

New Jersey Highlands Council **Letter 44**

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Parsippany harbors the 7th largest buried aquifer ground water system in the nation. It is also in the Planning Zone. We talk on State & Federal levels having commissions on water its future health and availability; however no real clout exists to sincerely protect the actual resource, leaving it up to local politicians in places like Parsippany. Not only that but constant development leaves ground water recharge areas outdated and in need of update. How can Federal and State agencies honestly be effective if they do not help sponsor and advocate for needed updates and when required even new land development moratoriums? Without direct influence and coordination with Federal & State Water Resource Committees only fantasy exists. Much of the ground water recharge assessment maps and information are outdated; with development since the time of the assessments. Waterview was overlooked because of its Planning Zone and Zoning status within the Planning zone. However a Rutgers Troy Brook Study of the Troy Brook Water quality, quantity and stormwater has identified Block 421 Lot 29 as a critical landscape for preservation of bio-diversity, stormwater, water quality & quantity in the area. Hydrologist and environmental reports have identified Waterview 421 29; landscape as having unique & perfect geography for ground water recharge, unconsolidated soils and sediments, sloped and forested. Conformance to RMP should not be decided from one Planning Zone Municipal Administration to another, one conforming one not. It should be put to the people as a major subject referendum. It should not be limited to minimum attention by media or part of the Planning Board Meeting alone, but part of a mass Town Council Agenda. 1. Cost avoidance 2. Accumulative impacts concerning all development must be part of the environmental impacts of any development or redevelopment. These two aspects are not part of the DEP assessments; as engineering schemes and municipal ordinances donot carry through in their intentions or claims. Things as obvious and simple as trash & litter accumulations. In towns like Parsippany only redevelopment should be allowed. A Moratorium of all new land development must come into law if the area is over developed and properties stand unused or idle; Planning Zone or Not Planning is still planning or is it simply free market speculation? Planning Zones such as Parsippany if allowing "new land development"t such as Block 421 Lot 29 are then not in the mode of planning, when available redevelopment properties exist. To boot the new land development would ruin a ground water recharge area in a impeded Buried Valley Aquifer System. Parsippany would be in water supply deficit without its two private sources of water supply. There were no economically feasible alternative drinking water sources identified which could replace the Buried Valley Aquifer System. No property owner or local political administration should have the right to inflict short term fixes on the future for unneeded land use. The property owner subverts the principals of good land use law and responsibility to the future generations not considering true impacts, but imagined benefits of market speculation instead of cost avoidance by preventing loss of ecosystems. Highlands advocates and officials need come out strong against private water ownership, as fixing or repairing and updating a system should not required or mandate ownership..

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