



## ☒ North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission ☒

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Richard B. Hamilton, Executive Director

### MEMORANDUM

Date: 15 November 2006

To: Chatham County Planning Department

From: Jacquelyn Presley, Urban Wildlife Biologist, NC WRC

Please accept my comments on the: *Request by RLA Development, LLC on behalf of Chatham Land & Timber for subdivision sketch design approval of "Parker Springs Subdivision", consisting of 50 lots on 87 acres, located off S. R. 1700, Mt. Gilead Church Road, New Hope and Williams Townships.*

Conservation organizations have identified the landscape surrounding this property as biologically important. We would like to make the applicant aware of the following environmental issues associated with future development of this property.

- 1) We commend the applicant for protecting 100 foot buffers along Parkers Creek. This creek feeds into Jordan Lake, a water supply source for surrounding communities as well as a biologically important area for aquatic wildlife. We suggest the applicant ensure this buffer remains a **100-foot native, forested buffer** that does not become overrun with non-native plant species. Parkers Creek feeds directly into an impoundment off US-64 that is home to multiple wildlife species. Any invasive species along this border can spread towards public land along Jordan Lake and degrade presently available wildlife habitat.
- 2) This property has been identified as part of 1) Triangle Greenprint's "Big Woods Landscape," and 2) The Nature Conservancy's Ecoregional Portfolio. The Triangle Greenprint and The Nature Conservancy's Ecoregional Portfolio are conservation planning efforts that have identified environmentally sensitive areas around the Triangle region of North Carolina. This parcel is part of a larger landscape that has historically provided important wildlife habitat. Extensive development within this biologically important area will inevitably fragment

existing wildlife habitat and reduce the viability of populations that live in this landscape. For these reasons, we recommend the applicant take the following steps to minimize negative impacts to existing wildlife populations:

- a. Minimize the amount of land clearing and tree cutting conducted prior to construction.
- b. Rework the layout to concentrate existing designated open spaces adjacent to the creek and cemetery instead of being divided into different areas of the parcel.