



**Steven H. Emerman, Ph.D.**  
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August 7, 2020

Matthew Fountain  
Director, Department of Stormwater Management  
City of Charleston  
2 George Street, Suite 2100  
Charleston, South Carolina 29401  
E-mail: [Fountainm@charleston-sc.gov](mailto:Fountainm@charleston-sc.gov)

Dear Mr. Fountain,

I hope that you and your family are staying safe and healthy.

I am writing to ask whether you would be willing to meet with me and some residents of James Island to discuss the following information from Live5News from last night (August 6, 2020):

“Director of Stormwater Management Matt Fountain said the city is aware of the issues in that area and agree it is a problem....They are continuing to permit development, but he said the development has to comply with stormwater regulations that are currently in place. He added that they have applied all restrictions that they could within the storm-water manual, because of the flooding issue.”

I know that engineering information is sometimes lost in translation when working with the mass media, which is why I think that a meeting would be helpful.

I am particularly concerned about the consistency of the proposed Central Park development with the following requirements from the 2013 and 2020 City of Charleston Stormwater Design Standards Manuals:

2013 version:

“The post-development, peak discharge rates [are] restricted to one-half the pre-development rates for the 2 and 10-year 24-hour storm event **or to the downstream system capacity, whichever is less.**”

2020 version:

“For non-SFR [Single-Family Residence] sites of 0.5 acres or more, the post-development, peak discharge rates are restricted to one-half the pre-development rates for the 50 percent and 10



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percent AEP [2-year and 10-year], 24-hour storm events **or to the downstream system capacity, whichever is less.**"

In a meeting, I would like to discuss the following kinds of questions:

- (1) Does the downstream stormwater capacity refer to the actual, measured stormwater capacity or to a hypothetical design stormwater capacity?
- (2) If the phrase "downstream stormwater capacity" refers to an actual, as opposed to a hypothetical, capacity, how has either the City of Charleston or Seamon Whiteside determined the actual downstream stormwater capacity?
- (3) How has the stormwater application by Seamon Whiteside taken into consideration the downstream stormwater capacity, either in terms of an actual or a hypothetical stormwater capacity?

I thank you very much for considering this request for a meeting.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steven H. Emerman".

Steven Emerman