-DC 551-07 Singer, Robert SUB 1005

JAN2 4/17/08 9/13/07 WC 2008

51829-6603

Martin O'Malley
Governor

Anthony G. Brown



Margaret G. McHale

Ren Serey
Executive Director

### STATE OF MARYLAND CRITICAL AREA COMMISSION CHESAPEAKE AND ATLANTIC COASTAL BAYS

1804 West Street, Suite 100, Annapolis, Maryland 21401 (410) 260-3460 Fax: (410) 974-5338 www.dnr.state.md.us/criticalarea/

April 17, 2008

Mr. Steve Dodd
Dorchester County Planning and Zoning
County Office Building
P.O. Box 307
Cambridge, Maryland 21613

Re: Local Case No. 1005 – Robert Singer Subdivision

Dear Mr. Dodd:

Thank you forwarding the revised plans for the above-referenced subdivision. The applicant has satisfactorily addressed my previous comments. In his responses, he indicated that a request has been made to the DNR Wildlife and Heritage Division for an updated letter. Please have the applicant forward the letter when it becomes available.

My remaining comments are in regards to the right to subdivide this property. Your letter of March 25, 2008 and the applicant's site plans indicate that two building permits were issued on February 7, 1986 for this single parcel of land which is a total of 8.165 acres and located in the Resource Conservation Area (RCA). COMAR 27.01.02.07B indicates that,

A local jurisdiction shall permit a single lot or parcel of land that was legally of record on the date of Program approval to be developed with a single family dwelling, if a dwelling is not already placed there, notwithstanding that such development may be inconsistent with the density provisions of the approved local Program.

This grandfathering clause indicates that a single dwelling unit may be constructed on a single parcel of land. For this applicant, it allows one unit to be built on the approximately 8 acres in the RCA. COMAR 27.01.02.07B.2.b further explains that

If any such land has received a building permit subsequent to December 1, 1985 but prior to local Program approval, and is located in a resource conservation area, that land shall be counted by the local jurisdiction against the growth increment permitted in that area under COMAR 27.01.02.06, unless the

Commission determines at the time of Program approval that steps had been taken to conform the development to the criteria in this subtitle insofar as possible.

As the building permits were issued subsequent to December 1, 1985 and prior to the adoption of the Dorchester Critical Area Program on August 23, 1988, this clause requires the applicant to apply for growth allocation if they wish to proceed with the subdivision of this parcel and the construction of two dwellings. Our records do not indicate that the Commission made any determination at the time of Program approval that would exempt the applicant from this clause. If the County chooses not to apply growth allocation to this project, the applicant is entitled to build a single dwelling unit on either set of pilings that were constructed in 1986 and for which a permit has already been issued.

Please let me know how the applicant chooses to proceed on this project. If you have any questions, please contact me at 410-260-3476.

Sincerely,

Julie Roberts

Natural Resources Planner

Cc: DC 434-02 551-07 Martin O'Malley
Governor

Anthony G. Brown



Margaret G. McHale

Ren Serey
Executive Director

### STATE OF MARYLAND CRITICAL AREA COMMISSION CHESAPEAKE AND ATLANTIC COASTAL BAYS

1804 West Street, Suite 100, Annapolis, Maryland 21401 (410) 260-3460 Fax: (410) 974-5338 www.dnr.state.md.us/criticalarea/

September 13, 2007

Mr. Steve Dodd
Dorchester County Planning and Zoning
County Office Building
P.O. Box 307
Cambridge, Maryland 21613

Re: Local Case No. 1005 – Robert Singer Subdivision

Dear Mr. Dodd:

Thank you forwarding the above-referenced subdivision request. The applicant proposes to build two single family dwelling units on two individual lots, Lot 1 and Lot 2. Lot 1 is 4.535 acres; and Lot 2 is 3.603 acres and currently improved with a bermed infiltration point (BIM). Both Lots are located in the Resource Conservation Area (RCA). Based on the information submitted, I have the following comments:

- 1. A Critical Area note must be added to the plat indicating that these lots are located in the RCA.
- 2. An updated letter must be obtained from the Department of Natural Resources Wildlife and Heritage Service, since the last letter received is from August 26, 2002.
- 3. Due to the potential Delmarva Fox Squirrel habitat, the applicant should be coordinating with the US Fish and Wildlife Service to determine whether this project meets federal guidelines.
- 4. Note 14 regarding endangered and threatened species should be amended to indicate that both Forest Interior Dwelling (FIDs) Birds and Delmarva Fox Squirrel habitat have been known to occur on or near the site, assuming the Wildlife and Heritage letter is still accurate.
- 5. It appears that the applicant has followed the FID guidelines by limiting the clearing and disturbance of both FIDs habitat by placing the dwellings and one of the driveways in areas already cleared.
  - a. It does not appear that clearing has occurred for the development of Lot 2.
  - b. The applicant proposes to clear 4,500 square feet on Lot 1 which includes area for the proposed driveway, garage, and expanded area for the construction of the

- driveway and the garage. We recommend the garage be accommodated elsewhere to avoid clearing.
- c. We recommend the dwelling be placed a reasonable distance from the 100-foot Buffer to provide for future waterward additions (decks and patios) to avoid the need for a variance.
- d. The applicant appears to be providing mitigation for the area cleared at a ratio of 1:1. The site plan shows an area of afforestation for Lot 1 in the Buffer.
- 6. It does not appear that the applicant has updated the impervious surface table with the proposed dwelling units, driveways, and garage located on the "Site Plan and Tree Replacement Plan." Please have the applicant correct this information.
- 7. Please have the applicant submit a plantings schedule including species, spacing, sizing, and a proposed timeline for planting. Plantings should be in the form of native species and should mimic the contiguous forest.
- 8. The reserve sewage area should remain forested until which time it is needed. At that time, the BIM must be replanted with native species.

I look forward to seeing the revised site plan and with updated letters regarding the Fox Squirrel habitat. Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments. If you have any questions, please contact me at 410-260-3476.

Sincerely,

Julie Roberts

Natural Resources Planner

Cc: DC 434-02



Ren Serey
Executive Director

# STATE OF MARYLAND CHESAPEAKE BAY CRITICAL AREA COMMISSION

1804 West Street, Suite 100, Annapolis, Maryland 21401 (410) 260-3460 Fax: (410) 974-5338

August 5, 2002

Mr. Steve Dodd
Dorchester County
Department of Planning and Zoning
PO Box 107
Cambridge, MD 21613

Re: Pauline Meushaw Subdivision

Dear Mr. Dodd,

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on the above referenced subdivision. The applicant proposes subdivision around existing conditions created when foundation pilings were placed prior to the adoption of the County's Critical Area program. This subdivision will be non-conforming in that it creates two density units on 8 acres in the designated RCA.

The following comments are provided for your use:

- 1. The 100' Critical Area Buffer must be shown and expanded where it is contiguous to nontidal wetlands.
- 2. The wetlands must be labeled as tidal or nontidal as the type affects the location of the Buffer or expanded Buffer.
- 3. I concur with you that site plans should utilize the existing grass drive as a shared driveway. This will eliminate the need to disturb the existing forest, which is most likely an important riparian corridor that would be used by birds during the spring and fall migrations. Access from the shared driveway to the foundation on Lot 2 must be established in a manner that will not impact the existing wetland or its buffer. It appears this can be accomplished on the west side of the wetland if it doesn't disturb the Buffer, however, some loss of forest cover will result. Mitigation of forest cover should first be directed to the on-site 100' Critical Area Buffer.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment. If you have any questions regarding these items, please contact me at 410-260-3481.

Sincerely,

(1) andre Diane Cole

Wanda Diane Cole

Natural Resources Planner

cc: DC 434-02

## DORCHESTER COUNTY PLANNING & ZONING OFFICE

PO BOX 107 CAMBRIDGE, MARYLAND 21613 PHONE: 410-228-3234

FAX: 410-228-1563



March 25, 2008

Ms. Julie Roberts Critical Area Commission 1804 West Street, Suite 100 Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: Development Rights for Robert Singer, Subdivision #1005

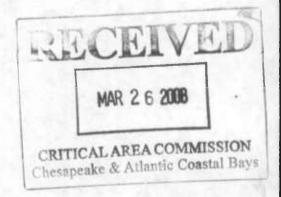
Dear Julie,

You have asked me to confirm in writing that our office has determined that two developments exist for the above-captioned property.

On February 7, 1986, this office issued building permits (#639097 and 639098) for two frame houses to the prior owner (Mewshaw) of this parcel. Within the life of the original permits (one year), Mewshaw constructed a series of piles for each dwelling, thereby establishing his foundation(s) and grandfathering his original permits. The location of the piles are clearly shown on the submitted subdivision plan. The piles are located approximately 60 feet from the shoreline, which was the required setback at the time of issuance of the permit(s).

In 2002, Ms. Meushaw submitted an application to subdivide her parcel into two lots. The entire parcel contains 8.14 acres, is designated as RCA, and is entirely within the Critical Area. Because of the RCA designation, it would not otherwise be possible to subdivide the parcel were it not for the two grandfathered house foundations.

The Planning Department insisted that the owner (the property was subsequently transferred to Robert Singer) prove that the original pilings were structurally sound, and could support the construction of a dwelling(s). To this end, the County's Codes Administrator, Nick Lyons, required Mr. Singer to engage a structural engineer to verify the structural integrity of the pilings. Such a report was submitted to and approved by Mr. Lyons.



Based on the above, I am satisfied that two development rights do exist for this parcel as long as the existing piles serve as the structural foundation for any dwellings built on the two proposed lots.

Doll

Sincerely yours,

Steve M. Dodd

Director

SMD/sw

cc: Nick Lyons

Mike Bonsteel Robert Singer



Parris N. Glendening
Governor

### Maryland Department of Natural Resources

J. Charles Fox
Secretary

Kathleen Kennedy-Townsend

Lt. Governor

Tawes State Office Building Annapolis, Maryland 21401 August 26, 2002 Karen M. White
Deputy Secretary

Mr. Steve Dodd Dorchester County Planning & Zoning P.O. Box 107 Cambridge, MD 21613

RE: Environmental Review for Plan #1005, Pauline Meushaw, Punch Island Road, Tax Map 68 Parcel 34, Dorchester County, Maryland.

Dear Mr. Dodd:

The Delmarva fox squirrel, a state and federally listed endangered species, is known to occur on or in the immediate vicinity of the property. Protection of endangered species habitat is required within the Critical Area (COMAR 27.15.09.03). Delmarva fox squirrel habitat is generally characterized as forests with relatively mature trees, either hardwoods or loblolly pine, with a relatively sparse understory.

If your proposed activities do not occur within the forested areas on the property, then Delmarva fox squirrel habitat will not be impacted. However, if development in the forested areas or timber harvesting is being planned, the following should be considered:

- 1. As much contiguous forested acreage as possible should be retained.
- 2. If clearing is necessary, at least 25% of the suitable forested area should remain unaltered or a minimum of 10 acres whichever is greater.
- 3. This unaltered Delmarva fox squirrel habitat should be retained as a contiguous forested tract, not as small disjunct parcels.
- 4. Required forested buffers, such as buffers along streams or nontidal wetlands, should be expanded to at least 100 feet and preferably 300 feet in width.
- 5. Retention of mast producing trees such as oaks, hickories and beech is encouraged.

These general guidelines are used by our biologists for Delmarva fox squirrel habitat protection. For more specific technical assistance regarding your project relative to Delmarva fox squirrel protection contact Scott Smith of the Wildlife and Heritage Service at (410) 827-8612.

Also, the forested area on the project site contains potential Forest Interior Dwelling Bird Habitat. The conservation of this habitat is mandated within the Critical Area (COMAR 27.01.09.04) and must be addressed by the project plan. The following guidelines should be incorporated into the project plan:

- 1. Restrict development to nonforested areas.
- 2. If forest loss or disturbance is absolutely unavoidable, concentrate or restrict development to the perimeter of the forest (i.e., within 300 feet of the existing forest edge), particularly in thin peninsulas of upland forest less than 300 feet wide.
- 3. Limit forest removal to the "footprint" of houses and to that which is absolutely necessary for the placement of roads and driveways.
- 4. Wherever possible, minimize the number and length of driveways and roads.
- 5. Roads and driveways should be as narrow and short as possible; preferably less than 25 feet long and 15 feet wide.
- 6. Maintain forest canopy closure over roads and driveways.
- 7. Maintain forest habitat up to the edges of roads and driveways; do not create or maintain mowed grassy berms.
- 8. Maintain or create wildlife corridors.
- 9. Do not remove or disturb forest habitat during April-July, the breeding season for most FIDS. This seasonal restriction may be expanded to February-July if certain early nesting FIDS (e.g., Barred Owl) are present.
- 10. Afforestation efforts should target (1) riparian or streamside areas that lack woody vegetation, (2) forested riparian areas less than 300 feet, and (3) gaps or peninsulas of nonforested habitat within or adjacent to existing FIDS habitat.

The presence of FIDS habitat can be confirmed by a qualified observer using standardized procedures outlined in the Critical Area Commission's document entitled "A Guide to the Conservation of Forest Interior Dwelling Birds in the Chesapeake Bay Critical Area" dated June 2000. For additional assistance and a list of qualified FIDS observers, please contact Scott Smith at (410) 827-8612.

Page 3 August 26, 2002

In addition, the open waters that are adjacent to or part of the site are known historic waterfowl concentration areas. If there is to be any construction of water-dependent facilities please contact Mr. Larry Hindman of the Wildlife and Heritage Service at (410) 827-8612, for technical assistance regarding waterfowl.

Sincerely, Low a. By

Lori A. Byrne

Environmental Review Specialist Wildlife & Heritage Service

ER# 2002.1397.do

Cc: S.A. Smith, WHS

L. Hindman, WHS R. Esslinger, CAC

On 4/17/08, the letter in this file went out via mail to Steve Dodd. After that, this file was retrieved/found and I looked through it. It has been going on since 2002, and both myself and Wanda Cole (and supervisors) had reviewed. I discussed with Ren that this section of law that would have prohibited the construction of two dwelling units should have been noted years ago, or at least at my first review. The County was not in agreement with the CAC on one dwelling for this lot.

After a discussion with Ren, he decided that we should rescind our letter. I alerted Steve Dodd via a phone call to disregard our letter and to consider our review of this project completed. Julie Roberts

the grandfatherny

# Gallo, Kerrie

From: Dise, Marianne E.

Sent: Thursday, April 10, 2008 3:40 PM

To: Roberts, Julie; Serey, Ren; Gallo, Kerrie

Subject: RE: Dorchester pilings

Thanks for the accurate summary, Julie. Just to add a piece, I believe that the grandfathering provision gives them one dwelling unit, because this is (and was) one parcel. They poured two footer/pilings in an attempt to get two 'rights' but the criteria speak in the singular, not the plural, when discussing 'a' house on 'a parcel'.

----Original Message----

From: Roberts, Julie

Sent: Thursday, April 10, 2008 3:10 PM

To: Serey, Ren; Gallo, Kerrie

Cc: Dise, Marianne E.

Subject: RE: Dorchester pilings

We are back to our pilings in the Buffer. I have now spoken with Marianne, after her vacation, and she went back to the section of code that Kerrie had originally referenced: 27.01.02.07B.2.b. Even though I know you all know it by heart, it says "If any such land has received a building permit subsequent to December 1, 1985 but prior to local Program approval [which the applicant did], and is located in the RCA [which it is], that land shall be counted by the local jurisdiction against the growth increment permitted in that area under COMAR 27.01.02.06, unless the Commission determines at the time of Program approval that steps had been taken to conform the development to the criteria in this subtitle insofar as possible."

It is Marianne's understanding from this language, which she indicated was directed towards situations like these, that growth allocation is necessary to permit these two units. Otherwise, from the previous language in the section, under the grandfathering provisions, they are only allowed one unit (and that technically, it would could be put on the original pilings).

Steve's letter does not cover this item. Kerrie I will give the file and maybe the three of you can talk or wait until I get back on Wednesday. Thank you!! Julie

-----Original Message-----

From: Serey, Ren

Sent: Thursday, March 27, 2008 6:35 PM

**To:** Gallo, Kerrie; Roberts, Julie **Subject:** Dorchester pilings

Kerrie and Julie,

I'd like to talk on Monday. My initial reaction is that the pilings, by themselves, probably grandfather both the fact of the dwellings and their locations. But, we can talk.

Meeting the requirements of the Criteria insofar as possible is a condition of certain sections of the grandfathering provisions, but not a condition of every section. The section concerning "pouring of foundation footings or the installation of structural members" doesn't contain the insofar as possible condition. I think one of the reasons behind the foundation /

pilings provision is that money has been spent on the pilings; but the structural integrity of the pilings certainly would be important. Here, the engineer has certified that the pilings are usable for the intended purpose, and the dwellings apparently have been sized to use the pilings rather than to merely use them as a base for larger dwellings.

Let's talk on Monday. It's a pretty good example of how we're never finished with anything, even the work of quick-thinking pile drivers.

I'll put the materials in a safe place; i.e., out of my office, and in Julie's mail slot.

Ren

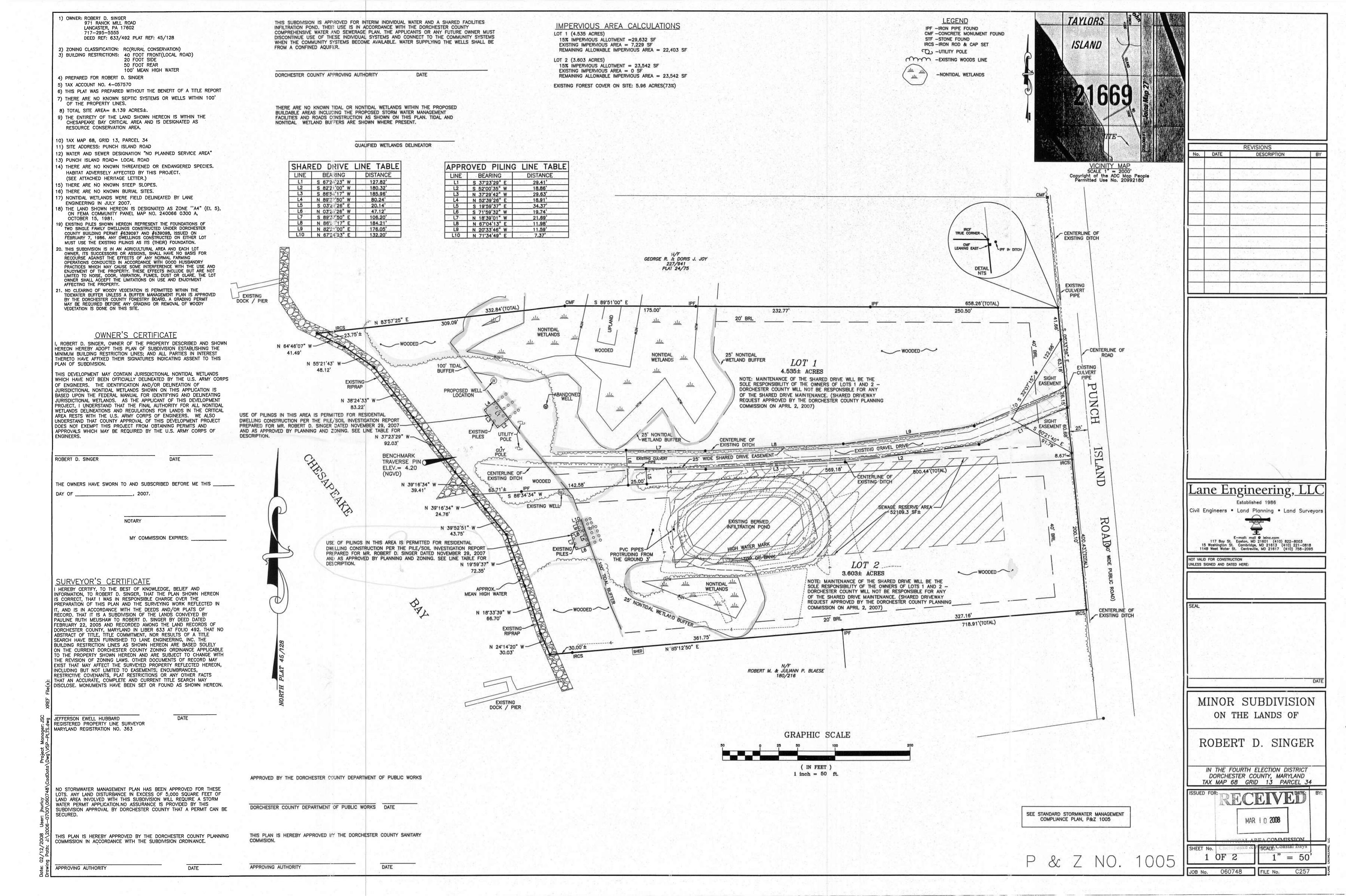
Here is the subdivision plan I want your feedback on. The scenario is that the plat shows two areas where there are existing pilings within the 100-foot Buffer. These pilings were constructed under a building permit in 1986 and within one year of issuance of the permits. The intent for the pilings was to serve as the foundation for future dwellings and to establish grandfathering rights on the property (put in after the CA law passed, but before local program approval) as the property was only 8.14 acres and in the RCA. The dwellings were never constructed.

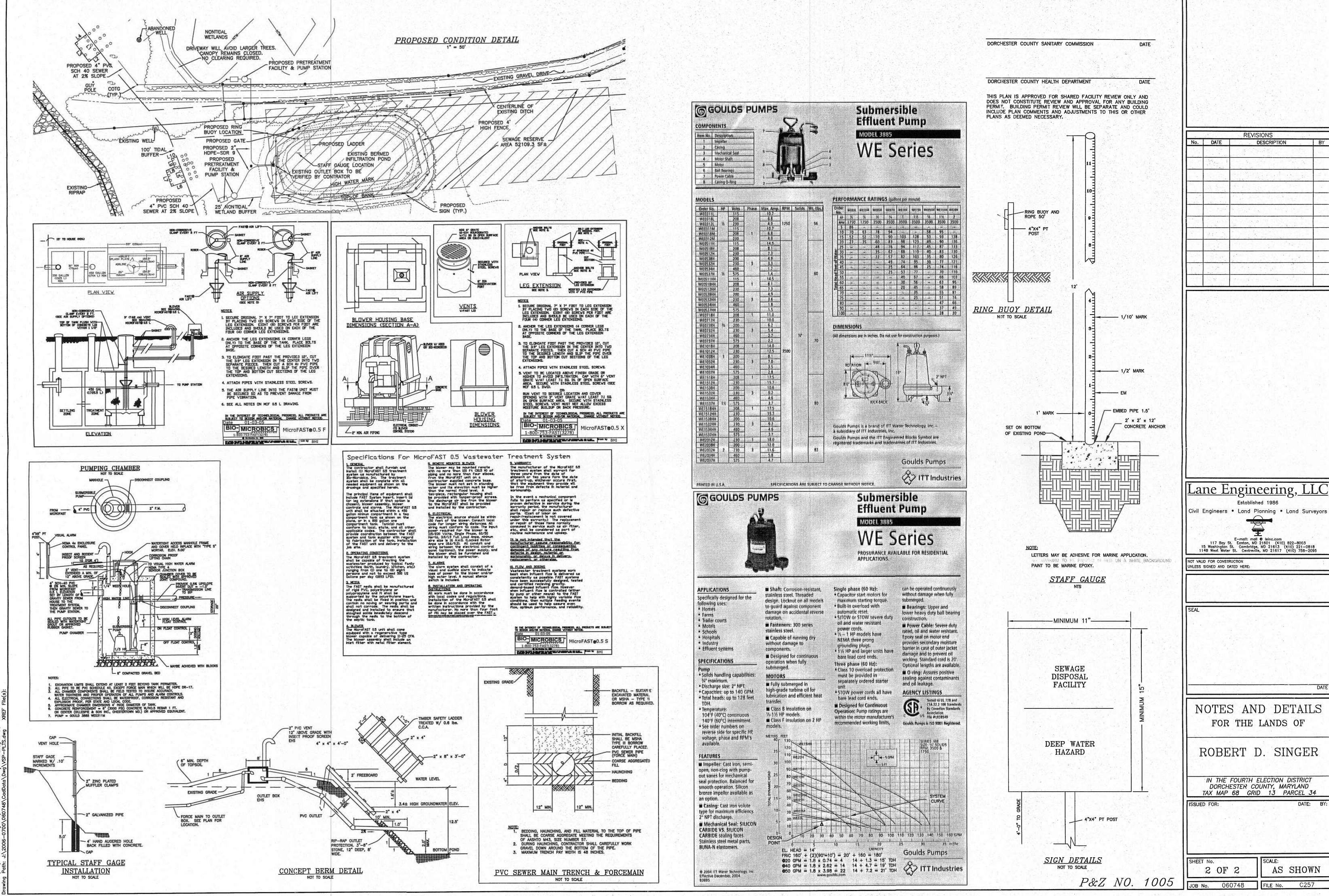
Currently, the applicant is applying for a minor subdivision to separate the two sets of pilings into two lots, thereby "legalizing" them. Steve Dodd has written us a letter indicating that he believes the applicants have a legal right to the two lots and to the location of the pilings in the Buffer. Here are my specific questions/concerns:

- 1. Where does Steve Dodd's analysis fit in the grandfathering language in COMAR in regard to the right to two lots? I'm thinking 27.01.02.07.B.1, but then what effect does 27.01.02.07.B.2.b have, if any? To be specific, a building permit was issued subsequent to 12/1/85, but prior to local program approval...
- 2. Regardless of whether the property can legally be subdivided into two lots based on the grandfathering language, do the grandfathering provisions give them a right to construct both dwellings in the Buffer as shown on the plat? Seems to me, they can move them out. The soil/piling stability report appears to indicate that there is additional reinforcement of the existing pilings needed in the form of concrete foundation walls and rebar. I would conclude from this that the existing pilings are not structurally sound and could not alone support the dwellings. I would suspect that the pilings will be removed and true foundations installed. Why wouldn't the applicants be required to move the pilings and the houses out of the Buffer? There's ample room...do we have anything to make them move them?

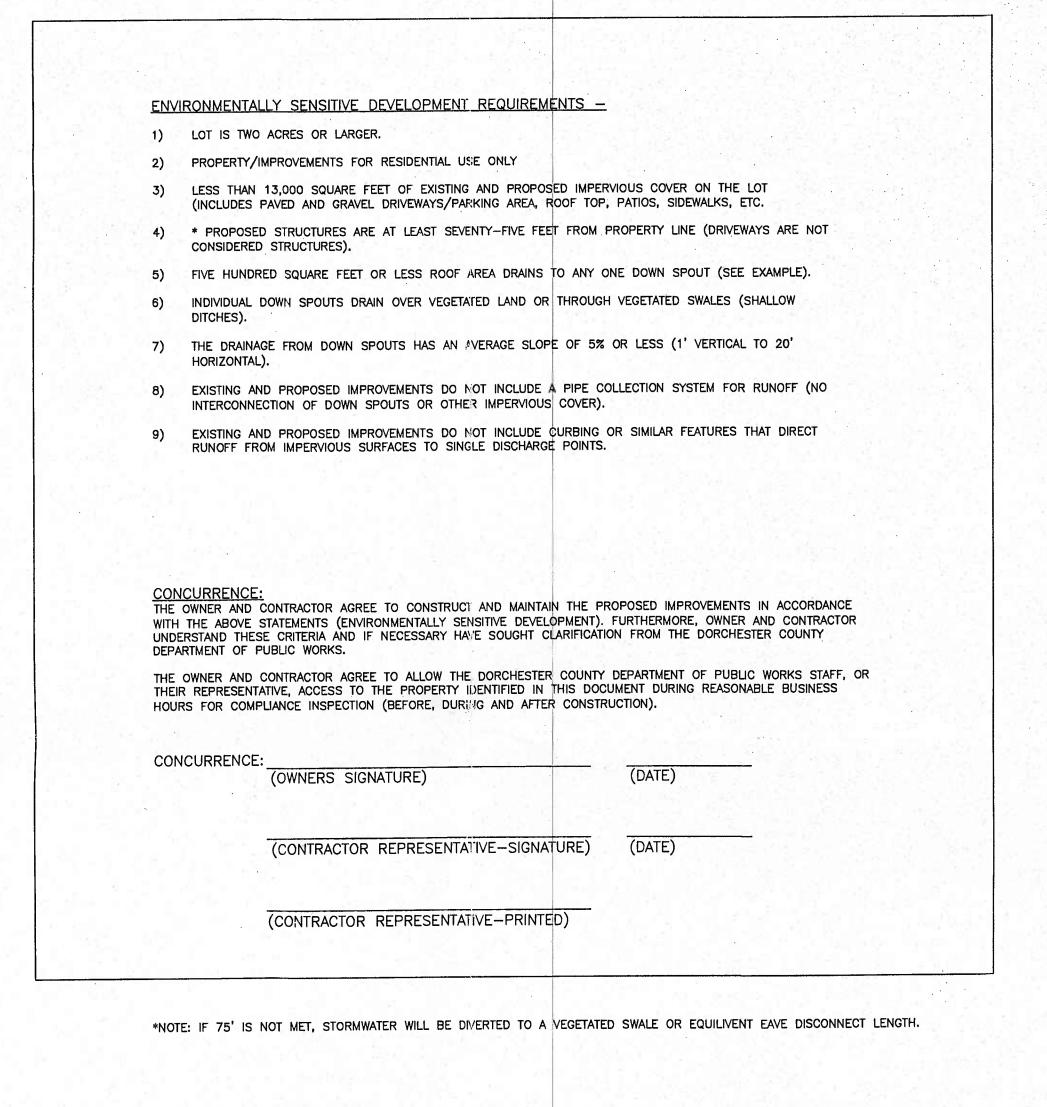
Any insight would be appreciated!

Kerrie





08 User ihurley Project Manager JSC



QUANTITATIVE WAIVER: \*\*

A QUANITIVE WAIVER IS REQUESTED BASED UPON LOT SIZE (2 ACRES MINIMUM) AND THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ROOF TOP AND NON-ROOF TOP DISCONTINUED CREDIT WHICH ELIMINATES IMPERVIOUS SURFACE FROM THIS LOT; THEREBY STABILIZING OR IMPROVING CN, AND THEREFORE MINIMIZING ANY INCREASING IN QUANTITY FOR THIS SITE.

\*\* DIRECT DISCHARGE TO TIDAL WATERS ELIMINATES QUANTITATIVE WAIVER.

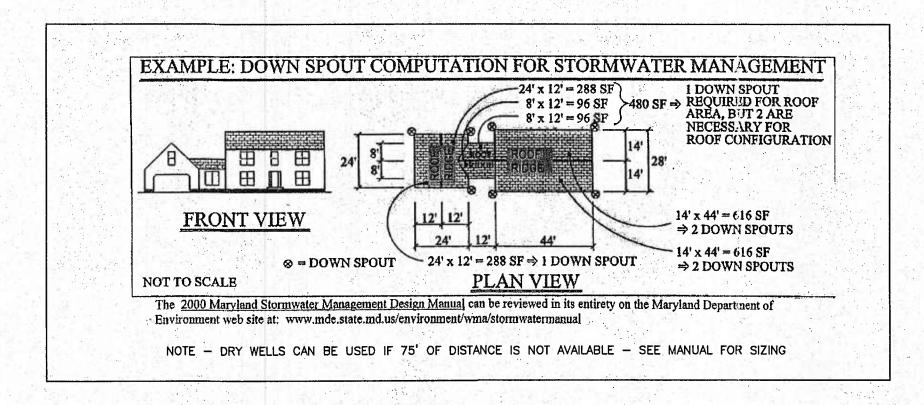
STORMWATER CERTIFICATE

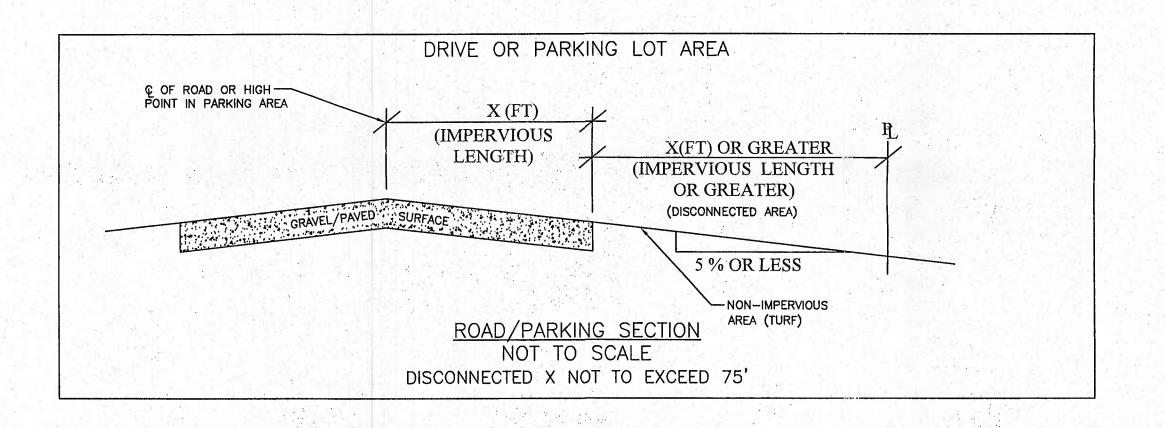
ALL STORMWATER CERTIFICATE CONSTRUCTION SHALL BE DONE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THESE PROVIDED PLANS

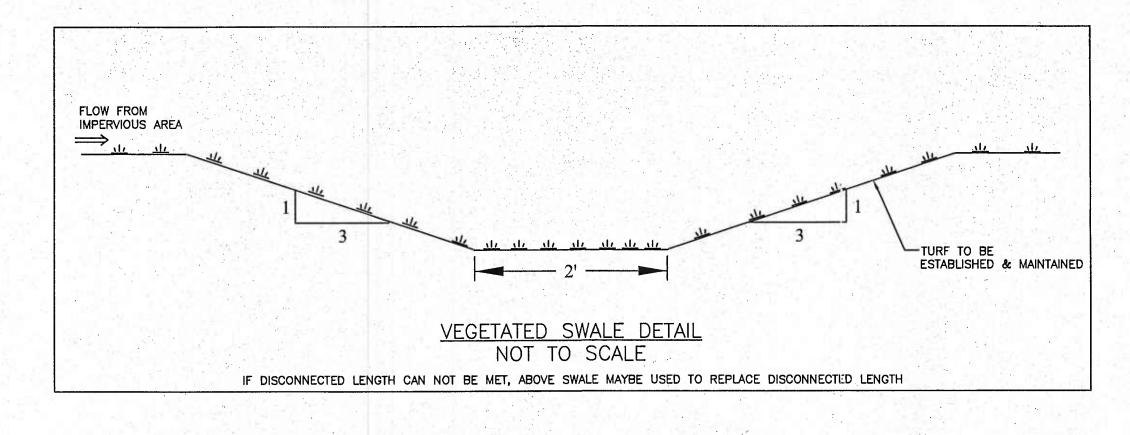
OWNER:

DATE:

MARKED UP AS-BUILT UPON COMPLETION O	F PLANS WILL BE PROVIDED F THE PROJECT
SURVEYOR:	DATE:







NOTES:
NOTHING SHALL BE PLACED, PLANTED OR STORED IN THE STORM WATER FACILITIES THAT WILL AFFECT THEIR PERFORMANCE.
THE PROPERTY OWNER SHALL CONTACT THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS TO SCHEDULE A FINAL INSPECTION TO VERIFY THE COMPLETION OF ALL STORM WATER IMPROVEMENTS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE SITE FLAN.
A MINIMUM OF 48 HOURS NOTICE (TWO BUSINESS DAYS) SHALL BE PROVIDED PRIOR TO ANY REQUIRED INSPECTIONS.

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SEAL

# STANDARD STORMWATER MANAGEMENT COMPLIANCE PLAN

MINOR SUBDIVISION ROBERT D. SINGER

DORCHESTER COUNTY, MARYLAND TAX MAP 68, GRID 13, PARCEL 34

APPROVAL

DATE: BY: 02/12/08 RSM

P&Z #1005

5 JOB No. 060748 FILE No. C257