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Specializing in Groundwater and Mining

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Betsy La Force
Communities & Transportation Project Manager
South Carolina Coastal Conservation League
131 Spring Street
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Dear Betsy,

I see that the City of Charleston Department of Stormwater Management is planning an online neighborhood meeting on the “Central Park Drainage Basin Improvements.” The meeting is described at this link:

<https://www.charleston-sc.gov/2455/Central-Park-Drainage-Basin-Improvements?fbclid=IwAR0CV6OH16jA5gS3f0SbzcscNAJcHvU1xJBLyLBBMEOXqsX-KnP-7k9I8gA8>

I am writing to provide you and your colleagues with a list of possible questions to ask at the meeting. These questions are not intended to trip up Matt Fountain. I do not know the answers to these questions and I think that the answers would be useful to everyone.

- 1) The stormwater model developed in the AECOM drainage study assumes that the Central Park development already exists. According to the study, “Three areas of existing and expected development were identified in the Central Park watershed. They are Central Park Cluster, Fleming Cluster (also known as Marlboro), and the Brisbane Cluster. All three areas are modeled in their fully developed condition.” Does this mean that the stormwater model and the recommendations of the study would be worthless if the Central Park development were not approved? Has this been a factor in the City’s consideration of the proposed development?
- 2) Would the Department of Stormwater Management be willing to provide a map of the stormwater model so that residents can compare the model with the stormwater infrastructure in their neighborhood? Is it possible to update the stormwater model if residents find discrepancies between the model and what is visible in their neighborhood?
- 3) How thorough was the fieldwork that was carried out in the drainage study? Is there a particular reason why the fieldwork did not detect the existence of a sealed 42” stormwater outfall pipe at EME Apartments?



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- 4) Why does the Department of Stormwater Management not wish to unseal the 42” stormwater outfall pipe at EME Apartments? What is the response of the Department of Stormwater Management to memos from the stormwater consultant for the South Carolina Coastal Conservation League arguing that the sealed outfall pipe is a significant obstruction to stormwater flow?
- 5) According to the drainage study, “All models must be calibrated and validated to ascertain that they represent the observed/measured data. No measured flow or stage data exists in the Central Park Study Area. Therefore, no model calibration for specific rain events was performed. However, for the purpose of this study, model validation was performed by comparing model results to anecdotal information...” Does the City plan to begin flow or stage monitoring or to collect any other quantitative observations, so that the stormwater model can be quantitatively verified and calibrated?

Please let me know if I can help with anything else.

Best wishes,

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