

March 9, 2023

David Storck  
Project Manager  
Advanced Civil Design  
781 Science Boulevard – Suite 100  
Gahanna, Ohio 43230

RE: Stormwater Drainage Manual (SWDM) Type II Variance Request – Dixon House CC18727

Mr. Storck:

This letter is in response to the subject variance request Type II (Non-Stream) to the 2021 SWDM Section 3 *Stormwater Control Practices*. More specifically, exemption is being sought from the SWDM Section 3.4.1.5 requirement of side slopes being 4(H) to 1(V) or flatter for wet detention basins above the permanent pool.

The project was built with unapproved changes to the wet detention basin design which included a retaining wall along a portion of the west side of the basin, and side slopes above the normal pool elevation which in some places are steeper than required, at about 3.4 to 1. The retaining wall is located outside the normal pool and the safety bench limits.

The SWDM variance application was submitted to the City on January 3, 2023. As part of the Variance review process, the subject Variance request was posted on the City website on January 30, 2023 to solicit public comments. No public comments were received by the posted due date. The Variance Review Committee has met and reviewed the subject variance application on March 8, 2023.

The submitted Variance Request was found by the Variance Review Committee to be in compliance with the SWDM Type II Non-Stream Protection Variance application requirements.

Two alternatives were considered within the application - Full Compliance and the Preferred Alternative. The applicant argued that there is no third Alternative in this situation.

- Full Compliance Alternative – Remove the retaining wall and regrade the side slopes of the basin. Due to significant surface disruption and high costs, and also more difficult detention basin maintenance, this Alternative was found to be not practical.
- Preferred Alternative – leaving as-built conditions as-is, i.e. the retaining wall and side slopes no steeper than 3.4 to 1.

Upon reviewing and discussing the application, the Variance Review Committee agreed with the applicant that the Preferred Alternative is reasonable given the current conditions and site limitations.



This Alternative will remain compliant with the WQI and WQn SCP requirements per as-built survey and hydraulic analysis, and would provide improved access for future detention basin maintenance needs. The Committee further agreed with the applicant's argument that the Full Compliance Alternative would result in significant hardship for the project owner.

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

- Storm CC-Plan and Stormwater Management Report revision reflecting the as-built condition described in the variance application must be submitted and approved by the City of Columbus.
- The owner agrees to be solely responsible for any safety issues which could arise from the as-built condition of the project
- The owner must confirm that the safety bench below the normal pool elevation was built as per the original plan before the plan revision could be approved.

No approval contained herein relieves or absolves the applicant of any provisions of applicable state or federal laws. Please contact PR/SRM Section Manager Greg Fedner, P.E. at 614-645-8072 with any questions.

Sincerely,



Robert S. Priestas, P.E., Administrator  
Division of Sewerage and Drainage

ec: Variance Review Committee  
File