

**ANN AUBRY, P.E.**  
Interim Director

THE CITY OF  
**COLUMBUS**  
ANDREW J. GINTHER, MAYOR

DEPARTMENT OF  
PUBLIC UTILITIES

May 2, 2022

Brendan M. Fleming, PE  
Project Engineer  
The Kleingers Group  
350 Worthington Rd., Suite B  
Westerville, Ohio 43082

RE: Stormwater Drainage Manual (SWDM) Type II Variance Request – Rock City Church, Polaris

Mr. Fleming:

This letter is in response to the subject variance request to SWDM Sections 3.4.1.2 Wet Extended Detention Basins, and 4.3.1 Stormwater Easements, Access and Maintenance Requirements. Specifically, deviations from the following wet extended detention basin design requirements are being sought due to the need to reduce the footprint of the detention basin:

- Safety bench requirement
- Side slopes no steeper than 4:1 above normal pool elevation
- 15 ft. wide vehicular access easement around the SCP perimeter

The SWDM Variance Type II (Non Stream Protection) Request was submitted to the City on December 15, 2021. The Variance Review Committee met and reviewed the subject Variance Request on February 9, 2022, and responded to the applicant with some comments and questions the same day.

As part of the Variance review process, the subject Variance request was posted on the City website on January 21, 2022 to solicit public comments. No public comments were received by the published deadline.

The Variance Committee has reviewed the applicant's March 18, 2022 response at the April 28, 2022 meeting. The Variance Request and supplemental information submitted by the applicant in response to the Variance Committee's questions and comments was found to be in compliance with the SWDM Type II Non Stream Protection Variance Application requirements. The applicant requested a variance from the SWDM design requirements as stated above stemming from the need to utilize a retaining wall along the southwest side of the proposed wet extended detention basin.

Upon reviewing and discussing the application and other supportive documentation submitted by the applicant, the Variance Review Committee agreed with the applicant's argument that other types of SCP would be unfeasible on the project site. Additionally, site limitations and intended use would make full adherence to the SWDM Sections 3.4.1.2 and 4.3.1 requirements impractical and difficult.



In light of the above, the subject Variance request (Preferred Alternative) is conditionally approved contingent upon the following stipulations:

- Storm CC-Plans and Stormwater Management Report to be submitted and approved by the City
- The owner agrees to be solely responsible for any safety issues arising as a result of not fully adhering to the SWDM requirements for extended wet detention basins.

No approval contained herein relieves or absolves the applicant of any provisions of applicable state or federal laws. Please contact Plan Review/Stormwater Regulatory Management Section Manager Greg Fedner, P.E. at [gfedner@columbus.gov](mailto:gfedner@columbus.gov) or by phone at 614-645-8072 with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John G. Newsome", is written over a faint, illegible typed name.

John G. Newsome, P.E., Administrator  
Division of Sewerage and Drainage

pc: Variance Review Committee  
File