



October 27, 2017

VIA EMAIL

Mr. Andrew Port
Office of Planning and Development
60 Pleasant Street
P.O. Box 550
Newburyport, MA 01950

Re: Evergreen Commons Hydrology Review Initial Status Update

Dear Mr. Port:

In anticipation of the upcoming Planning Board (PB) Meeting next Wednesday November 1st, HW is pleased to provide this brief status update regarding our peer review of the hydrologic issues related to the proposed Evergreen Commons development. As you are aware, we have been working with the Applicant's consulting team to resolve the two most significant hydrologic issues for the proposed development: seasonal high groundwater (SHGW) elevation, and isolated land subject to flooding (ILSF) area and storage volume. Those two issues contribute to many of the design components of the proposed development. As such, during the Conservation Commission (CC) review process, we suggested and the Applicant agreed that they would work on further evaluating those two issues to the satisfaction of HW as well as the Conservation Commission and PB prior to submitting further revised design plans or other project materials.

Following our first peer review letter prepared for the Conservation Commission (dated September 26, 2017) we are beginning to review an updated response package concerning the SHGW and ILSF issues received yesterday afternoon (Thursday October 26, 2017). While we have not yet had the opportunity to fully review the recently received materials, upon initial examination it appears that we are close to coming to resolution with the Applicant on both the SHGW and ILSF issues.

We still need to fully review the recently submitted material from the Applicant, as well as water level data from monitoring wells surrounding the City's drinking water well #2 submitted by an abutter to the proposed development, and then properly step back to evaluate all of the available information related to SHGW and ILSF calculation in concert in order to come to a final recommendation of the most appropriate SHGW and

ILSF calculations to use for the design of the proposed development. Provided that we do not identify any additional information needed needed from the Applicant, we expect that we will be able to submit a draft letter summarizing our hydrology review for PB review and commentary in time for the next Conservation Commission hearing on Wed, November 8, 2017, and would also submit that letter to the PB in advance of the next PB meeting on November 15, 2017.

As we previously discussed, HW is not planning on attending the November 1st PB meeting as we do not anticipate having fully completed our review and commentary of available materials by that time. We will plan on attending the November 15th meeting. We are mindful of the urgency to keep this process moving forward and, in the event that we have prepared our comments in advance of the November 1st PB hearing, we will let you know and plan to attend.

Sincerely,

Horsley Witten Group, Inc.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Neal M. Price'.

Neal M. Price
Senior Hydrogeologist

Cc: Ms. Julia Godtfredsen, Conservation Administrator, for distribution to the Conservation Commission