1 & -2 – Statement of Action August 23, 2024

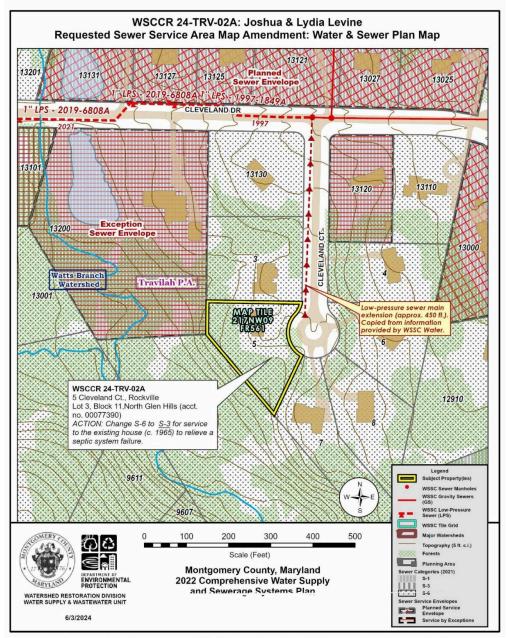
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Description: Sewer category map showing WSCCR 24-POT-01A, existing sewer mains and other base map information. The property is approved for sewer category S-3 (see page 4).

Administrative Delegation [Action] (AD) 2024-1 & -2 - Statement of Action August 23, 2024

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Description: Map showing the location of WSCCR 24-TRV-02A (5 Cleveland Ct., Rockville) with a proposed lowpressure main extension, nearby sewer mains, and other mapping details. The property is approved for sewer category S-3 (see page 4).

DATE: October 7, 2024

- TO: Steve Alfaro, Watershed Protection, Restoration, and Planning Program
- FR: Denise Clearwater, Wetlands and Waterways Protection Program
- RE: Water and Sewer Plan Amendment Montgomery County AD 2024-1&2 WSCCR 24-PAX-01A: Brian Yong; AD 2024-1&2 (8/23/2024) WSCCR 23-POT-04A: Kirsten & Brett Quigley; AD 2024-1&2 (8/23/2024) WSCCR 24-POT-01A: PUFNZ Revocable Living Trust; AD 2024-1&2 (8/23/2024) WSCCR 24-TRV-02A: Joshua & Lynda Levine

Wetlands provide important socio-economic benefits and ecosystem services such as storing and conveying flood waters, recharging groundwater, improving water quality by filtering and storing nutrients, and providing shoreline protection and critical habitat for a multitude of plant and animal species. The Maryland Department of the Environment's Wetlands and Waterways Program protects Maryland wetlands and waterways from loss and degradation. This protection is achieved through the regulation of the draining, dredging and filling of tidal and nontidal wetlands, the nontidal wetland buffer and waterways, including the nontidal 100-year floodplain through a permitting or authorization process implemented in close coordination with the federal government (specifically, the Army Corps of Engineers).

Persons proposing activities in tidal wetlands, nontidal wetlands and their 25- or 100-foot buffers, or nontidal waterways and their 100-year floodplain must submit a Joint Permit Application and supporting information to the Wetlands and Waterways Program. Early coordination with the Program is encouraged to discuss regulatory requirements and minimization of adverse impacts to the regulated resources.

Contact: Wetlands and Waterways Protection Program Office (410) 537-3837

Regulatory Services Section / Application Processing (410) 537-3752

<u>Tidal Wetlands.</u> Activities in tidal wetlands to construct or reconstruct structures, or to dredge or fill a State or private tidal wetland, shall obtain a license from the Board of Public Works or a permit from Maryland Department of the Environment. The construction, reconstruction, alteration, or addition to any conduit, cable, pipeline, intake or discharge pipe, trestle, or other similar device, structure, or apparatus, over, on, in, or under tidal wetlands or waters of the State requires an applicant to submit a Joint Permit Application and supporting information to MDE's Wetlands and Waterways Program. The Program will review the application and supporting information to the Board for their use in making a decision to grant or deny a license for proposed work over, on, in, or under <u>State tidal wetlands</u>. The Program will review the application and supporting information to make a determination to issue or deny a permit for proposed work over, on, in, or under <u>private tidal wetlands</u>.

A person submitting a Joint Permit Application to obtain a license or permit shall be the riparian landowner of upland adjoining the affected area of State or private tidal wetlands, an agent of the riparian landowner, the State, any unit of the State, a public service company, a municipality, or a political subdivision.

Contact: Tidal Wetlands Division (410) 537-3571

<u>Nontidal Wetlands</u>. MDE regulates the following activities in nontidal wetlands and their 25foot or expanded 100-foot buffers: (i) Removal, excavation, or dredging of soil, sand, gravel, minerals, organic matter, or materials of any kind; (ii) Changing existing drainage characteristics, sedimentation patterns, flow patterns, or flood retention characteristics; (iii) Disturbance of the water level or water table by drainage, impoundment, or other means; (iv) Dumping, discharging of material, or filling with material, including the driving of piles, and placing of obstructions; (v) Grading or removal of material that would alter existing topography, and (vi) Destruction or removal of plant life that would alter the character of a nontidal wetland.

Contact: Nontidal Wetlands Division (410) 537-3837

<u>Nontidal Waterways and 100-year Floodplain</u>. MDE regulates construction, reconstruction, repair, or alteration of a dam, reservoir, or waterway obstruction or any change of the course, current, or cross section of a stream or body of water within the State including any changes to the 100-year frequency floodplain of free-flowing waters.

Contact: Waterway Construction Division (410) 537-3837

Dam Safety Permits Division (410) 537-3552

<u>Climate Change Resiliency and Flooding</u>. In addition, consideration of measures to address climate change are highly encouraged. This may include designing stormwater management facilities to treat storm events beyond generating more than 1" of runoff in 24 hours, and instead treat more frequent, higher intensity, shorter duration events. Roads crossings over waters may need to be designed to different standards to pass storm flows without infrastructure damage or discharges to aquatic life. Retention or re-establishment of forests is also highly desirable.

The County or applicant is advised to contact Dave Guignet, State NFIP Coordinator, of MDE's Stormwater, Dam Safety, and Flood Management Program, at (410) 537-3775 for additional information regarding the regulatory requirements for Floodplains and Storm Surges.

The County or applicant is advised to contact Matthew C. Rowe, CC-P, Assistant Director of MDE's Water and Science Administration, at (410) 537-3578 for additional information regarding Climate Change and Resiliency

I have reviewed the proposed amendment for the Wetlands and Waterways Protection Program and have the following comments:

1) There are mapped/wetlands hydric soils or streams and 100-year floodplains in the vicinity of the property. The applicant is encouraged to consult with the Wetlands and Waterways Program to verify the presence of wetlands, their buffers, stream and its 100-year floodplain in relation to any activities which are planned for the property. Activities in these water resources may be subject to regulatory requirements from the MDE's Wetlands and Waterways Program.

- Early coordination with the Wetlands and Waterways Protection Program for new major or replacement lines is recommended in advance of submitting applications and to discuss any new requirements related to restoration of wetlands after temporary impacts.
- 3) Early coordination with the Program during planning stages for the project is strongly encouraged to avoid or minimize adverse impacts from regulated activities. If there are activities proposed for new sewer or water projects in regulated resources, the County is encouraged to contact the Wetlands and Waterways Program.
- 4) The plan mentions new extensions for water and sewer lines, storage facilities, and/or treatment plants. Where practicable, locations of the utility lines and facilities should support protection measures from future development in wetlands, waterways, or floodplains, as well as avoiding and minimizing impacts from the line, treatment facility, and supporting utility infrastructure. Suggested for consideration include:
 - a) a prohibition on new subdivision lots in wetlands;
 - b) avoidance and minimization requirements;
 - c) site plan considerations over multiple parcels that provide for contiguous wetland and stream corridors to be maintained, with minimum fragmentation from roads, buildings, or other structures; and
 - d) location of new or replacement lines in existing utility or road rights-of-way.
- 5) Compensatory mitigation may be required for permanent wetland losses, including conversion of forested wetlands to other wetland types and permanent access roads, and other structures.
- 6) Wetland estimates in the county should use estimates from the National Wetlands Inventory and DNR Wetlands layers. Sensitive resources may be preliminarily identified using the Watershed Resources Registry at: <u>https://watershedresourcesregistry.org/states/maryland.html</u>.
- 7) An evaluation of the site and its vicinity using the Watershed Resources Registry shows the presence of sensitive resources. These may include: sensitive species project review areas, Targeted Ecological Areas, Biodiversity Conservation Network, Nontidal Wetlands of Special State Concern, Tier II watershed, Stronghold Watershed, and/or Forest Interior Species. Contact MDE or the Maryland Department of Natural Resources for recommendations or requirements to avoid or minimize adverse impacts to these resources.
 - 8) There may be wetland or waterway impacts associated with the project. Impacts will be reviewed by MDE during application review. Pre-application meetings

are also available to discuss avoidance, minimization, and restoration after temporary impacts.

- 9) The Wetlands and Waterways Protection Program (Program) encourages a site design which avoids, or if avoidance is not practicable, minimization of impacts from activities in regulated stream or wetland resources.
- 10) The Program also supports a cluster design for this project to conserve remaining forest land on site and avoid and/or minimize activities in the stream or potential wetlands.
- 11) The plan/project includes activities in Tier II watershed(s). Tier II streams are high-quality waters that require, under regulation, additional consideration to protect their water quality. Water quality and their associated aquatic resources in Tier II streams require healthy contributing watersheds and riparian areas, including adjacent floodplains and wetlands. Tier II waters may also be associated with other sensitive species and nontidal wetlands of special State concern.

All possible considerations should be implemented to protect high-quality waters and their associated wetlands and floodplains from activities which may result in water quality degradation. This primarily consists of rigorous watershed planning, with consideration of the extra provisions necessary to protect high-quality waters; site design, and construction practices; and compensatory offsets for adverse impacts.

 \square 12) No comments

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There are no comments for: AD 2024-1&2 (8/23/2024) WSCCR 23-POT-04A: Kirsten & Brett Quigley; AD 2024-1&2 (8/23/2024) WSCCR 24-POT-01A: PUFNZ Revocable Living Trust; AD 2024-1&2 (8/23/2024) WSCCR 24-TRV-02A: Joshua & Lynda Levine

13) Additional specific comments

Items #1,7, 9, and 11 apply to WSCCR 24-PAX-01A: Brian Yong.



Maryland DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING

October 15, 2024

Ms. Dinorah Dalmasy, Manager, Watershed Protection, Restoration and Planning Program Maryland Department of the Environment Water and Science Administration 1800 Washington Boulevard Baltimore, Maryland 21230

RE: Revised - Montgomery County Comprehensive Water Supply and Sewerage Systems Plan Administrative Delegation Action AD 2024-1 & 2 Three Water and Sewer Service Area Category Amendments

Dear Ms. Dalmasy:

The Maryland Department of Planning (MDP) has reviewed the above-referenced water and sewerage amendment pursuant to our mandate to advise the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) on local comprehensive plan consistency and other appropriate matters as required by Environment Article Section 9-507 (b)(2). Montgomery County's Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Director Jon Monger administratively approved Administrative Delegation Action AD 2024-1 & 2 on October 4, 2024. MDP offers the following comments for your consideration.

Amendments and Comprehensive Plan Consistency

The final approval action on the subject amendments includes four category changes to the 2018-2027 water/sewer category map update of the Water and Sewerage Systems Plan (WSP), all of which are **consistent** with the respective governing master plans, although MDP asks MDE to note in its response letter to the county that amendments WSCCR 24-TRV-02A and WSCCR 23-POT-04A are consistent only if the actions do not result in an amendment to the Potomac Subregion Master Plan's planned sewer service envelope:

WSCCR 24-PAX-01A: Brian Yong - Proposed use: one new single-family house located within the area of the 1997 Cloverly Master Plan. This proposal changes the water category from W/6 (No Planned Service) to W/1 (Existing Service).

WSCCR 24-POT-01A: PUFNZ Revocable Living Trust - Proposed use: Sewer service for the existing single-family house located within the area of the 2002 Potomac Subregion Master Plan. This proposal changes the sewer category from S/6 (No Planned Service) to S/3 (Design Phase).

The following two category changes are **consistent** with the 2002 Potomac Subregion Master Plan **contingent upon no change to the Potomac Subregion Master Plan's planned sewer service envelope**. Page 23 of the master plan notes that "Any approvals granted along the currently established

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Ms. Dinorah Dalmasy Montgomery Co. WSP Amendment Administrative Delegation Action AD 2024-1 & 2

edge should not be cited as justification for expanding the sewer service envelope beyond the limits recommended in this Plan."

WSCCR 24-TRV-02A: Joseph & Lynda Levine - Proposed use: Public Sewer Service for the relief of a failed septic system. This proposal changes the sewer category from S/6 (No Planned Service) to S/1 (Existing Service).

WSCCR 23-POT-04A: Kirsten & Brett Quigley - Proposed use: expansion of the existing house to add an accessory dwelling unit. This proposal changes the sewer category from S/6 (No Planned Service) to S/1 (Existing Service). Note: It is noted here that future water and sewer connections necessary to support accessory dwelling units in established communities is supported in Thrive 2050. (p. 89, 100, 132, and 136).

If you have any questions regarding this review, please contact Susan Llareus at susan.llareus@maryland.gov.

Sincerely,

Jason Dubow, CC-P, Director Research, Review and Policy Division

cc: Robin Pellicano; Nicholai Francis-Lau; and Steve Alfaro, Maryland Department of the Environment Tony Redman, Maryland Department of Natural Resources Dwight Dotterer, Maryland Department of Agriculture Jason Dubow; Susan Llareus; and Cassandra Malloy, Maryland Department of Planning