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November 19, 2014

Mr. Thomas Mugan, PE
Bureau of Watershed Management
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
101 S. Webster, WT/3
Madison, WI 53707

RE: Amendment to the *Dane County Water Quality Plan*, Revising the Central Urban Service Area Boundary and Environmental Corridors in the City of Fitchburg's Northeast Neighborhood

Dear Mr. Mugan:

We are submitting a proposed amendment to the *Dane County Water Quality Plan*, revising the Central Urban Service Area boundary and environmental corridors in the City of Fitchburg's Northeast Neighborhood for Department review. The request failed to receive the required 8 votes from the Capital Area Regional Planning Commission at its November 13, 2014 meeting.

This amendment was requested by the City of Fitchburg, would have added approximately 985.9 acres, and is primarily in agricultural use. The area includes 176.8 acres of existing development including 86.5 acres of right-of way, 63.0 acres of residential development (approximately 52 homes), 19.8 acres of mineral extraction, and 7.6 acres of commercial development. Environmental corridors are proposed for 273.5 acres, 135 of which exist are wetlands. There are an additional 38.9 acres of agricultural land protected through a reservation of development rights agreement. This agreement constitutes a conservation easement under State of Wisconsin Statutes, and preserves the acreage in perpetuity as farmland. This agricultural acreage is included in the proposed amendment area to create a logical boundary that avoids creation holes in the CUSA. The amendment would add 503.4 developable acres to the Central Urban Service Area.

Enclosed, please find a copy of the following supporting materials: (1) Request letter from the City of Fitchburg dated March 21, 2014, and supporting application materials; (2) public hearing notices dated July 14, 2014, August 12, 2014 and September 24, 2014; (3) CARPC staff analysis of the proposed amendment dated September 2, 2014; (4) agenda item Cover Sheet /Executive Summary of the September 11, 2014, October 9, 2014, and November 13, 2014 public hearings; and (5) copy of the CARPC minutes of the October 9, 2014 meetings with an addendum of oral comments received. The approved minutes of the November 13, 2014 CARPC meeting will be sent after approval at the January 2, 2015 meeting.

We are submitting this material in fulfillment of our work program with the Department. If you have questions or need additional information or assistance in reviewing this amendment, please do not hesitate to contact me at 266-9283.

Sincerely,

Kamran Mesbah, PE, AICP
Deputy Director, and Director of Environmental Resources Planning

cc:

Shawn Pfaff, Mayor, City of Fitchburg, 5520 Lacy Rd., Fitchburg, WI 53711
Tony Roach, Administrator, City of Fitchburg, 5520 Lacy Rd., Fitchburg, WI 53711
Tom Hovel, Planner, City of Fitchburg, 5520 Lacy Rd., Fitchburg, WI 53711

cc/enc.:

Greg Searle, WDNR South Central Office (minutes and resolution only)
Michael J. Sorge, WDNR South Central Office (minutes and resolution only)
Lisa Helmuth, WDNR Bureau of Watershed Management (minutes and resolution only)
Fran Keally, WDNR (minutes and resolution only)