

January 11, 2024

Chad D. Macwhinney, PE
Project Manager
E.P. Ferris & Associates, Inc.
2130 Quarry Trails Drive, 2nd Floor
Columbus, OH 43228

RE: Stormwater Drainage Manual (SWDM) Type II Variance Request – 222 W. Lane Ave. (CC19555)

Mr. Macwhinney:

This letter is in response to the subject variance request Type II (Non-Stream) to the 2022 SWDM Section 2 *Stormwater Conveyance*. More specifically, exemption is being sought from the SWDM Section 2.3.2.2 requirement of privately owned/maintained storm sewers within the Right-of-Way to be of minimum size of 12 inches.

The SWDM variance application was submitted to the City on December 18, 2023. As part of the Variance review process, the subject Variance request was posted on the City website on December 21, 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 January 10, 2024.

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.

The project plan has been approved in 2018 and is currently under construction. During construction, it was discovered that the proposed 12 inch storm outlet is in conflict with an existing Columbus DOT fiber duct bank and street lighting conduit.

Two alternatives were considered within the application - Full Compliance and the Preferred Alternative.

- Full Compliance Alternative – utilizing a 12 inch pipe as proposed by the approved plan. This alternative would require relocation of the existing utilities, including lowering of the existing fiber duct bank the full length between Neil Ave. and Olentangy River Rd. as advised by Columbus DOT, adding substantial additional costs and time to the project. For this reason, this alternative was found to be unfeasible.
- Preferred Alternative – utilizing two 8 inch pipes in lieu of the approved 12” storm sewer. These pipes will be located downstream of the proposed SCP with controlled release rates, and would have sufficient capacity to handle calculated flows.



Upon reviewing and discussing the application, the Variance Review Committee agreed with the applicant that the Preferred Alternative is reasonable given the site limitations and the functional needs of the project. The proposed 8" storm sewers will be privately owned and maintained. The Committee further agreed with the applicant's argument that the Full Compliance Alternative would result in significant hardship for the project owner due to substantial additional cost and time impacts.

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

- CC-19555 plan revision must be submitted and approved by the City of Columbus.

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